



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

March 1, 2023

Dear Tribal and Alaskan Native Leaders:

With the signing of the Inflation Reduction Act last August, President Biden ushered in a new era of working with Tribal Nations and Alaska Native entities to deploy clean energy across the country. Among its provisions, section 50122 of the Act includes up to \$225 million for Tribal Governments and Alaska Native entities to administer rebate programs for energy efficiency and electrification upgrades for Tribal households through September 2031. In this letter and the accompanying materials, we refer to the programs to be launched with this funding as the “Tribal Home Energy Rebates programs.” The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is honored and humbled to work with you to ensure this historic investment has the greatest possible positive impact for Tribal communities.

We invite you or your designated representative to attend a virtual consultation session on how DOE can best work with Tribal Governments and Alaska Native entities to successfully implement home energy rebate programs to fund energy efficiency and electrification upgrades for Tribal households. The session will take place on Wednesday, March 29 at 2PM ET. You may register for the event at [this zoom registration link](#). After registration, you will receive an option to join the consultation by video or phone.

Leaders from the DOE’s Office of State and Community Energy Programs are seeking specific feedback during the session on the following questions:

- Section 50122 of the Inflation Reduction Act states that the funding for Tribal Home Energy Rebates programs will be allocated in “a manner determined appropriate by the Secretary.”
 - What factors should DOE consider in the determining the funding allocation? Factors may include Tribal population, the average cost of energy for Tribal members, and/or regional costs of construction.
 - Should the allocation formula align with the allocation of other Federal programs (e.g., the formula used for the [EECBG Program](#))?
 - What minimum funding amount would allow for viable Tribal Home Energy Rebate programs for Indian Tribes that receive the smallest allocations?
- What does your Tribal Government or Alaska Native entity need from DOE to inform planning and preparation for designing and applying for funding for a Tribal Home Energy Rebates program?
- How can DOE support your Indian Tribe’s design and implementation of a rebate program, including overcoming access to infrastructure, technology, and other barriers?
- Is your Indian Tribe likely to administer your Tribal Home Energy Rebates program directly or engage a third party?
- What national or regional entities might be best suited to help administer rebate programs for small Indian Tribes or Tribes with lower administrative capacity?

- How might DOE, States, and Territories ensure that Tribal households have equitable access to other rebates that are made available through State and Territory governments?
- What program design features will allow for the Tribal Home Energy Rebates programs to be used by the same household or building as other federal funding for Tribal housing upgrades, such as the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Electrification Program or Tribal programs from the Department of Housing and Urban Development?
- What best practices and lessons learned from other Tribal energy efficiency or incentive programs should DOE consider in drafting program requirements and guidance?
- What other questions, comments, or feedback do you have for DOE regarding the Tribal Home Energy Rebates programs?

The enclosed Framing Paper and Framing Slides are available in preparation for the consultation session as background information on DOE’s Home Energy Rebate programs and the up to \$225 million available to Indian Tribes for Tribal Home Energy Rebates. The [DOE Home Energy Rebate programs website](#) and [Home Energy Rebates Programs FAQ Page](#) may also be helpful for your preparation.

We invite you to submit written comments prior to and after the consultation session. Comments may be submitted to tribalconsultation@hq.doe.gov. Please include “Tribal Home Energy Rebates programs” in the subject line of your email. Written comments will be accepted until 30 days after the virtual consultation session. Information provided through this consultation process will be used by DOE to develop application requirements and program guidance for the Tribal Home Energy Rebates programs.

DOE will host additional consultations and continue our collaborative dialogue with Tribal and Alaska Native entity leaders or their designated representatives throughout the year. Additional information is available on the [DOE’s Tribal Consultation website](#).

We look forward to hearing from you at our consultation on the Tribal Home Energy Rebates programs on Wednesday, March 29 at 2PM ET.

Sincerely,



Dr. Ali Nouri
Assistant Secretary for Congressional and
Intergovernmental Affairs

Enclosures:

- Framing Paper for Tribal Consultation on Tribal Home Energy Rebates programs
- Draft Framing Slides for Tribal Consultation on Tribal Home Energy Rebates programs