

Question and Answers: Roundtable on Funding and Financing Tribal Energy Projects

The Joint U.S. Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs/Loan Programs Office (LPO) Tribal Roundtable was held virtually May 5, 2021. Attendees included tribal leaders and staff, developers, banks, and others interested in tribal energy development.

Attendees submitted questions during the virtual event through the chat function.

The following is a complete list of questions and responses.

DOE is continuing to review all questions and will provide further updates or changes to the Office of Indian Energy and LPO programs as they are available. Learn more and view the Roundtable [summary report](#) on the Office of Indian Energy's website.

Question 1

Has a tribal Green Bank been considered?

Answer 1

There have been a number of legislative proposals for a U.S. Green Bank, which would have extended financing authorities for energy projects. At this time, it is unclear whether any of these could become law or how they would be administered.

Question 2

Can emerging technologies be utilized in tribal projects?

Answer 2

Yes. There is no prohibition against innovative technologies in the Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program (TELGP). However, potential applicants may want to consider the Innovative Energy Technology Loan Program as well. A preapplication discussion with LPO can help applicants determine the best program based on their requirements.

Question 3

Have you considered giving tribal governments subsidies for tribal renewable energy projects?

Answer 3

The Office of Indian Energy is governed by statute—Tribal Energy Development and Self Determination Act of 2005 (Energy Policy Act of 2005), Title V, codified at 42 USC §15801—which specifically authorized the Office to provide grants on a competitive basis. Therefore, to be considered, subsidies would need to be incorporated into the authorizing legislation.

Question 4

Does the DOE Office of Indian Energy have plans to accommodate decentralized finance (DeFi)?

Answer 4

The Office of Indian Energy does not currently have plans to accommodate DeFi.

Question 5

We are an outside energy technology company. How can we contact tribes to share what we have and [start] a development relationship to bring these technologies for renewable resources, as well as build relationships to help them get supported for funds to implement these projects?

Answer 5

You can contact LPO at telgp@hq.doe.gov to schedule a call to discuss your company and ways you may be able to develop relationships with tribes.

Question 6

Can tribal entities pursue the Energy Innovation Program? Additionally, [our] project has identified WAPA transmission line upgrades needed. How can the LPO help on the transmission lines? And can one access two loans across one project for different purposes?

Answer 6

Yes. Tribes can pursue an application to the Innovative Energy Technology Loan Guarantee Program. Transmission may be considered under this program or the TELGP. You should also contact Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) to explore their loan program. Projects can be segmented so that separate applications can be made across two different programs. Before [submitting] these applications, applicants should contact LPO so they can be fully informed on both programs. You can email lpo@hq.doe.gov to request a meeting.

Question 7

Is the loan program only lending to renewables?

Answer 7

Under the TELGP, a wide range of energy technologies, including resource extraction and fossil-based generation, can be considered. Under the Innovative Energy Technology Loan Guarantee Program, advanced fossil energy and advanced nuclear technologies can be considered.

Question 8

Can one project get two loans? One for transmission upgrades and one for a power project?

Answer 8

It is possible to segment a project so that separate loans secure each part, such as transmission and a power plant. For transmission, you should also contact WAPA to explore their loan program. Applicants should contact LPO before [submitting] these applications so they can be fully informed on both programs. You can email lpo@hq.doe.gov to request a meeting.

Question 9

Why do you think so few lenders are willing to participate?

Answer 9

Many lenders are just becoming aware of the TELGP and how to use it. Banks also may not have previous experience with the energy projects or working with tribes. We are increasing our outreach to banks to ensure that there is a better understanding of the program and how they can work with tribes.

Question 10

The TELGP used to need 10% equity from the tribe. In today's financing world, if the project makes financial sense and is bankable and a lender is willing to provide 100% debt financing, is that a structure the TELGP can help support, or does the DOE still insist on tribal equity in the project?

Answer 10

There is a statutory requirement for majority (51%) tribal ownership. We recommend you contact the LPO to discuss your project in more detail. Please email telgp@hq.doe.gov to set up a meeting.

Question 11

On the financing side, how does the utilization of ITC [Investment Tax Credit]/MACRS [Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System] and not owning projects until year 8 affect utilization of the TELGP on the front side?

Answer 11

We are assessing ways that the TELGP can be used with an ITC flip structure. We recommend you contact LPO to discuss your project in more detail. Please email telgp@hq.doe.gov to set up a meeting.

Question 12

Where can I learn more about technical assistance available for tribes?

Answer 12

If technical assistance is desired, please visit the [Technical Assistance](#) page on our website.

Question 13

While we apply for DOE grants, do tribes still have to give matching funds to get our proposals approved?

Answer 13

The Office of Indian Energy is governed by statute (Energy Policy Act of 2005), which requires tribes and tribal entities to provide cost share to be eligible for grants through the Office.

Question 14

Is there technical assistance available to help a huge Tribe like Navajo Nation to break down the silos we operate in, limit duplication in work, and ultimately save money?

Answer 14

Technical assistance is available to any and all tribes. Please submit a technical assistance request, and we can discuss.

Question 15

Since the Kayenta Peabody coal mine closed along with Navajo Generating Station, we have been hit hard and [are] still feeling negative ramifications from the closure. How can DOE help our two tribes with the early closures?

Answer 15

Please submit a technical assistance request, and we can discuss further how we may be able to assist. The TELGP can provide access to debt capital to facilitate ownership of energy assets. To learn more or to discuss a specific project, please contact us at telgp@hq.doe.gov.

Question 16

Will DOE provide technical assistance with the financial analysis report to provide lenders so they see the financial feasibility?

Answer 16

The Office of Indian Energy can provide technical assistance with project economic analysis.

Question 17

We partnered with an experienced developer and are conducting advanced development of two wind farms, 450 MW and 120 MW, but need additional funding. The last 2 TELGP Solicitations make clear that they only fund construction, and expressly exclude development. But we can attest that construction funding is easily available from traditional banks once development is completed, while it's almost impossible to secure development funding. Can the Loan Programs Office address this need?

Answer 17

We will contact you directly to discuss this project.

Question 18

Will this webinar be posted for us to refer to at a later date? Will you distribute the link to participants?

Answer 18

We will post the answers to all questions.

Question 19

Would the Office of Indian Energy provide grant funding for electric vehicles or their batteries that are incorporated into microgrid projects through bidirectional charging?

Answer 19

Currently, funding opportunities through the Office of Indian Energy have been focused on energy efficiency and energy generation for heat and electricity for tribal buildings. However, we will consider electric vehicles (EVs) and batteries for future funding opportunities.

Question 20

Many of the energy development grants and funding opportunities are not available to Alaska tribes due to a requirement that projects have to be constructed on BIA [Bureau of Indian Affairs] allotment lands. Most Alaskan tribes are landless, and the only land we have has to be purchased. What is the purpose of that rule, and can we change it to allow Alaskan tribes to build energy systems on purchased property?

Answer 20

There is no requirement that a project under the LPO TELGP be on tribal land.

Question 21

The grants application process in the Office of Indian Energy is an onerous one. Are there efforts to make it less onerous? [For example, consider having] the Office of Indian Energy review applications and provide feedback if the proposals are submitted before the deadline, or have a concept paper as a prereview process that is evaluated and give the applicant an indication to go forward or not. Also, [are there efforts to] have the grant writing costs be eligible for being covered by the grant itself?

Answer 21

The requirements for funding are governed by the Code of Federal Regulations, which limits the Office to some extent. However, the Office of Indian Energy is continually exploring ways to better meet the needs of our constituents, and we will take your comments into consideration for future funding opportunity announcements. Regarding grant writing costs, the Code of Federal Regulations precludes our ability to cover those preapplication expenses as part of the grant. We will, however, continue to explore options.

Question 22

What is the maximum size of the Office of Indian Energy grants?

Answer 22

Under the most recent funding opportunity announcement (FOA), the amount of Office of Indian Energy funding varied by Topic Area: the maximum amount per award for facility-scale grants was \$1 million, and for community-scale projects it was \$2 million.

Question 23

[Presenter] said that loans from the DOE program go through banks. Do tribes have access to/relationships with financial institutions that could get these loan guarantees? I have heard that some tribes don't have Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) and have trouble accessing CDFI funds. Is DOE looking at making sure that the financial institutions needed to facilitate these loans are available to tribes?

Answer 23

LPO is increasing our outreach to banks and CDFIs to ensure that they have a better understanding of the program and how they can work with tribes.

Question 24

Would DOE consider increasing the guaranty percentage to 100% for projects up to some scope (say, the first \$25M–\$50M)? The projects I have worked on that failed due to financial issues came down to a decision by the tribe to not put other assets/resources behind the unenhanced portion of the debt, a condition of the lender.

Answer 24

There is a statutory limit of a 90% guarantee. LPO cannot increase it to 100%.

Question 25

Ms. Jones mentioned tribal entrepreneurs; however, I don't see anywhere that the Loan Guarantee Program is applicable to individual tribal member owned businesses . . . am I missing something?

Answer 25

Regarding the Office of Indian Energy FOAs, which are governed by statute, individual tribal member owned business are not eligible.

Regarding the Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program, by statute, loan guarantees are available to federally recognized tribes or tribal energy development organizations. LPO considers a tribal energy development organization to be an organization that is majority owned and controlled by a tribe.

Question 26

It seems from comments today (5/5) that the loan guarantee isn't useful for banks in terms of overcoming lending reluctance, and it hasn't created benefits for tribal governments, so we need additional mechanisms. Tribes have long advocated for a direct loan program from a federal financing institution. Could the LPO help develop that?

As an example, California has zero or 1% interest loans for local governments and other public institutions for EE/RE projects (tribes are not yet eligible). This kind of direct revolving loan fund seems a useful financing tool, relatively simple, and respectful of the government-to-government/trust relationship as they relate to tribes' development of core/crucial infrastructure.

Answer 26

At this time, LPO does not have the authority to provide direct loans or to provide guarantees for revolving loans funds established by states or municipalities. We recognize that having these additional authorities could be valuable to tribes and will continue to provide comments to legislators as requested on how the TELGP could be enhanced. We will also continue to explore potential programs within other agencies that might be used for this purpose.

Question 27

Is there a good source of information to understand the electricity, water, broadband, and housing needs for tribes? In other words, for a particular reservation, what is the best way to understand the current gap in these basic infrastructure needs?

Answer 27

Please see <https://www.ncai.org/NCAI-InfrastructureReport-FINAL.pdf>.

Question 28

Do you see natural gas and green hydrogen as viable options for electric generation on the Navajo Nation or other Indigenous communities?

Answer 28

We cannot comment on the viability of any particular technology for a particular application. In general, both of those technologies could potentially be eligible under the TELGP. We suggest that you arrange a preapplication consultation with LPO to discuss your project in more detail. Please email telgp@hq.doe.gov to schedule a call with LPO staff.

Comment 29

Too often the development of energy is conducted as if Native Americans are considered independent competing interests and therefore barriers to be overcome or opponents to development.

Response 29

We appreciate your comment and will make sure it is reflected in the proceedings of this event. We also invite additional discussion if you have a specific question related to this topic. Please email indianenergy@hq.doe.gov for additional information.

Question 30

Does DOE consider biochar creation as a critical energy resource?

Answer 30

A wide range of energy technologies are potentially eligible under the TELGP. We suggest you contact the LPO to discuss your specific project. You can email telgp@hq.doe.gov to set up a meeting.

Question 31

Does the funding include a tribe (specifically California) to create their own utility through the Wholesale Distribution Access Tariff process?

Answer 31

The Office of Indian Energy's funding opportunities have focused primarily on the installation of energy systems and would not provide funds for the creation of a tribal utility. However, the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Division of Energy and Mineral Development (DEMD) has a Tribal Energy Development Capacity (TEDC) grant program, which may be a potential source of funds. Visit Interior's Indian Affairs website for more information on [TEDC grants](#), or contact DEMD directly at tedcgrants@bia.gov or 303-969-5270.

Question 32

Can tribes seek debt of any kind to fulfill the 51% ownership obligations for projects?

Answer 32

The 51% ownership must be considered equity and not debt to meet the requirement. Tribes should contact the LPO to discuss their particular project and financing structure. You can email telgp@hq.doe.gov to schedule a meeting.

Question 33

Do you know if there are any plans for the DOE to issue a Funding Opportunity (FOA) in 2021 for Energy Infrastructure Deployment on Tribal Lands, as was done in prior years?

Answer 33

Subject to congressional appropriations, the Office of Indian Energy hopes to issue future funding opportunities. To be notified of any future funding opportunities, please consider subscribing to our email list. To subscribe, see “Get Updates” on the [homepage of our website](#). Future funding opportunities may vary, so you’ll need to review any future funding opportunity to determine whether it meets your needs.

Question 34

There will be a critical need for capacity building, retraining, and infrastructure investment around EVs (and transportation electrification, in general). Is this outside the scope of Office of Indian Energy?

Answer 34

Funding for electric vehicle charging has not been offered by the Office of Indian Energy in the past. However, we will consider.

Question 35

Can you post [presenter’s] email addresses in the chat?

Answer 35

You can email Jigar through the LPO TELGP address at telgp@hq.doe.gov.

Question 36

If most grants are competitive, what makes an application more attractive or more liable to be funded? All 574 tribes will have a different set of issues and needs. Typically, how many are funded on an annual basis?

Answer 36

The criteria upon which applications are reviewed are included in each specific funding opportunity announcement. Visit our website to see examples of [past funding opportunities](#). Generally, for energy hardware installation projects, applications are reviewed and considered based on the technical and economic viability of the proposed project. You can find the [funding history](#), including how many projects were funded by year, on our website.

Question 37

How do we approach a tribe with recycled remanufactured wind turbines in midscale range—250 kW to 800 kW?

Answer 37

You should contact the LPO to discuss your company and potential project opportunities in more detail.

Question 38

Do you deal in “smaller” less than one million dollar projects?

Answer 38

Office of Indian Energy programs can be used to fund projects [valued at] less than \$1 million.

Question 39

BIS-DFMC has \$3 million a year for BIA schools energy efficiency and solar projects. Is there a way we can work with your teams to get projects on the ground?

Answer 39

You should contact the Office of Indian Energy at indianenergy@hq.doe.gov.

Question 40

My tribal client tried twice to get DOE grants to install solar arrays in a dozen tribal residences that are not grid-connected. Both times we were denied because we did not have “utility energy audits” to show how installation of solar would reduce energy costs. We provided cost on generator fuels being used and the savings that would result, but we were immediately disqualified because we didn’t have an energy audit from a utility that none of the homes were connected to. Can this rule be waived for future grants for installation purposes?

Answer 40

We cannot speak to the specific situation you’ve described, other than to say that each funding opportunity announcement specifies the requirements specific to that particular grant opportunity. Relative to Office of Indian Energy funding opportunities, energy audits are only required for applications proposing energy efficiency measures and do not require a utility to complete those energy audits. If those applications were submitted [to an] Office of Indian Energy funding opportunity, we could discuss further but would need additional information to understand the specific situation. If you’d like to follow up, please direct your question, with additional specifics, to indianenergy@hq.doe.gov.

Question 41

Will there be a toolkit available listing specific DOE grant and loan programs for energy programs? [Money] grant limit for technical assistance? Program limits for energy development programs (grants and/or loans)? What are the tribal barriers to these programs?

Answer 41

All DOE funding opportunities are posted on [Grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). Also, see www.energy.gov/energy-economy/funding-financing for information on DOE grant and loan programs.

DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) funding opportunities can be found on [EERE Exchange](#).

Office of Indian Energy funding opportunity announcements can be found on [IE Exchange](#). Additionally, the Office of Indian Energy maintains a [Current Funding Opportunities](#) page for tribal energy related opportunities through DOE and other agencies. The Office of Indian energy also has an [energy development assistance tool](#) that provides information on funding programs across 10 federal agencies. You can also [subscribe to the Indian Energy listserv](#) to be notified by email of tribal-energy related funding opportunities.

Question 42

Can [the] matching funds requirement be made on a sliding scale versus lump sum?

Answer 42

Each FOA document contains information related to cost sharing; please review our most recent closed [FOA guidelines](#).

Note that for Office of Indian Energy grants, cost share must be available when an application is submitted; however, it is provided throughout the grant period, not as a lump sum. If the above does not answer your question, please reach out to us at tribalgrants@hq.doe.gov.

Question 43

Any broadband funding or partnership opportunities?

Answer 43

Office of Indian Energy and LPO programs are not authorized to fund broadband projects.

Question 44

What can be done to make higher levels of funding available for energy exploration in the million-dollar [or more] range?

Answer 44

All federal funding is appropriated through Congress. As such, Congress would also need to increase that funding.

Question 45

Could the Loan Guarantee Program be modified as follows: (1) Change the underwriting standards so that the DOE does not require a credit rating for the borrower in order to make the guarantee? (2) If not, could the DOE at the very least modify the underwriting standards for loans to clean energy generation projects that sell energy to utility buyers as follows: the DOE looks to the credit rating of the energy buyer purchasing the energy from the project (and not the owner of the project) for credit underwriting?

Answer 45

Thank you for your input. LPO is considering a number of ways to increase access to TELGP and improve the process for accessing TELGP financing. Regarding question 2, LPO's evaluation of the project risk would depend heavily on the credit rating of the purchaser.

Question 46

What are the typical bank concerns about participating in developing energy projects?

Answer 46

Many lenders are just becoming aware of the TELGP and how to use it. Banks also may not have previous experience with energy projects or working with tribes. We are increasing our outreach to banks to ensure that they have a better understanding of the program and how they can work with tribes.

Question 47

Is it possible to prioritize the broader DOE loan program for utility-scale projects to those with tribal equity ownership?

Answer 47

The program is available to utility-scale projects, and there is significant lending authority available for these types of projects. We would be happy to talk more about your specific project. You can reach us at telgp@hq.doe.gov.

Question 48

Can a non-U.S. pension fund be a lender on an innovative tech project and access loan guarantee?

Answer 48

While the project itself must be located physically in the United States or its territories, LPO is able to work with non-U.S.-based lenders. Please feel free to contact TELGP@hq.doe.gov for more information.

Question 49

You mentioned at Navajo many people do not have energy. What about the public domain allotments there? In 1981 there were 81,150 acres? [Was this] not under the jurisdiction of a tribe?

Answer 49

Our apologies, but we have no specific information on unelectrified homes on public domain allotment land.

Question 50

Are there any plans to simplify the DOE-OIE Energy Infrastructure Deployment grant? We are a statewide Alaska tribal entity that helps our tribes/communities develop energy projects and find that the lengthy application process is a barrier for our small, remote communities of 100–1,000 people.

Answer 50

Thank you for your feedback. The requirements for funding are governed by the Code of Federal Regulations, which limits the Office's ability to simplify the process to some extent. However, the Office of Indian Energy is continually exploring ways to better meet the needs of our constituents, and we will take your comments into consideration for future funding opportunity announcements. Please feel free to send any suggestions you have to simplify the Office of Indian Energy funding opportunities to indianenergy@hq.doe.gov.

Question 51

Has DOE-OIE considered a program to fund energy project design? Right now, the Technical Assistance program helps tribes determine if projects are feasible, but the Energy Infrastructure Deployment grant requires an engineering design to be considered "shovel ready." This leaves a difficult gap to bridge as there are almost no funding sources for engineering design right now.

Answer 51

Thank you for your comments. The Office of Indian Energy has considered and has even offered funding opportunities for engineering design and development grants in the past. However, the amount of congressionally appropriated funds has limited the Office's ability to provide funding for all aspects of energy development.

Question 52

Will the reduced cost share continue to be in place for the next round of tribal [National Renewable Energy Laboratory] funding and post pandemic conditions?

Answer 52

We are not aware of any funding offered through DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory. However, if you are referring to funding opportunities offered for tribal energy projects through DOE's Office of Indian Energy and the recent COVID-related cost-share reduction opportunity, there have been recent changes in the legislation governing cost-share requirements for Office of Indian Energy grant opportunities. Specifically, the Energy Act of 2020 removed the prior cost-share requirements and provides the Secretary of Energy the ability to require less cost share than was previously mandated.

Question 53

Can you send us a list of energy resources that includes all the different departments with contact information? Does a combined matrix sheet of Energy resources from all the U.S. Departments [exist]?

Answer 53

We appreciate your comment and will make sure it is reflected in the proceedings of this event. We currently do not have a combined matrix sheet of energy resources from all of the U.S. agencies. By [subscribing to the Office of Indian Energy listserv](#) you can be alerted to future opportunities, either through our Office or other agencies and entities. If interested, you may subscribe on the [DOE Office of Indian Energy website](#) under our main contact number. When funding is announced, it will be listed on our website and distributed through this listserv. You can also find [Current Funding Opportunities](#) on our website.

The Office of Indian Energy has a number of resources on its website, including the [Energy Resource Library](#) and the [energy development assistance tool](#).

Question 54

Comment: Present grant writing workshops for each grant opportunity that expresses an accuracy to the criteria they are decided upon. Funding levels in particular.

Answer 54

Thank you for your comment. Because funding opportunities offered through the Office of Indian Energy are competitive, the Office does not currently offer workshops on grant writing. However, the Office of Indian Energy provides webinars on each funding opportunity, which include the criteria by which applications are evaluated and the minimum and maximum amount of DOE funding per award for each Topic Area. Additionally, information about evaluation criteria and the process under which applications are evaluated is included in each FOA. For reference, you can access recorded informational webinars for [past funding opportunities](#) on our website.

Question 55

Wahleah, please explain the "40%" (of what?) going to environmental justice projects. To whom does this apply beyond tribes?

Answer 55

Please see the White House Briefing on President Biden's [Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home](#).

[Follow-up to response] Per the [Justice40 Initiative](#): "(a) Within 120 days of the date of this order, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, and the National Climate Advisor, in consultation with the Advisory Council, shall jointly publish recommendations on how certain Federal investments might be made toward a goal that 40 percent of the overall benefits flow to disadvantaged communities. The recommendations shall focus on investments in the areas of clean energy and energy efficiency; clean transit; affordable and sustainable housing; training and workforce development; the remediation and reduction of legacy pollution; and the development of critical clean water infrastructure. The recommendations shall reflect existing authorities the agencies may possess for achieving the 40-percent goal as well as recommendations on any legislation needed to achieve the 40-percent goal."

Question 56

Guaranteed loans are a problem for tribes. Significant additional expenses are required in completing the underwriting process, with large expenditures in perfecting immunity provisions. The guaranteed loan fund does not authorize for potential losses such that the guaranteed loan interest rate is not competitive with market rates. With higher expense and high rates, they are not useful for tribes. Would not a tribal loan fund be more effective than retaining the market based program that has not served tribes' interests?

Answer 56

Thank you for your input. LPO is considering a number of ways to increase access to TELGP and improve the process for accessing TELGP financing.

Question 57

Should not off-grid tribal lands be a priority for Indian Energy and IEED? Electrification programs are unfunded. Capital costs for deployment in most instances cannot be amortized with a low consumer population and income base. Is not access to energy a human right?

Answer 57

DOE cannot speak to DOI Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED) programs. However, off-grid energy systems and electrification are eligible for funding under the Office of Indian Energy. Additionally, projects that serve tribal communities not connected to the traditional centralized grid may also be given additional consideration under the Office's funding opportunities.

Question 58

I am a small private company that is interested in working with youth in Tribes, and partnering with our Drone program for energy assessments, soil, air, and water sampling, and cleaning water areas. How do I present this to [someone who] could help me?

Answer 58

You can contact the Christenson Fund and submit a grant application through their website.

Question 59

Are there specific energy projects that Tribes are specifically wanting or needing to implement? Are there any specific targeted programs such as solar, wind, energy auditing?

Answer 59

Tribes are pursuing a great diversity of projects, depending on their needs and available resources.

Question 60

How can we build a streamlined efficient and unified program for tribes to seamlessly develop renewable energy projects on indigenous lands?

Answer 60

The Office of Indian Energy would welcome any thoughts you have on building a streamlined efficient and unified program for Tribes to seamlessly develop renewable energy projects on indigenous lands. Please send any suggestions to indianenergy@hq.doe.gov.

Question 61

Tribes, or my tribe, does not have a program or platform or "curricula" for utilizing the multitudes of resources out there and don't have a leg to stand on on renewable energy education.

Answer 61

We appreciate your comments and would welcome the opportunity to assist you through technical assistance at no charge to you, or by directing you to resources, information, online renewable energy curriculum, or workshops and events. If you have general inquiries, please feel free to contact us at indianenergy@hq.doe.gov.

If you are interested in [technical assistance](#), you can submit a request online by completing a few simple questions. You may also be interested in [subscribing to our listserv](#) to get email updates on funding opportunities, events, and other tribal energy-related information.

Question 62

PCE power cost equalization currently blocks renewable energy incentive by only rewarding diesel consumption by utilities. Do we have a framework to amend PCE to include renewable energy?

Answer 62

The Power Cost Equalization (PCE) energy subsidy program was established by the Alaska State Legislature. DOE does not have insight into the framework for amending the PCE program. However, as the program is administered by the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA), you may wish to [contact AEA](#) directly and inquire. AEA can be contacted as follows:

Phone: 907-771-3000

Fax: 907-771-3044

Toll-Free: 888-300-8534

Website: <http://www.akenergyauthority.org/Contact>.

Question 63

How can the DOE & Indian Energy work with states like California to NOT make tribes waive their tribal sovereignty in order to take advantage of energy grants and state energy resiliency programs? This is especially important given the current climate of environmental and social justice issues. It is important that all entities of government truly embrace diversity and inclusion with clean energy opportunities.

Answer 63

We appreciate your comments and concerns and would welcome any suggestions you might have. Please send any suggestions to us at indianenergy@hq.doe.gov.