

# Uk'e koley

“No Footprint”

Chickaloon Village Traditional Council

*Nay'dini'aa Na'*

*Presenter: Jim Shaginoff*

# Brief Summary of Tribe:

- *Nay'dini'aa Na' meaning: a log across the river*
  - Our Tribe has long been devoted to being a good steward to the environment, understanding that it is our responsibility to take care of the land that has been loaned to us for the short time we are here.
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# Brief Summary of Tribe:

- Historically harvested resources include salmon, moose, caribou, beluga whale, grizzly and black bear, dall sheep, beaver and numerous other animals and plants for food, medicine, tools and fiber.

# Brief Summary of Tribe:

- As a result of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act 1971 (ANCSA), the Tribe's current land holdings consist of approximately 72,000 acres that are spread among numerous non-contiguous parcels, with the largest single parcel covering 20,000 acres and the smallest consisting of less than 40 acres.
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# Brief Summary of Tribe:

- Dating as far back as 1900, Chickaloon Village's traditional territories have been subjected to non-sustainable resource extraction including coal, copper and gold mining, oil and gas drilling, and logging. The highway and railroad construction also impacted Tribal lands.
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# Brief Summary of Tribe:

- As a response to the environmental and social changes to Chickaloon Village Tribal Citizens coupled with the passing of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971, our Elders re-established the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council (CVTC) in 1973 to reassert the Tribe's identity, cultural traditions, and economic self-sufficiency.
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# CVTC's mandate & long range goals

- CVTC's mandate is to perpetuate our ancestors' beliefs, customs, traditions, values and steward our environment to help our citizens thrive.
  - Goal #1: Rejuvenate Athabaskan culture, oral traditions, spirituality, Ahtna Athabaskan language, songs, and dances based on our traditional values.
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# CVTC's mandate & long range goals

- Goal #2: Exercise and assert our self-determination by developing and managing programs and services to solve our health, social, housing, educational, judicial, transportation, and economic development needs.
  - Goal #3: Protect, enhance, and restore our ancestral lands, waters, and air and ensure respectful development.
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# CVTC's mandate & long range goals

- Goal #4: Ensure local, regional/state, national, and international recognition and sovereignty of the Athabaskan Nation and Nay'dini'aa Na' Traditional Village (Chickaloon Native Village).
  - Goal #5: Strengthen our Council, Staff Members, and Tribal Citizens by respectfully increasing communication, educational development, and collaboration.
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# Brief Summary of Tribe:

- Since reorganization of the CVTC, positive progress has been made in each of the five areas, and the council has developed a strategic plan designed to help achieve each of the above outlined long-range goals.

# Brief Summary of Tribe:

- Our Tribe has been recognized for the exemplary vision, implementation, grant administration and reporting of its programs by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

# Brief Summary of Tribe:

- The Ya Ne Dah Ah School where the Athabascan language is taught, is Alaska's first tribally owned and operated full-time pre-school and primary school. In 2002, Harvard University awarded Ya Ne Dah Ah "Ancient Teachings" School High Honors Honoring Nations award for Self-Governance.

# Brief Summary of Tribe:

- In 2006 our Moose Creek Restoration Project received a national-level U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Award "in recognition of outstanding contribution to fisheries and habitat conservation."

# Brief Summary of Tribe:

- Chickaloon Native Village gained federal recognition on November 24, 1982, according to Federal Register Vol. 58, No. 202. We are governed by a nine-member Traditional Council (CVTC), tasked to reassert the Tribes identity and cultural traditions, and create economic self-sufficiency for the Tribe.
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# Brief Summary of Tribe:

- Our Tribe is managed by an *Executive Director* and is divided into six (6) departments to serve the needs of our Tribal citizens and another estimated 6,500 Alaska Natives and Native Americans living in our service area, the Matanuska–Susitna (Mat–Su) Valley.

# Brief Summary of Tribe:

- Our departments include Health and Social Services, Housing, Education, Environmental Stewardship, Transportation, and Accounting/Administration.

# Project Overview:

## Our long-term Energy Vision:

- Energy Conservation– Cut heat loss and install lighting that uses less power.
  - Produce enough clean, renewable energy to power and heat all our existing buildings and rental housing units, and become a green energy supplier to the regional utility company.
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# Project Overview:

## Our Long-term Energy Goal:

- Protect, enhance and restore our ancestral lands, water and air and ensure respectful, healthy development by reducing our reliance on fossil fuels.

# Project Overview:

## Project Goal:

- To conduct a feasibility study to assess the energy uses and loads for all of our buildings and rental housing units, to determine if it makes economic sense to install renewable energy systems on each building to lower our carbon footprint. Currently we are spending over \$40,000 per year on fuel and power for our office buildings. At \$3.00/gal for fuel, for every gallon of fuel we save per day it amounts to a savings of approximately \$1100.00 per year.

# Project Location

- Our Tribe is located in Southcentral Alaska approximately one-and-a-half hours drive from Anchorage, Alaska's largest city.

# Project Locations

- All of our current Tribally owned and operated buildings and rental housing units are spread out over 4 different locations.
  - They are approximately within a 5 mile radius of one another.
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# Project Locations



Administration office



Environmental, Housing,  
& Energy Project Offices

# Project Locations



12 Low Income Housing  
Units



Government, Health &  
Social Services Offices

# Project Locations



Language, ICWA, &  
Transportation Offices



Ya Ne Dah Ah School

# Project Participants

- CVTC has hired a full-time Project Manager for the *Uk'e koley* Project. The Project Manager reports to the Environmental Stewardship Department Director, who reports to the Executive Director, who reports to the governing body, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council.
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# Project Participants

- We have hired a contractor(YourCleanEnergy, LLC.) to complete portions of the feasibility study such as the energy audit, which includes a blower door test, pollution audit and renewable energy system installation plan.
  - The contractors will also be responsible for providing informal training to the Project Manager on multiple aspects of the renewable energy feasibility assessment.
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# *Objective One:*

- Conduct an energy audit documenting current energy consumption and heating loads including a pollution audit to measure carbon dioxide emissions associated with our current energy systems.

## *Objective Two:*

- Determine the energy systems best suited for our needs based on the availability of natural renewable energy resources in our region by the end of the fourth quarter of the grant.

## *Objective Three:*

- Develop a written plan to install renewable energy systems in all of our Tribally-owned buildings by the end of the second quarter of year two of the grant.

## *Objective Four:*

- To train the *Uk'e koley* Project Manager through formal and informal methods to build the capacity of the Tribe to manage our new green energy systems.
  - One of the requirements of the Project Manager is to enroll in a 23 Credit Renewable Energy Certificate Program at Matsu-College.
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# Relevant Background Information

- Taking care of the environment is the Athabaskan way; it is as much a part of our culture as drumming and dancing. We were originally a nomadic people following the herds, moving from site to site making sure that the land and environment was left with no visible 'unnatural footprint'. We are in a new age, where the 'unnatural footprint' is that of a carbon footprint.



We have installed a 2200 watt Solar panel tracking system in 2003 to help with our school's power needs and to plant the seed of renewable energy in our children's minds.



Another view of the Solar Tracking System

# Relevant Background Information

- We are striving to regain our traditional ways, working to revitalize our language and culture, and to take our place as environmental leaders within our community. We want to teach our people, our children and our community how to thrive, as we did for thousands of years, leaving no “unnatural footprint” behind.
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We built a “Green” four-seasons greenhouse in 2006 with in-floor heating, powered by 3 solar panels and a wind generator.

# Relevant Background Information

- This philosophy has helped to shape the vision and goals of our Tribe. To continue to teach our values to our Tribal citizens and the larger community.

# Conclusion

- We hope you will join us on our path to create “*Uk’e koley*”, meaning “*no footprint*” or “That which has no tracks”. We want to leave a legacy for our future generations. For us, this is a legacy of renewable energy.

- ▶ I would like to thank the Department of Energy and all of you that attended this Program, like I heard many of you say, we all learn from each other and it was great meeting so many new people.