



# *Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe*

*Leslie Isham, Director/Assistant Director*

*Lac Courte Oreilles Energy Project*

*Lac Courte Oreilles Public works Department*



*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:**
  - **Conduct an engineering and financial feasibility study which details the viability of the dam, including equipment upgrades & cost estimates, and revenue projections;**
  - **Conduct a legal review of the power sales contract with recommendations for renegotiations;**
  - **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:**
  - **Train community members to assess and implement weatherization tasks**
  - **Reduce the use and cost of home heating, electricity by at least 25% for each family served by the weatherization crew**
  - **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.**

# First Steps Towards Tribal Weatherization

- Train Community members to perform Weatherization tasks:
  - Contracted Building Science Academy (BSA) to provide BPI Certification training for Weatherization and Building Audit to community members.
  - Begin Building Audits on Tribal Entity Buildings and creating a work plan to the weatherization crew to start weatherizing the buildings.
  - 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

