Department of Energy to Award Over $6 Million for Clean Energy Projects on Tribal Lands

July 25, 2011

U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu today announced 34 tribal energy projects to receive $6.3 million over two years as part of the 179 Department of Energy's ongoing efforts to support tribal energy development and continue strengthening the partnership with Tribal nations. These competitively selected projects will allow 17 Native American Tribes to advance clean energy within their communities by developing strategic energy plans, expanding the skills and knowledge of tribal members, and increasing the energy security and economic development of these communities.

"Tribe Nations are well positioned to take advantage of the benefits of clean energy and energy-efficient technologies," said Secretary Chu. "Projects such as these will save energy and money, create long-term clean energy jobs, and spur economic development in tribal communities nationwide."

The more than $6 million in DOE funding will go toward 34 projects selected for implementation in tribal communities across the United States. The projects, which are focused on two themes of broadly defined clean energy - energy efficiency and renewable energy - will range from building retrofits to renewable energy development.

$2.17 Million for Feasibility Studies - Nine Tribal projects will receive $2.17 million to study cost-effective building upgrades; identify site-specific energy opportunities; and develop plans for energy efficient projects. The projects will conduct energy assessments to identify cost-effective building upgrades; identify site-specific energy opportunities; and develop plans for energy efficient projects.

$2.14 Million for First Step Planning - Seventeen Tribal energy projects will receive $2.14 million for strategic planning, energy options analysis, energy optimization, and preliminary development. The projects will conduct energy assessments to identify cost-effective building upgrades; identify site-specific energy opportunities; and develop plans for energy efficient projects.

$1.0 Million for Installation Projects - Ten Tribal energy projects will receive $1 million for the installation of energy efficient upgrades in their buildings that will help tribes reduce electricity and cooling costs by 50% or more.

Additional details about all 34 tribal energy projects: [http://www.eere.energy.gov/tribal/indianenergy.html]

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