Lac Courte Oreilles
Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe

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First Steps towards Tribal Weatherization
Assessing the Feasibility of the Hydro Dam
About Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO)

- Located in Upper Northwest Wisconsin
- 76,000 acres and 15 miles wide
- 90 miles from Duluth
  100 miles from Eau Claire
  10 miles from Hayward
- Close to 6,000 members, 50% live on or near the reservation
- 68% unemployment rate
- During the winter temperatures drop as low as -40° below
About Lac Courte Oreilles (LCO) Cont.

- 2005 Tribal Governing Board adopted the Kyoto Protocol
- 2006 Adopted the LCO Comprehensive Plan to provide 25% of the Tribes energy from renewable resources
- 2008 First Steps Award from Department of Energy to conduct Tribal Wide Energy Audit
Assessing the Feasibility of the Hydro Dam

• Assessing the feasibility of upgrading an existing hydro power generating system (at the Winter Dam)

• The assessment will involve three objectives:
  o Conduct an engineering and financial feasibility study which details the viability of the dam, including equipment upgrades & cost estimates, and revenue projections;
  o Conduct a legal review of the power sales contract with recommendations for renegotiations;
  o Obtain at least two management proposals for the Dam and present to the Tribal Governing Board for recommendations.

• Provide the Tribal Governing Board with the necessary information needed to enter into the renegotiation process of the Power Sales Contract at the end of the Decade
Current Status

• In-depth analysis of Plant operations including issues and obstacles

• Procure Engineering and legal services is complete and negotiations are close to complete.

• Environmental Assessment of the area is being completed and the Tribal Historical Preservation Officer is working to complete his assessment of the area.

• Write a Business Plan to finance upgrades and retrogrades.

• Continue to provide Community Education
First Steps Towards Tribal Weatherization

• The Weatherization Program objectives:
  o Train community members to assess and implement weatherization tasks
  o Reduce the use and cost of home heating, electricity by at least 25% for each family served by the weatherization crew
  o Increase the level of community awareness of the importance of home energy conservation and strategies for implementation
  o Completion of a plan for a self-supported Weatherization Center to serve this area of Wisconsin.
First Steps Towards Tribal Weatherization

• Train Community members to perform Weatherization tasks:
  o Contracted Building Science Academy (BSA) to provide BPI Certification training for Weatherization and Building Audit to community members.
  o Begin Building Audits on Tribal Entity Buildings and creating a work plan to the weatherization crew to start weatherizing the buildings.
  o Five elder homes have been selected to receive this service as well, which will begin in December.
The Training
First Steps Towards Tribal Weatherization

- Increase the level of community awareness of the importance of home energy conservation and strategies for implementation

- Completion of a plan for a self-supported Weatherization Center to serve this area of Wisconsin.
Looking Ahead

• Community awareness meetings

• Procurement for supplies.

• Business Plans for both grant

• Search and apply for grants for both projects