

Strategic Energy Planning Lessons Learned

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

January 27, 2016

Mississippi Choctaw Overview

- ▶ Federal Recognition in 1945
- ▶ 10,500 enrolled members
- ▶ 35,000 acres of Trust Land
- ▶ 8 Communities in East Central Mississippi
- ▶ Democratically-elected Government



Topics

1. Why Mississippi Choctaw decided to do a Strategic Energy Plan
2. Our Timeline
3. What data we gathered in advance
4. How we assembled our "Stakeholders" group
5. How we structured our 2 day session
6. Outline of our Strategic Energy Plan
7. Tips for Success

Why we did a *Strategic Energy Plan*

- ▶ Missed opportunities
- ▶ Focus our efforts
- ▶ Streamline development process

Our Timeline

September 22: Attended National Tribal Energy Summit D.C.

October 12: Contacted Liz Doris - NREL

November: Gathered energy data

Dec. 1-2: Two day planning session at Choctaw

Dec. 3: Two-page plan summary received from NREL

Jan. 5: Received 1st draft of Strategic Energy Plan (20 pages)

Jan. 15: Tribal Council adopted Strategic Energy Plan

Data Gathered in Advance

- ▶ Electrical usage: kWh usage for 12 months (major loads) w/ sample bills
- ▶ Electrical contracts: copies of electrical contracts (majors)
- ▶ Propane: gallons purchased and price paid for 12 months
- ▶ Energy audits: copies of all recent energy audits
- ▶ Tribal housing: Map of housing units with quantity
- ▶ Fleet: Tribal vehicle fleet list and vehicle fuel type
- ▶ Natural gas: financial analysis that had been done related to converting from LP gas to Natural Gas

Tip: We shared this info using Dropbox

Stakeholder Participants

- ▶ Coordinator (1): Economic Development Director
- ▶ Core Team (6): Chief of Staff, Development Director, Economic Development Director, Public Works Director, Choctaw Electrical General Manager, Housing Development Coordinator
- ▶ Elected Officials (18): Tribal Chief and Tribal Council
- ▶ Key Stakeholders (30): Housing, Schools, Casinos, Natural Resource, Hospital, Environmental, Tribal Administration, Forestry, Finance, Legal, Baker-Tilly (energy development consultants)
 - ▶ Large energy users
 - ▶ Anyone that would need to be involved in a development project

Tip: everyone was invited to attend by a written letter from Tribal Chief

Meeting Structure

- ▶ Day 1 - All day meeting with all Key Stakeholders Group + Core Team
 - ▶ Welcome and Introductions by Tribal Chief
- ▶ Day 2 -
 - ▶ Morning: Tribal Council + Core Team
 - ▶ Afternoon: Core Team

Our Strategic Energy Plan

Vision Statement: Maximize economic benefits and quality of life for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians through responsible, efficient, and strategic energy development and use

1. Energy Efficiency: audits, workforce training, replacement plan, new building codes
2. Transit Authority: replacement plan, natural gas conversion study
3. Renewable Energy: select pilot project
4. Heating: explore natural gas service expansion
5. Operations: develop energy usage database, hire Energy Manager
6. Other: review existing & proposed new energy contracts

Tips for Success

- ▶ Select a Senior-Level Coordinator
- ▶ Select a Core Team that has the *Knowledge* and *Enthusiasm*
- ▶ Involve elected officials
- ▶ Involve key stakeholders that represent all important components
- ▶ Create a sense of urgency
- ▶ Get your plan formally adopted by the Tribe

Thank you!

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians

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