

DOE OFFICE OF INDIAN ENERGY

# DOE Indian Energy Program Overview

Wahleah Johns, Director

David Conrad, Deputy Director

Lizana Pierce, Senior Engineer and Deployment Supervisor

Dr. Tommy Jones, Deployment Specialist



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
Indian Energy

April 13, 2022

# Director – Wahleah Johns

## Wahleah Johns

### Director, Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs, Washington DC

Wahleah Johns is Director for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs. She is responsible for upholding and advancing the Office of Indian Energy's mission to maximize the development and deployment of energy solutions for the benefit of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Ms. Johns is a member of the Navajo (Dine) Tribe and comes from northeastern Arizona. Her background is in renewable energy and community organizing, having co-founded Native Renewables, a nonprofit that builds renewable energy tribal capacity while addressing energy access. Her work with the Black Mesa Water Coalition and Navajo Green Economy Coalition has led to groundbreaking legislative victories for groundwater protection, green jobs, and environmental justice. In 2019, she was awarded the Nathan Cummings Foundation Fellowship.

Ms. Johns is deeply honored to work with the Office of Indian Energy to help Native communities lead the way in the transition to clean energy.



# Deputy Director – David Conrad

## David Conrad

### Deputy Director, Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs, Washington DC

David F. Conrad (Osage Nation) serves as the Deputy Director for the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs. He recently served as the Director of the Office of Public Affairs for the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs in the Department of the Interior (DOI), managing press relations, digital media, and communications in close coordination with the Secretary's Office of Communication and other DOI bureaus.

Mr. Conrad has 20 years of intergovernmental affairs experience in the energy, environmental, economic development, and natural and cultural resources arenas. He has served in intergovernmental, legislative, and public affairs positions supporting tribal and local governments, and has experience working with legislative bodies at the federal, tribal, state, and local levels. He has also held executive leadership positions in the nonprofit sector with the National Tribal Environmental Council and the Council of Energy Resource Tribes.

Mr. Conrad holds a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Santa Clara University and a Master's degree in Environmental Policy and Administration from the University of Wisconsin at Green Bay.



# Deployment Supervisor – Lizana Pierce



## Lizana Pierce

### Senior Engineer and Deployment Supervisor, Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs, Colorado

Lizana Pierce is duty-stationed in Colorado and serves as the Office of Indian Energy's Principal Engineering Expert for the Director and Deputy Director on Deployment Programs. Ms. Pierce is responsible for implementing the Office's Deployment Programs: Technical Assistance, Financial Assistance, and Education and Capacity Building.



Ms. Pierce has more than 25 years of experience in energy technologies, project development, and management, and has dedicated 20 of those years to assisting Indian tribes in developing their energy resources and building their human capacity to realize their energy visions.

Ms. Pierce holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Colorado State University, and she pursued a Master's degree in Business Administration through the University of Northern Colorado.

# Deployment Specialist – Tommy Jones



## Dr. Tommy Jones

### Deployment Specialist, Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs

As a Deployment Specialist, Thomas ("Tommy") is responsible for assisting the Deployment Supervisor with implementing the Office of Indian Energy's Deployment Programs: Technical Assistance, Financial Assistance, and Education and Capacity Building. Dr. Jones is from Jones, Oklahoma, and is an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Naknek Native Village, and a Native shareholder of Bristol Bay Native Corporation of Alaska. He has separate Bachelor's degrees in Biology and Spanish, a Master's degree in Conservation Biology and Environmental Science, and a Ph.D. in Natural Resources and American Indian Studies.



# Office of Indian Energy

The DOE Office of Indian Energy is charged by Congress under the **Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self Determination Act of 2005** (Title V of the Energy Policy Act of 2005) to “**provide, direct, foster, coordinate, and implement energy planning, education, management, conservation, and delivery programs that –**

- (1) promote Indian tribal energy development, efficiency, and use;**
- (2) reduce or stabilize energy costs;**
- (3) enhance and strengthen Indian tribal energy and economic infrastructure** relating to natural resource development and electrification; and
- (4) bring electrical power and service to Indian land and the homes** of tribal members located on Indian lands or acquired, constructed, or improved (in whole or in part) with Federal funds.”



Clockwise from top right: **Seneca Nation's** (NY) 1.5-MW wind turbine, **Fort Yukon's** (AK) combined heat and powerhouse, **Coeur d'Alene Tribe's** (ID) Benewah Market energy efficiency project, **Sokaogon Chippewa Community's** (WI) housing project, and **Chippewa Cree Tribe's** (MT) residential solar.

# Meet the Team

## Office of Indian Energy

Comprised of 14 federal employees and 9 contractors

The Director, Deputy Director, Senior Advisor, Budget Officer, Communications Specialist, and Management Analyst (4 FTEs) and 2 contractors located in Washington DC



The Deployment Supervisor, Deployment Specialist, a Project Officer, and 2 Engineers (5 FTEs) and 7 contractors duty-stationed in Golden, Colorado. Financial assistance support received through the DOE Golden Field Office.



AK Senior Policy Advisor and 2 Engineers duty-stationed in Alaska.



The **Indian Country Energy and Infrastructure Working Group (ICEIWG)** works collaboratively with the Office of Indian Energy to assist with surveys, analysis, and recommendations related to program and policy initiatives that fulfill DOE's statutory authorizations and requirements.



May 2018 ICEIWG meeting at Sandia National Laboratories



# Deployment Programs



## Financial Assistance

We facilitate tribal energy project development through financial assistance (competitively awarded grants).



## Technical Assistance

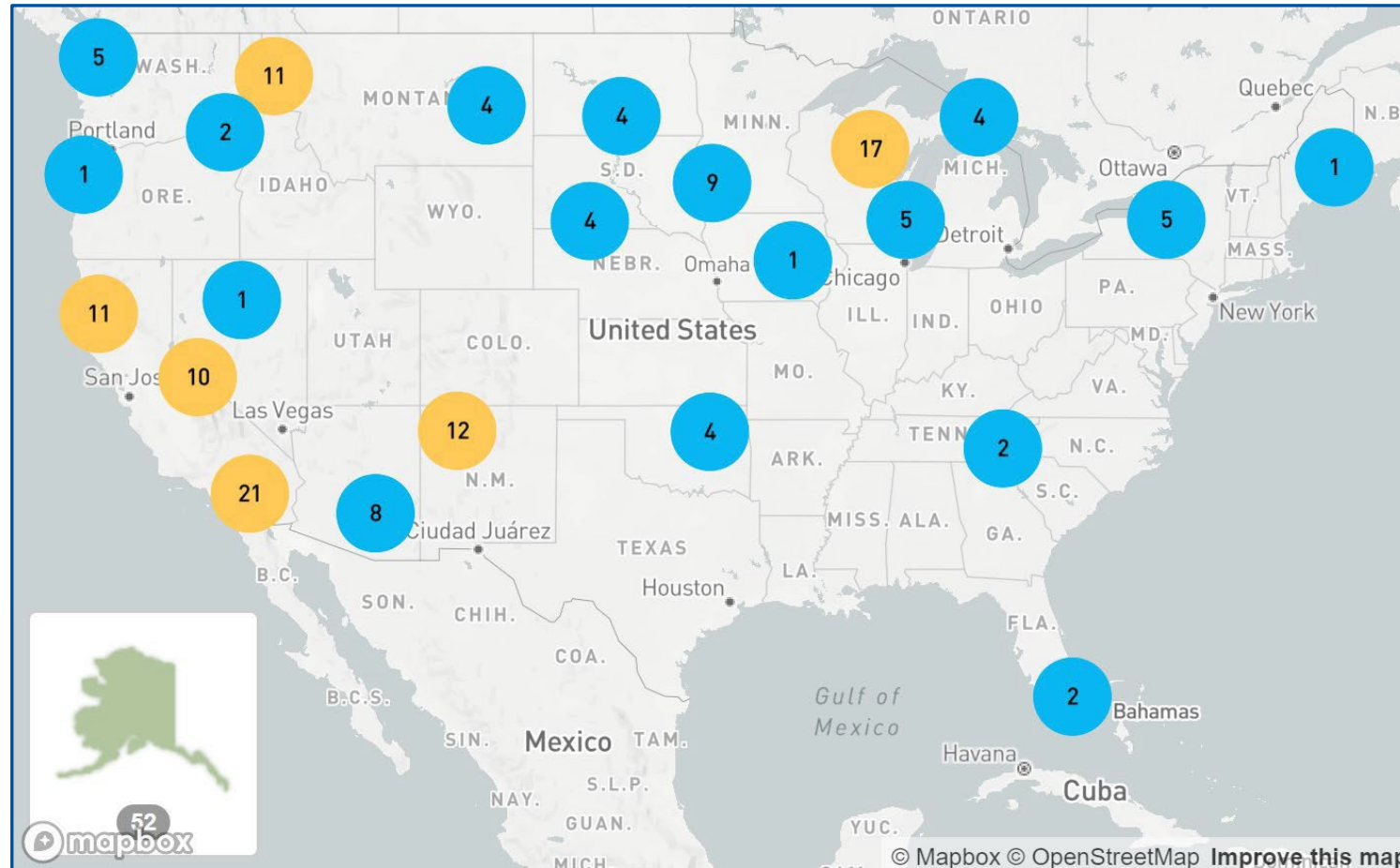
We provide federally recognized Indian tribes, including Alaska Native villages, regional and village corporations, tribal energy resource development organizations, and other tribal groups and communities, with technical assistance to advance tribal energy and infrastructure projects at no charge.



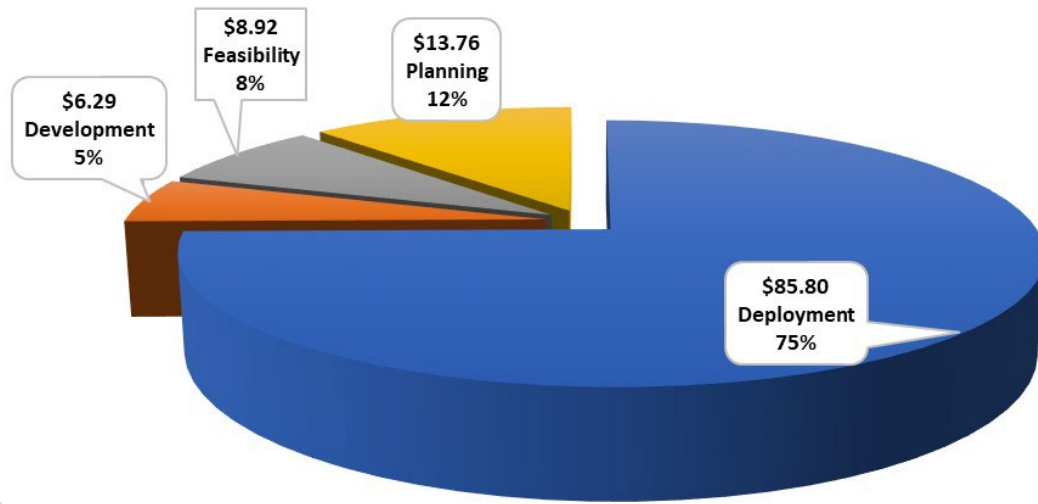
## Education and Capacity Building

Thorough regional workshops, webinars, and college student internships, we support tribal efforts to build internal capacity to develop energy projects and navigate energy markets.

# Invested over \$114 million in more than 200 tribal energy projects valued at nearly \$200 million (2010-2021)



# Financial Assistance Investments (2010-2021)



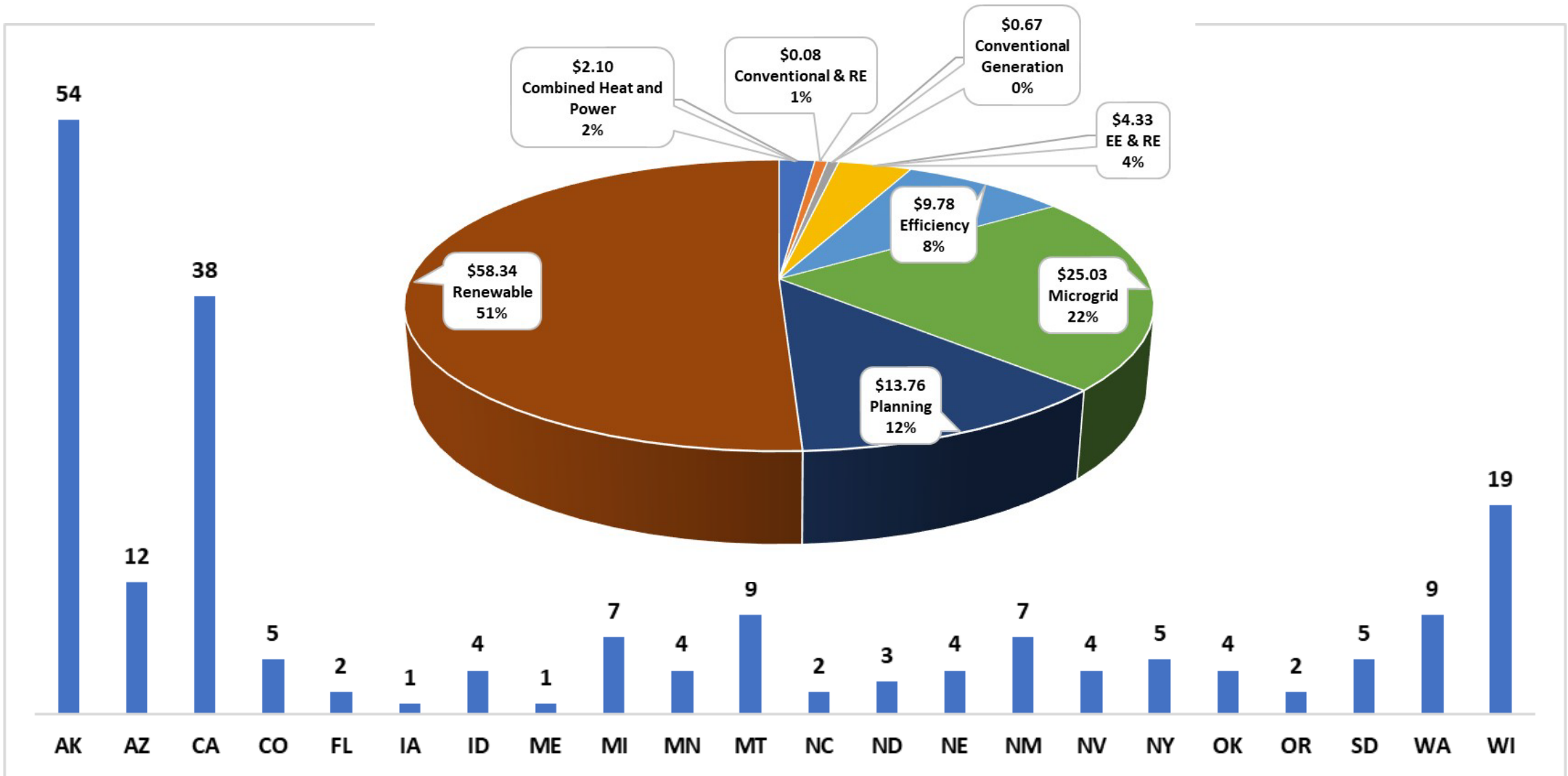
**Over \$114 million invested in more than 200 tribal energy projects**

**Averages \$9.5M/year**



Includes FY2020 cost share reductions in year of award

# Investments by Technology and State (2010-2021)



# Financial Assistance (2010-2021)

## Tangible Results

- **More than 43 MW** of new generation installed
- **More than 10 MWh** of battery storage installed
- **Over \$13.7 million** saved every year
- **Over \$295 million** saved over system lifetimes
- **\$3.46** saved for every DOE dollar invested
- **Over 8,600** tribal buildings affected



Clockwise from top right: **Huslia Tribal Council (AK)** installed a community-scale biomass project to heat their community's buildings (2018); **Soboba Band of Luiseño Indians (CA)** installed a 1-MW solar system; **Rosebud Sioux (SD)** installed a solar system on a low-income home (2016); **Fort Mojave Indian Tribe and Aha Macav Power Services** installed a 2.3-MW solar system in Arizona; **Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Bethel Native Corporation (AK)** installed a 900-kW wind turbine to power the communities of Bethel and Oscarville, Alaska.

# Annual Program Review

## Unique Tribal Forum for Sharing and Learning

- Forum for tribes to meet and learn from other each other and to share their successes and challenges
- Networking & learning opportunity
- Hear about 40 to 50 tribal energy projects from across the country
- ~200 participants

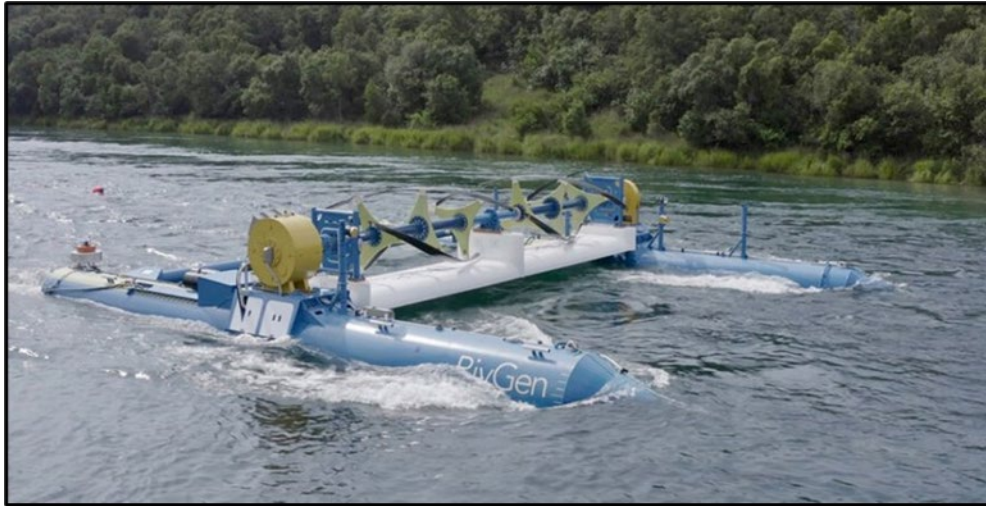


Sheraton Denver West Hotel in Lakewood, Colorado

**Typically held in November**

For more, see <https://www.energy.gov/indianenergy/projects/program-review>

# Tribal Energy Successes



Clockwise from top right: Ute Mountain Ute Tribe's (CO) 1-MW solar system, San Xavier (AZ) solar installation at their Education Building (2021), Igiugig Village's (AK) 35-kW RivGen system and energy storage microgrid, and Winnebago Tribe's (NE) solar installation

# Tribal Energy Successes



Clockwise from top right: Fort Mojave Tribe and Aha Macav Power Services (AZ) 2.3-MW solar installation (2020), Blackfeet /Community College (MT) 53.2-kW solar installation (2021), Nuvista Kwethluk (AK) 670-kWh Energy Storage Project (2021)



# Tribal Energy Successes



Clockwise from top right: Seneca Nation's (NY) 1.5-MW turbine (2017), Rosebud Sioux (SD) solar system on low-income home (2016); Chaninik Wind Group (AK) thermal stove install (2013), Southern Ute (CO) 1.3-MW Oxford Solar Project (2017), Huslia Tribal Council's (AK) Biomass Project (2018), and in the top middle, Oneida Nation (WI) 800-kW solar photovoltaic installation for six buildings (2017)

# Tribal Energy Successes



Clockwise from top right: **Menominee Tribal Enterprise** (WI) ribbon cutting for biomass combined heat and power system (2016); **Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Bethel Native Corporation's** (AK) Bethel Wind Energy Construction Project to benefit the communities of Bethel and Oscarville (2018); **Fort Yukon's** (AK) combined heat and powerhouse (bottom center), as compared to their old powerhouse (above, in the center); **Pueblo of Picuris** (NM) 1-MW solar photovoltaic system (2017); and **NANA Regional Corp.** (AK) project (top center) with the villages of Buckland, Deering, and Kotzebue to install solar (2018)

# Funding Resources

- Current Funding Opportunities**  
 List of open tribal energy related funding opportunities from federal agencies and other sources
- Ongoing Funding Opportunities**  
 Provides ongoing sources of funding including grants, loans, loan guarantees, and other incentives across the federal government
- Past IE Funding Opportunities**  
 Provides information on prior Office of Indian Energy funding opportunities

<http://energy.gov/indianenergy>

## Current Funding Opportunities

Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs

Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs » Funding » Current Funding Opportunities

Current funding opportunities from federal agencies and other entities for development and deployment.

Also, see information about other ongoing funding opportunities and the Office of Indian Energy's past funding opportunities.

For other assistance, see technical assistance. For policies and financial incentives by state, visit DSIRE®.

CLOSE DATE	ORGANIZATION	OPPORTUNITY
9/30/21	DOE	<b>Solar Impacts on Wildlife and Ecosystems Request for Information</b> The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Solar Energy Technology Office is soliciting input on solar land use and its impacts on wildlife and ecosystems. Industry, government agencies, nonprofits, academia, and other stakeholders are encouraged to respond. The Office of Indian Energy is specifically interested in information on current practices and what data or resources would enable greater confidence in solar energy development.
10/19/2021	EDA	<b>FY 2021 American Rescue Plan Act Build Back Better Regional Competition</b> Through this American Rescue Plan Act, Build Back Better Regional Competition, the U.S. Economic Development Administration is soliciting applications for eight individual competitions to help regions develop transformational economic development strategies that will create jobs and improve the quality of life.
10/05/2021	EPA	<b>FY22 Brownfields Job Training Grant</b> This funding opportunity is open to eligible entities, including tribal governments, to deliver Brownfields Job Training programs that recruit, train, and employ residents with the skills needed to secure a spectrum of brownfield-related activities.
10/18/2021	DOC	<b>NOAA Climate Program Office FY2022</b> The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's soliciting applications for eight individual competitions. Competitions are relevant to four high-priority climate risk areas: sea level rise; coastal erosion; water resources; and education; other nonprofits; commercial organizations; local, and tribal governments are eligible to apply.

## Ongoing Funding Opportunities

Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs » Funding » Ongoing Funding Opportunities

This table provides information on funding, financing, and incentives for tribal energy development and deployment from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and other federal agencies and entities.

Also, see information about current funding opportunities and the Office of Indian Energy's past funding opportunities.

For other assistance, see technical assistance. For policies and financial incentives by state, visit DSIRE®.

Search:

SEARCH RESULTS

Showing 1 to 10 of 41 entries

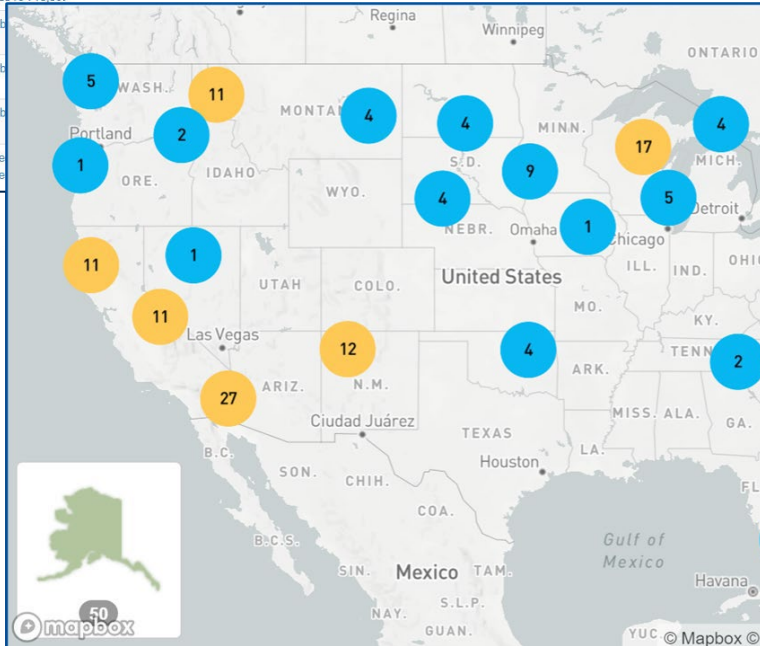
PROGRAM	AGENCY	DESCRIPTION	TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	ELIGIBILITY
Weatherization Assistance Program	Department of Energy: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy	Enables low-income families to permanently reduce their energy bills by making their homes more energy efficient.	Grants	Federally recognized Tribes and tribal governments; Alaska Native and tribal corporations; Alaska Native villages; Tribal universities, utilities, and other organized tribal groups; State-recognized-tribes; Tribal universities, utilities, and other organized tribal groups; Tribal nonprofit organizations (503-CC(3)); Tribal energy resource development organizations
Indian Land Tenure Foundation Grant	Indian Land Tenure Foundation	Provides grants for land-related initiatives in education, cultural awareness, economic opportunity and legal reform.	Grants	Indian tribes (including Alaska Native Regional Corporations and Village Corporations) and Tribal Energy Resource Development Organizations
ANA Funding Opportunity Announcements	Department of Health and Human Services: ACF Administration for Native Americans	Support locally determined projects designed to reduce or eliminate community problems and achieve community goals.	Grants	Federally recognized Tribes and tribal governments; Alaska Native and tribal corporations; Alaska Native villages; Tribal universities, utilities, and other organized tribal groups; State-recognized-tribes; Tribal universities, utilities, and other organized tribal groups; Tribal nonprofit organizations (503-CC(3)); Tribal energy resource development organizations
Energy and Mineral	Department of the Interior: The Office of	Provides an opportunity to receive financial assistance to evaluate the energy and		Federally recognized Tribes and tribal governments; Alaska Native and tribal

# Tribal Energy Investment Transparency

## Online Tribal Energy Projects Database

- Project Map (Interactive Map)
- Project Database (Sortable)
- Project Successes
- Project Summaries
  - Annual Presentations
  - Final Reports

Project	Tribe	State	Year	Assistance Type	Category
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians - 2010 Project	Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	California	2010	Feasibility	Grant
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians - 2012 Project	Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	California	2012	Feasibility	Grant
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians-2015 Project	Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	California	2015	Deployment	Grant
Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission – 2016 Project	Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission	Alaska	2016	Planning	Grant
Akiachak Native Community – 2017 Project	Akiachak Native Community	Alaska	2017	First Steps (Planning)	Grant
Akwesasne Housing Authority on behalf of St. Regis Mohawk Tribe – 2016 Project	Akwesasne Housing Authority	New York	2016	Deployment	Grant



### Akwesasne Housing Authority on behalf of St. Regis Mohawk Tribe – 2016 Project

Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs

Home » Akwesasne Housing Authority on behalf of St. Regis Mohawk Tribe - 2016 Project

#### Summary

**Initiative 1: Go Solar**

Under the Community-Scale Akwesasne Housing Authority (AHA) Go Solar Initiative, the St. Regis Mohawk AHA will install approximately 614.74 kilowatts (kW) of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems in Franklin County, New York, to serve 159 housing-related buildings on the Tribe's reservation. The ground-mounted PV systems will be installed on a 25-acre parcel owned by the Tribe, and the generated electrical power will be utilized under National Grid's net metering programs to offset energy use and costs for AHA's buildings and tribal members' residences.

This project will serve 5% of the total tribal community's residential energy load and 4% of the total electrical energy usage including governmental and commercial buildings. When considering all fuels used on the reservation, the project provides a 3.35% reduction of total energy load on the reservation.

**Initiative 2: Net Zero**

The Akwesasne Housing Authority will create three "net-zero" buildings by installing energy efficiency measures and 161.5 kW of solar PV, reducing annual energy costs by about \$36,200. Two of the buildings are part of the Sunrise Green Development project, a tribal affordable housing development that will provide on-site services to tribal veterans, elders, and their families; the third is an existing building that houses the Akwesasne Boys & Girls Club.

#### Project Overview

**Tribe/Awardee**  
Akwesasne Housing Authority

**Location**  
Hogansburg, NY

**Project Title**  
Community-Scale AHA Go Solar Initiative and Net Zero Initiative

**Type of Application**  
Deployment

**DOE Grant Number**  
DE-EE0000038

**Project Amounts**  
DOE: \$1,500,000  
Awardee: \$1,837,831  
Total: \$3,337,831

**Project Status**  
[See project status](#)

**Project Period of Performance**  
Start: July 2016  
End: June 2019

#### Project Description

##### Background

Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe is a sovereign, federally acknowledged Indian tribe. The Tribal Council created the AHA by ordinance in July 1984 and has designated the AHA as its agency for purposes of administering the Tribe's Indian Housing Block Grant under the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act of 1996. The St. Regis Mohawk Reservation is also known by its Mohawk name Akwesasne. U.S. census data indicate that the total population is 2,919, and U.S. Post Office data confirm that there are 1,277 households on the reservation.

St. Regis Mohawk Tribe and AHA have worked together to develop a 10-Year Tribal Strategic Energy

#### PROJECT SUCCESSES

##### Can Solar Work in Alaska? Hughes Village Says Yes.

The Native Village of Hughes just installed the bones of a 120-kilowatt solar photovoltaic system that will cut diesel use and costs.

FEBRUARY 6, 2019

##### The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Trap the Sun to Offset Energy Costs

The Tribe turned a strip of its land in Oregon into nearly \$12,000 in annual energy cost savings.

AUGUST 27, 2018

##### Pala Band of Mission Indians Sees Savings from Solar-Powered Fire Station, Looks Ahead to Continued Energy Development

The Tribe has turned to renewable energy as a means of lowering energy costs and gaining independence from the grid.

JUNE 8, 2018

##### Community Solar to Meet 100% of Energy Costs for New Mexico Tribe

A DOE co-funded 1-megawatt community solar array will offset the cost of the entire energy load of Picuris Pueblo.

JANUARY 11, 2018

# Technical Assistance

The goal of technical assistance is to **address a specific challenge or fulfill a need that is essential** to a current project's successful implementation.

The intended result of this technical assistance is a **tangible product or specific deliverable** designed to help move a project forward.

<http://energy.gov/indianenergy>

“This is government money well spent. This assistance is **helping our people afford to live in the village**. Thank you!”

## Types of Technical Assistance

Technical Analysis



Financial Analysis

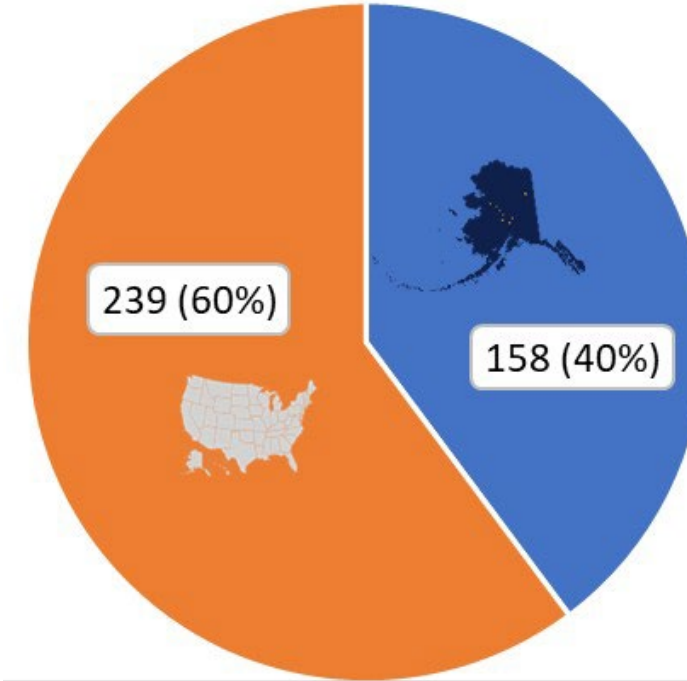
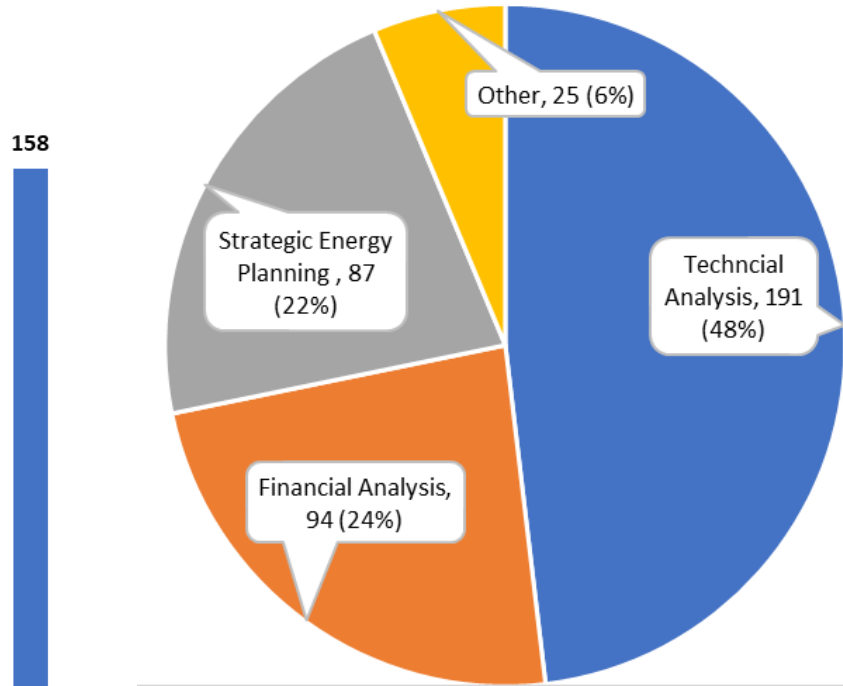


Strategic Energy Planning

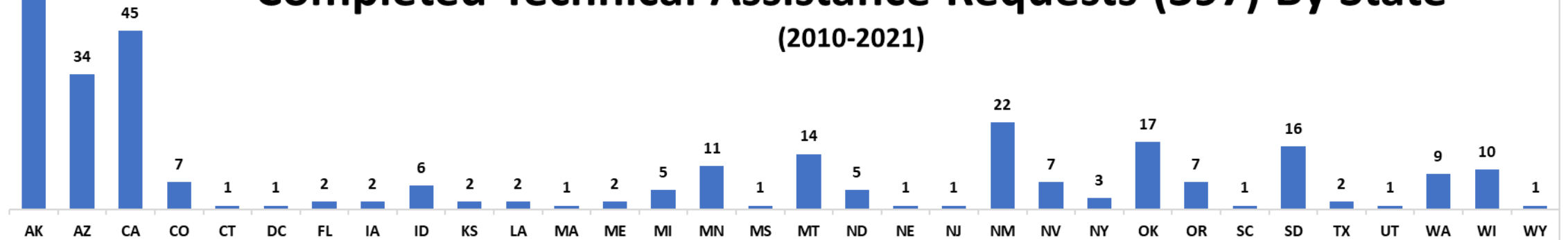
# Completed Technical Assistance Requests



# Completed Technical Assistance Requests (2010-2021)



**Completed Technical Assistance Requests (397) By State (2010-2021)**



# Informational Resources

## Information Resources

- **Energy Resource Library**  
Publications, websites, videos, and more
- **Curriculum Foundational and Advanced Courses**  
Educational webinars

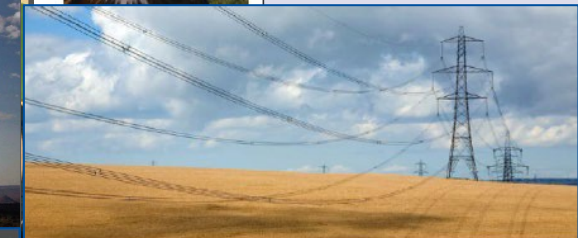
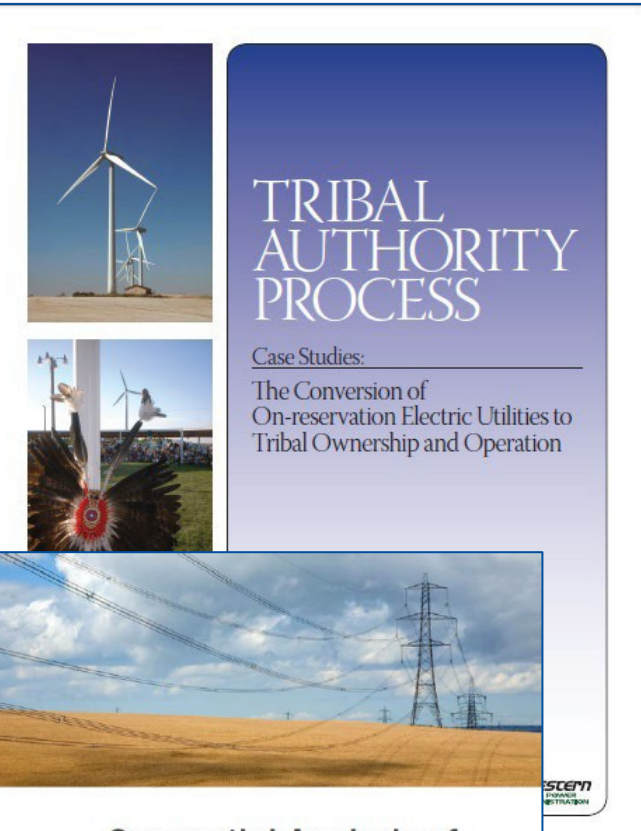
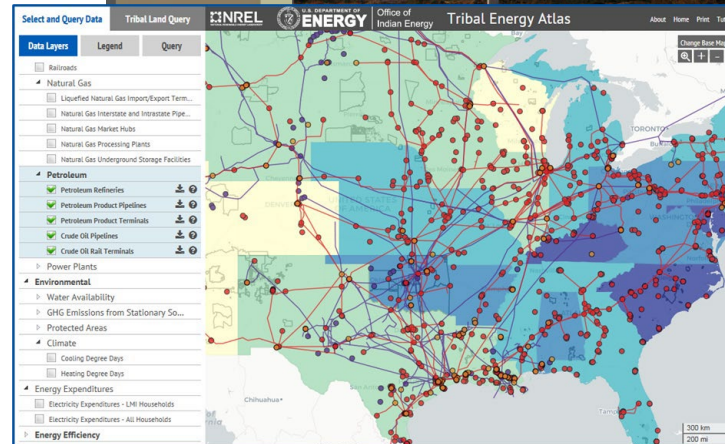
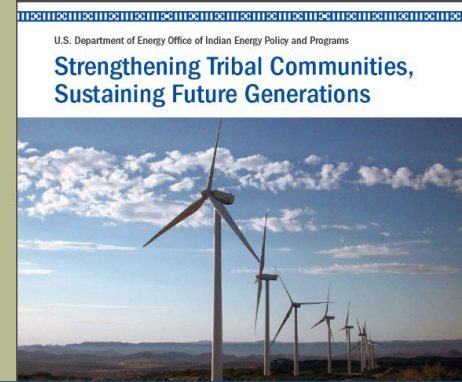
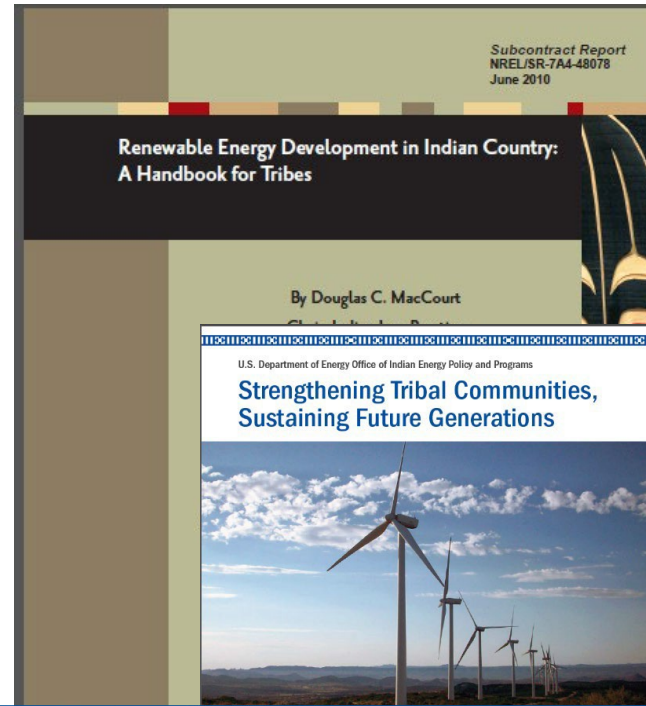
## Workshops & Webinars

- **Monthly Webinars**  
Tribal energy webinars providing foundational information, resources, and case studies
- **Periodic Workshops**  
Workshops on specific topics

## Tribal Energy Atlas

- **Interactive Geospatial Tool**

<http://energy.gov/indianenergy>



## Geospatial Analysis of Renewable Energy Technical Potential on Tribal Lands

E. Doris, A. Lopez, and D. Beckley  
National Renewable Energy Laboratory



# Outreach and Communications

## ■ Listening Sessions

- IE/LPO Funding & Financing Listening Session, May 2021 (586 registered; 369 attendees)
- IE Energy Access & Reliability Listening Session (Congressional Report), November 2021 (~200 attendees; 52% tribal representatives)

## ■ Monthly Webinars

- Tribal energy webinars providing foundational information, resources, and case studies
- Statistics: 1,300+ attendees in FY 2021; ~150 per webinar

## ■ Email Newsletters

- Highlight funding opportunities, upcoming events, and tribal energy related news
- Statistics: 24,700+ subscribers



# Assisting Tribes in Achieving Their Energy Visions



Clockwise from top right: **Nunamiut people** of Anaktuvuk Pass (AK), **Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes** (MT), **Picuris Pueblo** (NM), **Tonto Apache Tribe** (AZ), **Chaninik Wind Group** (AK), **Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes** (MT), and (in the center) **Pueblo of Laguna** (NM)

# Goal and Priorities

**Goal:** Empower the 574 American Indian and Alaska Native nations to lead the transition to 100% clean energy

## Priorities:

- 1) Build Office of Indian Energy Capacity
- 2) Nation-to-Nation Trust
- 3) Energy Access & Transition
- 4) Capacity Building
- 5) Increased Funding
- 6) 7 Generation Planning
- 7) Lifting Up Successful Projects



# Initiatives & Strategic Objectives

## ➤ Initiatives

- Universal energy access for Indian Country
- 100% renewable Tribal Colleges and Universities (TC&Us)
- Transition Indian Country to clean energy

## ➤ Strategic Objectives

- Rapidly ramp up electrification of tribal homes each year
- Transition 37 TC&Us to 100% clean energy
- Deploy new generation and resilience infrastructure
- Build capacity in Indian Country



Clockwise from top right: Hughes Village (AK) 150-kW solar system (2018), Menominee Tribal Enterprise (WI) biomass combined heat and power system, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nations (OR) Fish Hatchery 114-kW solar project (2020), Seneca Nation's (NY) 1.5-MW turbine (2017).



Thank  
You