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Akwesasne Housing Authority Go Solar Initiative: Net Metering

Indian Energy Webinar: Understanding the Energy Policy and
Regulatory Environment

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Contents

- Intro Akwesasne Housing Authority
- Energy Vision
- Sunrise Acres Complex
- Technical Assistance/Strategic Plan
- Project Goals & Outcomes
- Community Awareness Campaign
- Solar Initiative Goals
- AHA's Unique Energy Conservation & Education Programming
- Funding Sources
- New York State and Utility Rules
- Net Metering Location
- Progress and Next Steps

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Intro
Akwesasne
Housing Authority

St. Regis Mohawk
Tribe

Akwesasne is the Mohawk name for the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, which has a diverse membership of more than 10,000 people who live and work on both sides of the U.S.-Canadian border.

The Akwesasne Housing Authority (AHA) is a Tribally Designated Housing Entity for the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, created on July 19, 1984. Since that time, they have built over 400 low income housing, 41 low income elderly units and other community ventures.

With support from tribal leadership, AHA is paving the way for the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe to go green by building an energy efficient and renewable energy powered elderly housing complex, offering free home energy assessments for residents, spearheading a community solar campaign and development of a new solar farm to benefit the community.



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Energy Vision

AHA & SRMT's Energy Vision:

- minimize AHA's and SRMT's environmental footprint
- employ diverse green energy systems
- energy self-sufficient and reduce energy costs
- Produce alternative energy sources

While the average residential electrical rate in United States is 12.22 cents per kWh, AHA's facilities pay on average approximately 18 cents per kWh.

It was unclear how long AHA would be able to continue absorbing the rising electrical costs while ensuring rental rates remain reasonable for the tenants it serves.

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Sunrise Acres Elderly Complex

The AHA has successfully implemented a prior solar project in 2011 with the expansion of twenty (20) new elderly housing units with six 5 kW solar photovoltaic system which saw a substantial savings in electrical costs. They now have forty-one (41) elderly units.



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Technical Assistance

Strategic Planning

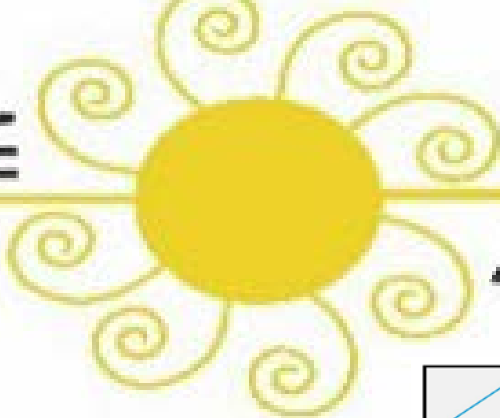
January 2015, Technical Assistance, DOE-Indian Energy,

- hosted a strategic energy planning session facilitated by Indigenous Collaboration
- members from AHA, tribe departments, tribal council and board.
- further developed the strategic plan with involvement of tribal leadership and the community to ensure the success of the energy projects.

June 2015, Technical Assistance, DOE-Indian Energy

- continue Strategic Energy Plan
- include the Tribal Administration, community members and various stake holders.
- Prioritizing energy to be included in all future project ventures and engaging all tribal departments and government in the development of a renewable energy strategy.

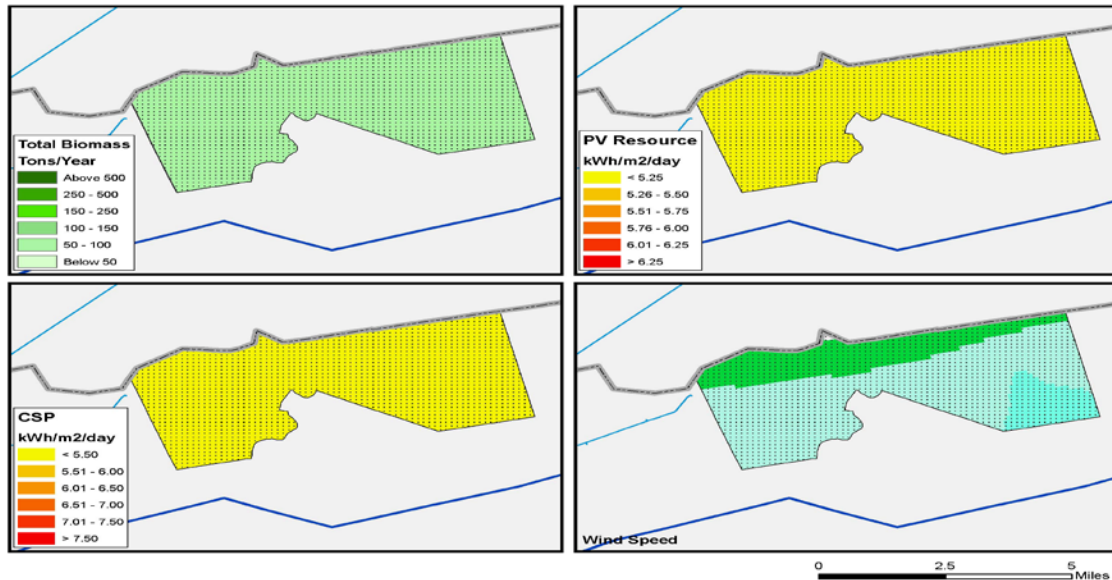
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Resource Availability and Transmission Lines

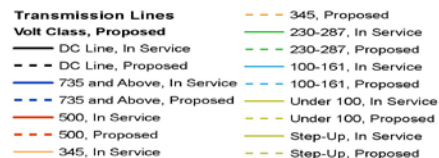
Saint Regis Mohawk Reservation



Saint Regis Mohawk Reservation, New York
Resource Availability and Transmission Lines on Tribal Lands of the United States



This map was produced by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory for the US Department of Energy. February 2015



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Project Goals & Outcomes

AHA's Go Solar Initiative Goals:

- build 614.74 kW of solar facilities
- provide clean energy to 145 Tribal members' residences and 14 AHA and SRMT buildings.

Proposed Outcomes:

- produce 20,831,320 kWh
- cost savings of \$4,417,501
- greenhouse gas emission reductions of 351,543 pounds per month
- 11 training and job opportunities in solar installation or maintenance for Tribal members

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Community Awareness Campaign

Application Process

Community Awareness Campaign:

local newspaper

radio announcements

website/online

promotional products distributed at health fair

tribal council meetings

Public/community meetings

Application process: fill out application, provide electrical and heating bills for a year from each household.

A priority list was made, with low household income, elderly and disabled being first priority.

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Solar PV Initiative Goals

- Expand on the AHA goal of providing affordable housing.
- Benefit a significant number of members with a unique energy conservation/education program.
- Reduce the cost of electric utility costs for low-income residents.
- Access funding to offset installation costs.
- Develop a scalable program to accommodate future expansion.
- Utilize favorable New York State and Utility rules for broader deployment.
- Create job and job training opportunities in growing solar field.

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AHA's Unique Energy Conservation & Education Programming

The entire household, in order to participate in the solar initiative, must commit to AHA's Energy Conservation and Education Programming which will include the following:

- Continuing regular payments towards their electric bill.
- Committing to long term monitoring of electricity billings.
- Families completing educational programs, participating in community energy/green events and educational programs.
- Families will commit to reducing energy consumption by 15% or more.
- Engaging tribal members and their families into prioritizing their energy usage.

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Funding Sources

- Up to \$600,000 Available (ICDBG)
- Includes Solar PV for Housing
- Leveraging with tax credits and NYSERDA incentives
- Approximately 305 kW of solar
- Up to \$1,000,000 Available (US DOE)
- Requires a 50% Cost Share
- Cost share can be met with tax investment and NYSERDA incentives
- Includes Solar PV for Community



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State and Utility Rules

- In June 2011 New York State enacted legislation allowing for Remote Net Metering.
- In July of 2015 the NY Public Service Commission issued an order establishing Community Net Metering in the state.
- National Grid allows for up to 2,000 kW Net Metering.
- National Grid and SRMT work together by employing a liaison. Main goal is work out delinquencies through a payment plan.

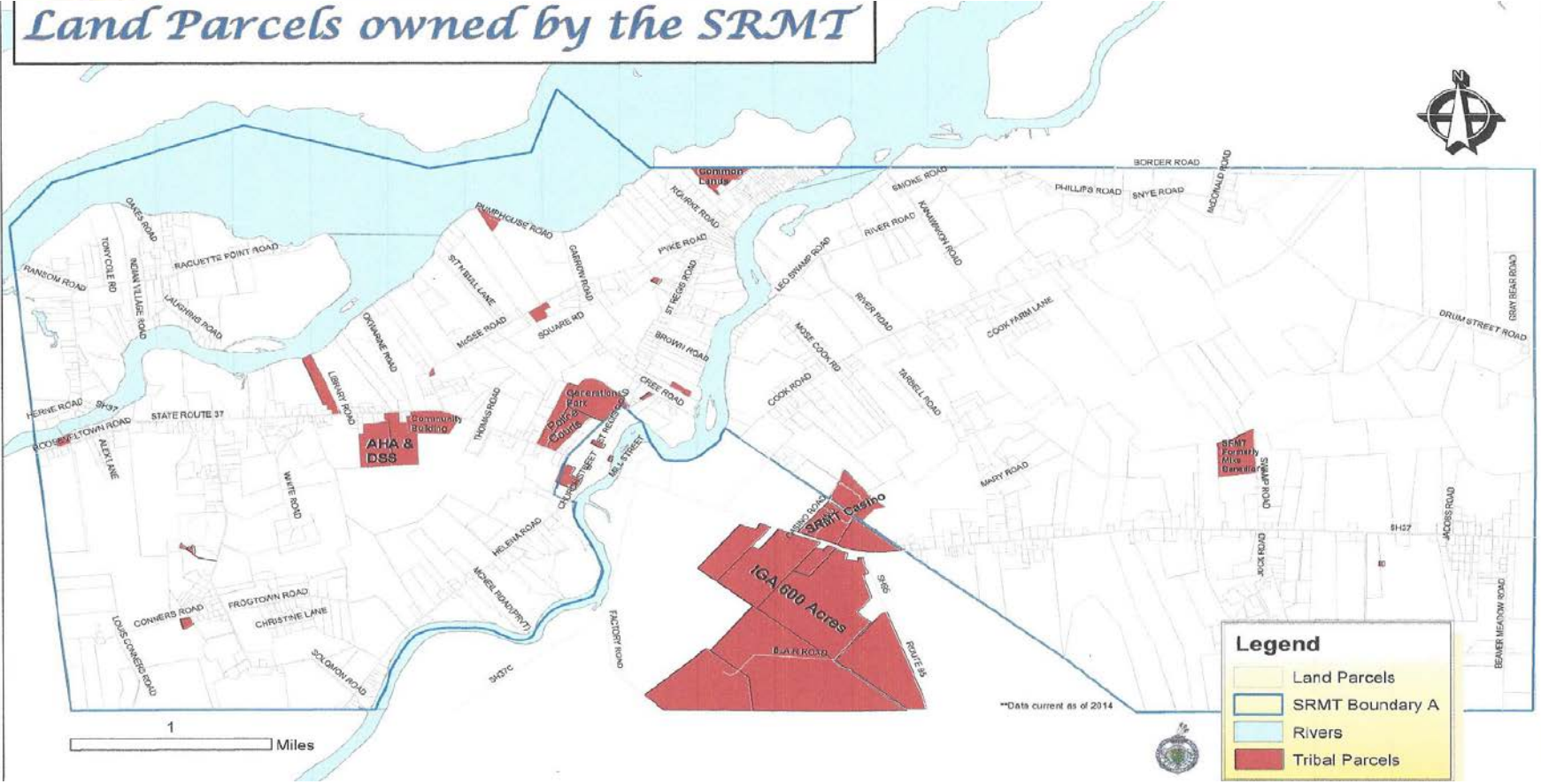
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Net Metering
Location

Land Parcels owned by the SRMT



Aerial View of Net Metering Location



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Sunrise Acres
Supportive Housing
for Elderly

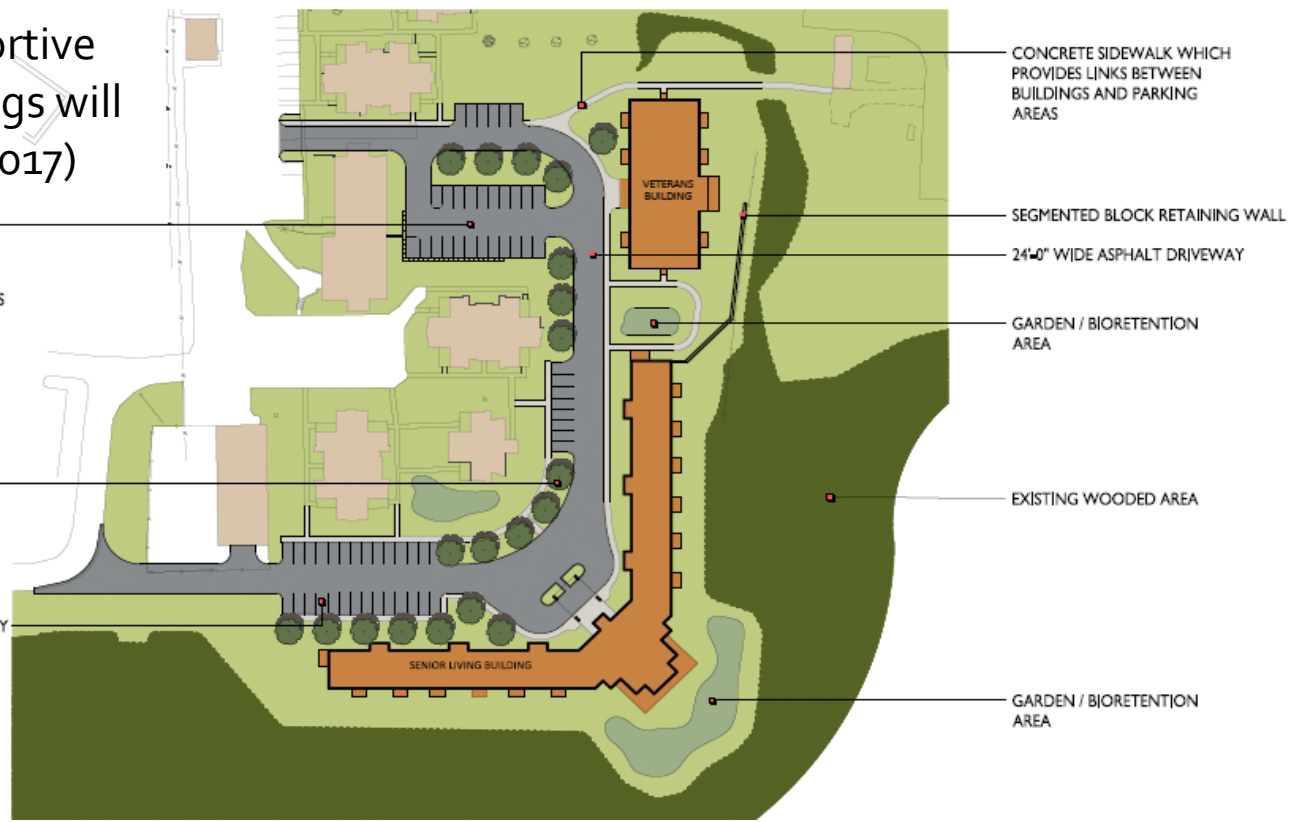
Supportive Housing
For Native American
Homeless Veterans

Two new supportive housing buildings will feature solar.(2017)

ASPHALT PARKING LOT (19 SPACES) INCLUDING 3 ACCESSIBLE SPACES PARKING BAYS AND ACCESS AISLES ARE ORIENTATED TO MAXIMIZE SAFETY AND CONVENIENCE FOR PUBLIC ACCESS TO NEARBY BUILDINGS

TREE PLANTING AND LAWN AREA TO PROVIDE SHADE AND SEPARATION BETWEEN AND ACCESS DRIVE AND PARKING AREAS

ASPHALT PARKING SPACES PERIODICALLY SPACED ALONG ACCESS AISLE. FOR CONVENIENCE ACCESS TO NEARBY BUILDINGS. (42 SPACES)



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Progress & Next Steps

- ICDBG Grant awarded in February, 2016.
- DOE awarded in March, 2016.
- Intent to apply for local Indian owned companies/Solar installation.
- Develop an Energy Conservation and Education Programming Plan
- Projected completion, 2017.



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Thank You

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