Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Listening Session Polling Question Results
Energy Access and Reliability on Tribal Lands Listening Session
November 4, 2021

The Office of Indian Energy held a listening session on November 4th, 2021 titled *Energy Access and Reliability on Tribal Lands Listening Session*. The listening session responds to legislative language set forth in the Energy Act of 2020, Sec. 8014 Report on Electricity and Reliability pages 1200 - 1203, wherein it is stated:

> *(a) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary of Energy shall conduct an assessment of the status of access to electricity by households residing in Tribal communities or on Indian land, and the reliability of electric service available to households residing in Tribal communities or on Indian land, as compared to the status of access to and reliability of electricity within neighboring States or within the State in which Indian land is located.*
> *(b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of Energy shall consult with Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, the North American Electricity Reliability Corporation, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in the development and conduct of the assessment under subsection(a). Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations shall have the opportunity to review and make recommendations regarding the development of the assessment and the findings of the assessment, prior to the submission of the report under subsection (c).*
> *(c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the results of the assessment conducted under subsection (a), which shall include—(1) a description of generation, transmission, and distribution assets available to provide electricity to households residing in Tribal communities or on Indian land; (2) a survey of the retail and wholesale prices of electricity available to households residing in Tribal communities or on Indian land; (3) a description of participation of Tribal members in the electric utility workforce, including the workforce for construction and maintenance of renewable energy resources and distributed energy resources; (4) the percentage of households residing in Tribal communities or on Indian land that do not have access to electricity; (5) the potential of distributed energy resources to provide electricity to households residing in Tribal communities or on Indian land; (6) the potential for tribally-owned electric utilities or electric utility assets to participate in or benefit from regional electricity markets; (7) a description of the barriers to providing access to electric service to households residing in Tribal communities or on Indian land; and (8) recommendations to improve access to and reliability of electric service for households residing in Tribal communities or on Indian land.*
> (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section: (1) TRIBAL MEMBER.—The term "Tribal member" means

a person who is an enrolled member of a federally recognized Tribe or village. (2) TRIBAL COMMUNITY.—The term "Tribal community" means a community in a United States census tract in which the majority of residents are persons who are enrolled members of a federally recognized Tribe or village.

The goal of the listening session was to gain important insight directly from Indian Tribes and Alaska Native communities regarding the current status of unelectrified homes and electricity reliability issues facing their communities. Additionally, Office of Indian Energy also wanted to provide participants the opportunity to make recommendations on developing the report, and subsequently, the assessment's findings.

Office of Indian Energy Director, Wahleah Johns, and Dr. Thomas Jones, started with introductions, provided an overview of the Office of Indian Energy, and provided information on each section of the report as mandated by the Congressional language. While reviewing the various report sections, the Office of Indian Energy collected information using polling questions. The Office of Indian Energy also allotted time at end of the session for questions or additional input.

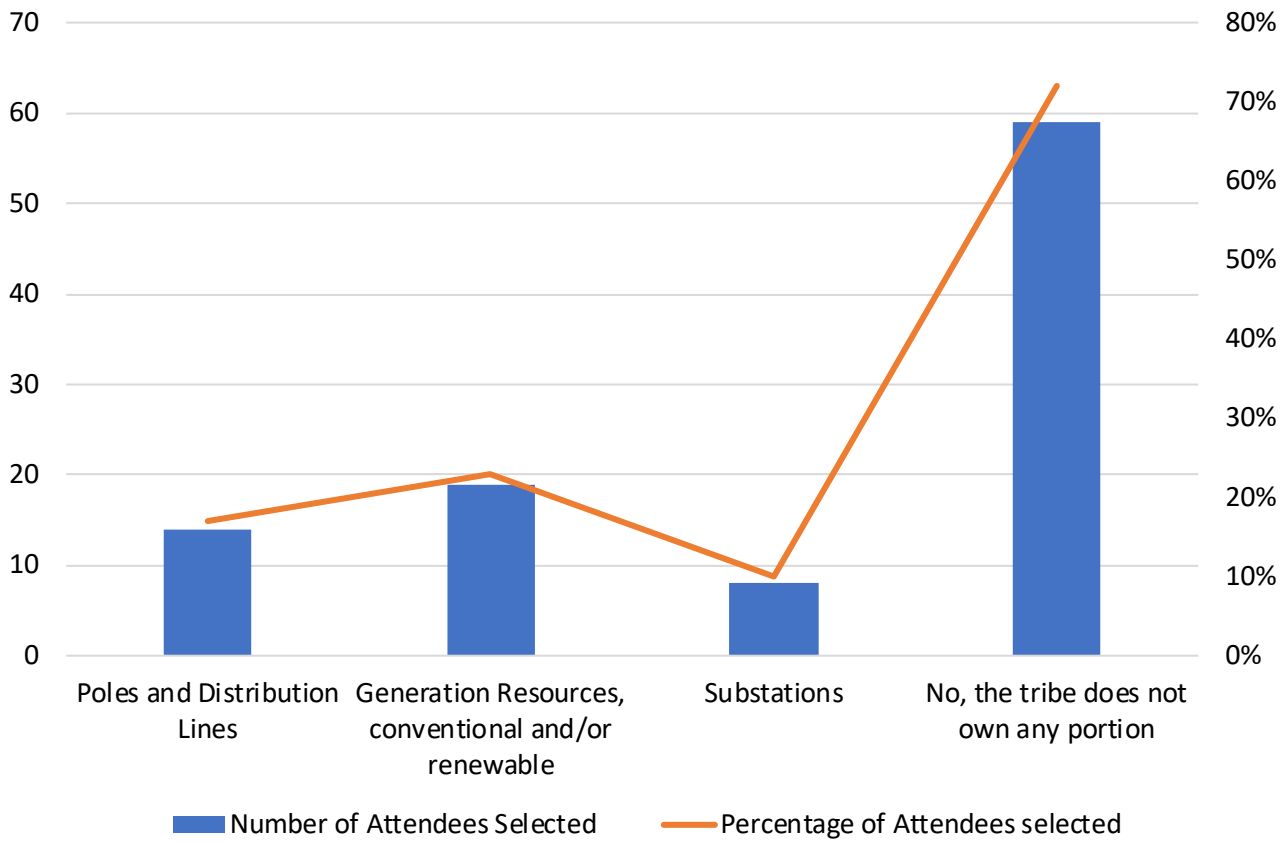
A total of 217 people participated in the listening session including tribal leaders, tribal staff, representatives of tribal entities, and other interested parties. A total of 119 people (55%) self-identified as a representative of a tribe or affiliated with a tribe. The results of the polling questions below represent only responses from individuals who self-identified as a representative of a tribe or affiliated with a tribe.

Polling Questions Results

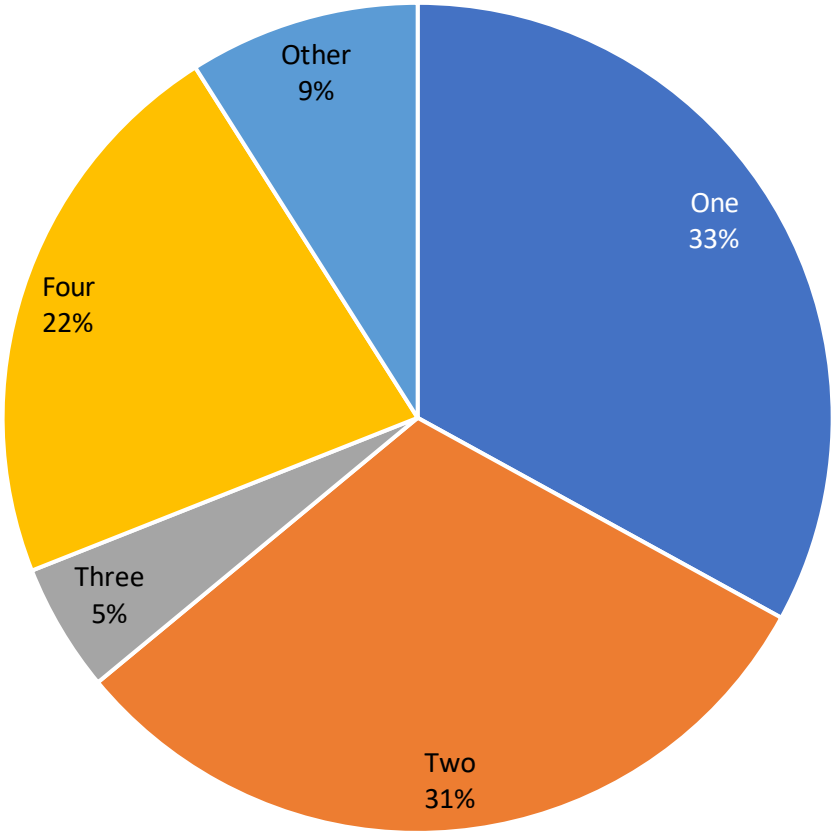
(Note: This data has been refined such as including only tribal affiliated responses, however data may not account for double counting of responses from the same tribe if more than one tribal representative submitted answers, nor does it include metrics submitted via email. Submitted comments have been redacted to limit identifiable information).

Section 1: Generation, transmission, and distribution assets available
Description: Generation, transmission, and distribution assets available to households residing in Tribal communities or on Indian land.

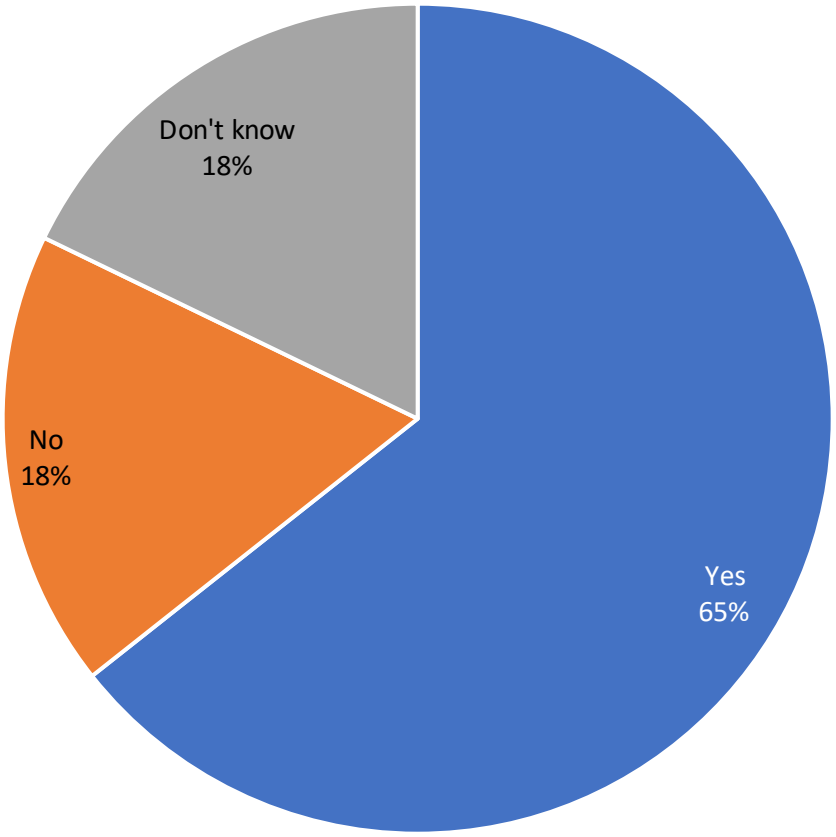
Question	Answers	Number of Attendees Selected	Percentage of Attendees selected
1. Does your tribe own any portion of the electrical infrastructure in your respective community? (Select all that apply) Response Rate- 69%	a. Poles and Distribution Lines	14	17%
	b. Generation Resources, conventional and/or renewable	19	23%
	c. Substations	8	10%
	d. No, the tribe does not own any portion	59	72%



Question	Answers	Number of Attendees Selected	Percentage of Attendees selected
2. How many distinct non-tribal utilities serve your tribal community(s)?	a. One	26	33%
	b. Two	24	31%
	c. Three	4	5%
	d. Four	17	22%
Response Rate- 66%	e. Other	7	9%

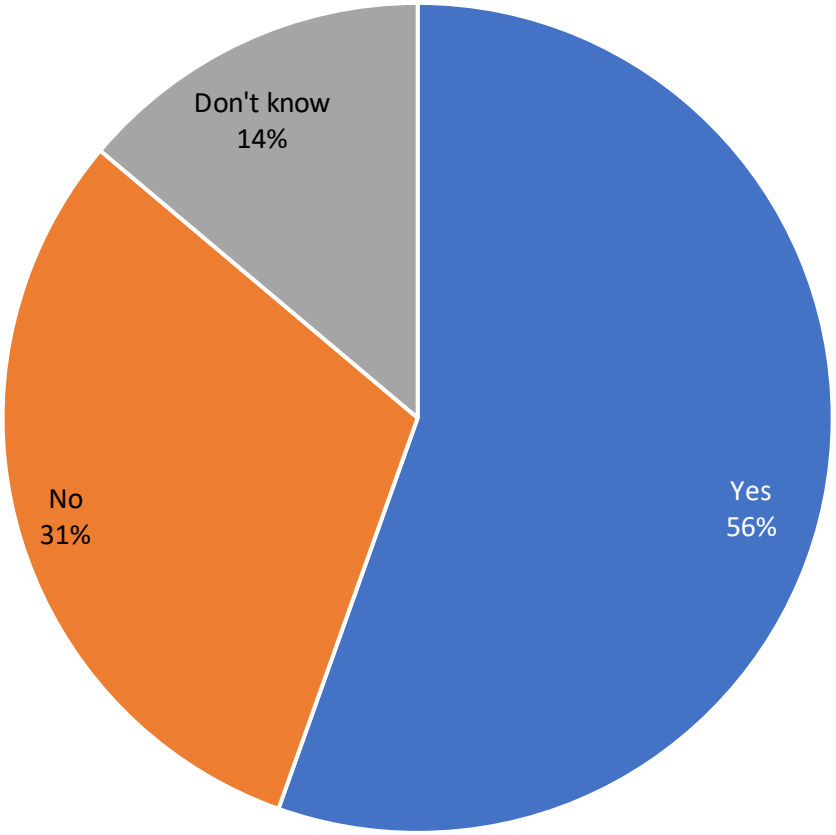


Question	Answers	Number of Attendees Selected	Percentage of Attendees selected
3. Is there existing infrastructure in your community that could be extended to electrify homes that are unelectrified? Response Rate- 62%	a. Yes	48	65%
	b. No	13	18%
	c. Don't know	13	18%

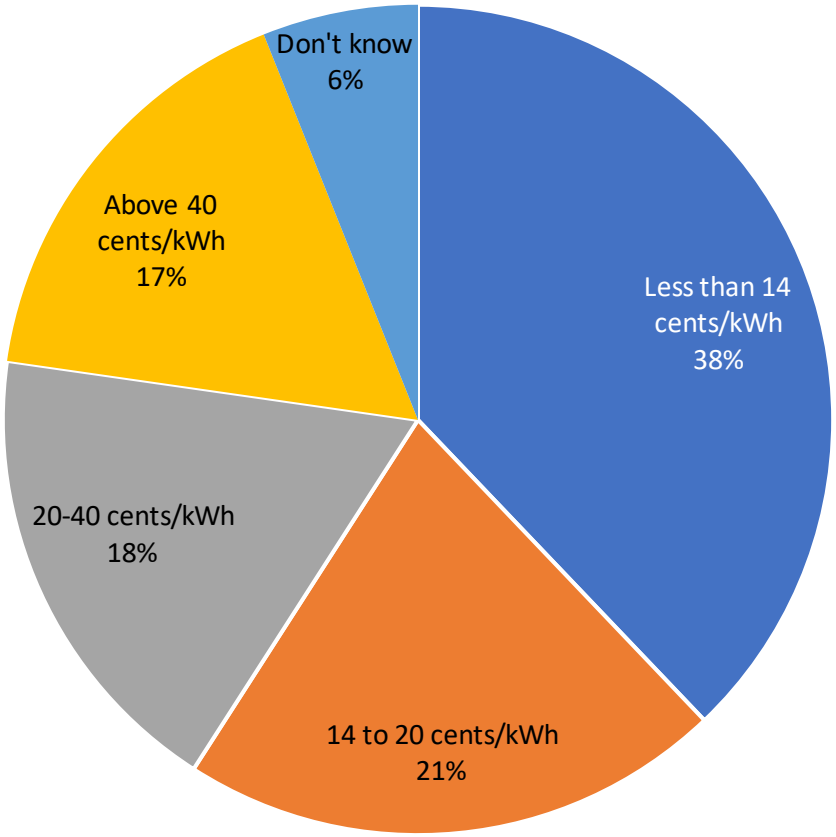


Section 2: Price of Electricity
Description: Retail and wholesale prices of electricity available to households residing in Tribal communities or on Indian land

Question	Answers	Number of Attendees Selected	Percentage of Attendees selected
4. Do you consider the cost of electricity to be high for households in your community? Response Rate- 68%	a. Yes	45	56%
	b. No	25	31%
	c. Don't know	11	14%



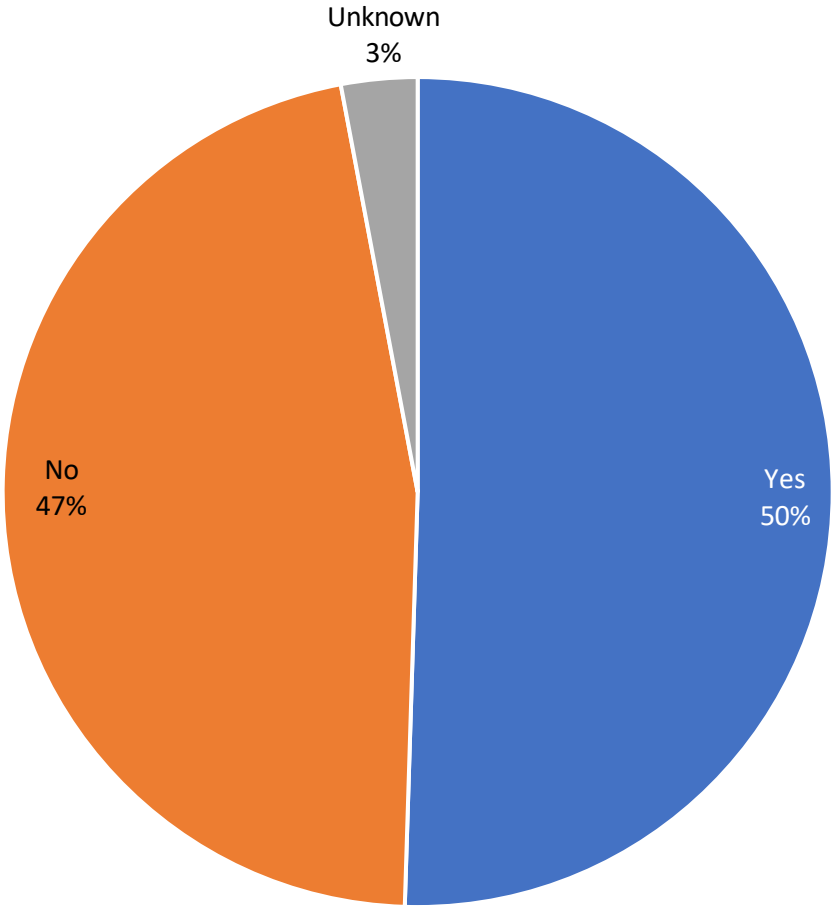
Question	Answers	Number of Attendees Selected	Percentage of Attendees selected
5. What is the cost of electricity for households (residential) residing in your community?	a. Less than 14 cents/kWh	25	38%
	b. 14 to 20 cents/kWh	14	21%
	c. 20-40 cents/kWh	12	18%
	e. Above 40 cents/kWh	11	17%
Response Rate- 55%	f. Don't know	4	6%



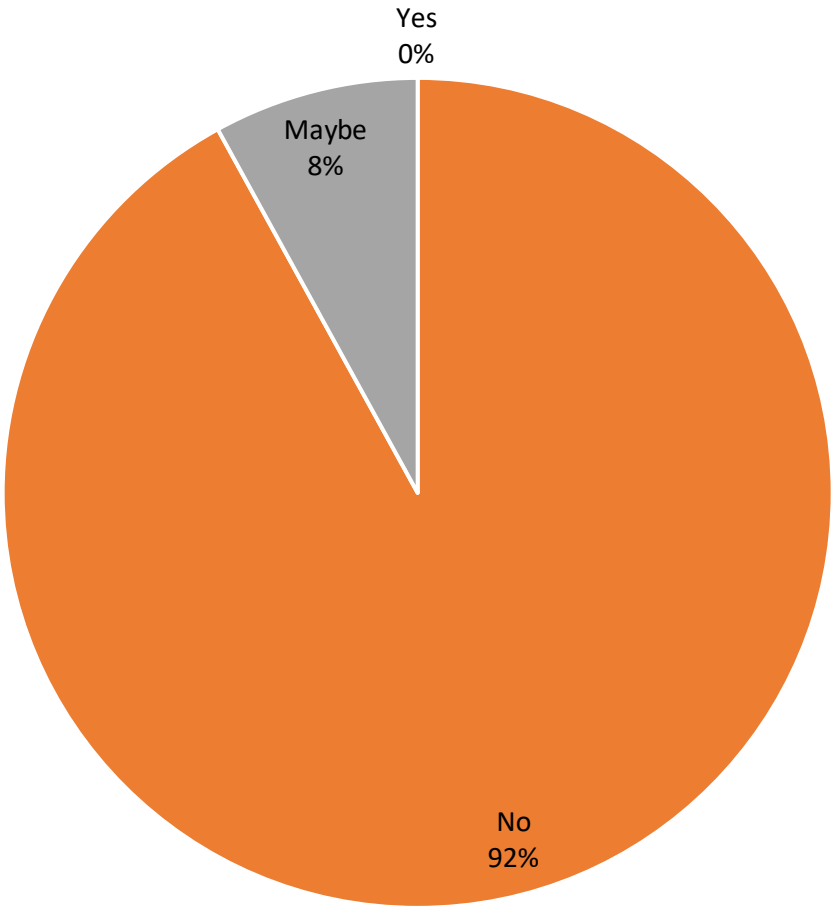
Section 3: Workforce

Description: Participation of Tribal members in the electric utility workforce, including the workforce for construction and maintenance of renewable energy resources and distributed energy resources

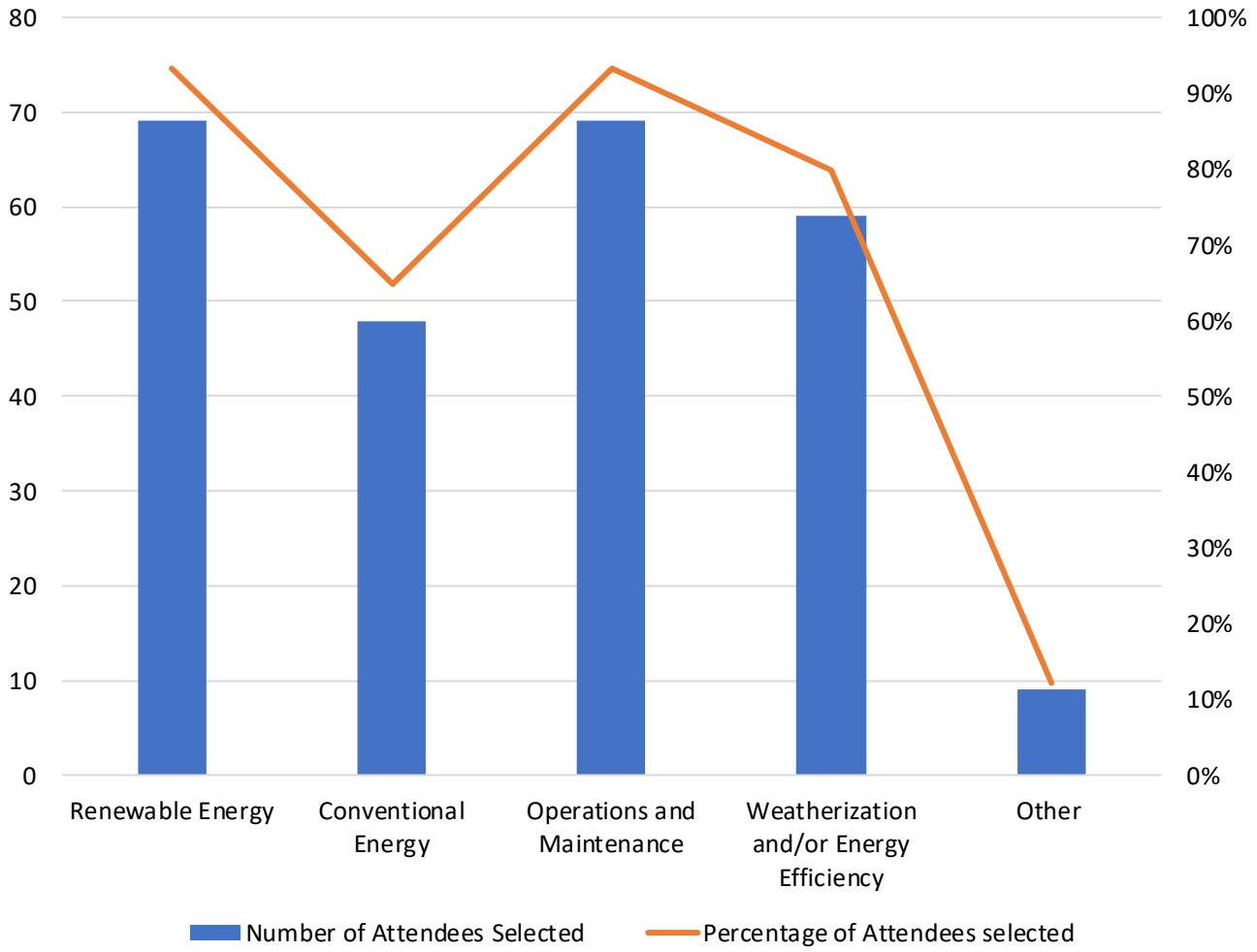
Question	Answers	Number of Attendees Selected	Percentage of Attendees selected
6. Are there tribal members in your community that are directly a part of the energy job sector? Response Rate- 65%	a. Yes	39	51%
	b. No	36	47%
	c. Unknown	2	3%



Question	Answers	Number of Attendees Selected	Percentage of Attendees selected
7. Is training and/or education needed to develop capacity for jobs in the energy sector? Response Rate- 62%	a. Yes	0	0%
	b. No	68	92%
	c. Maybe	6	8%

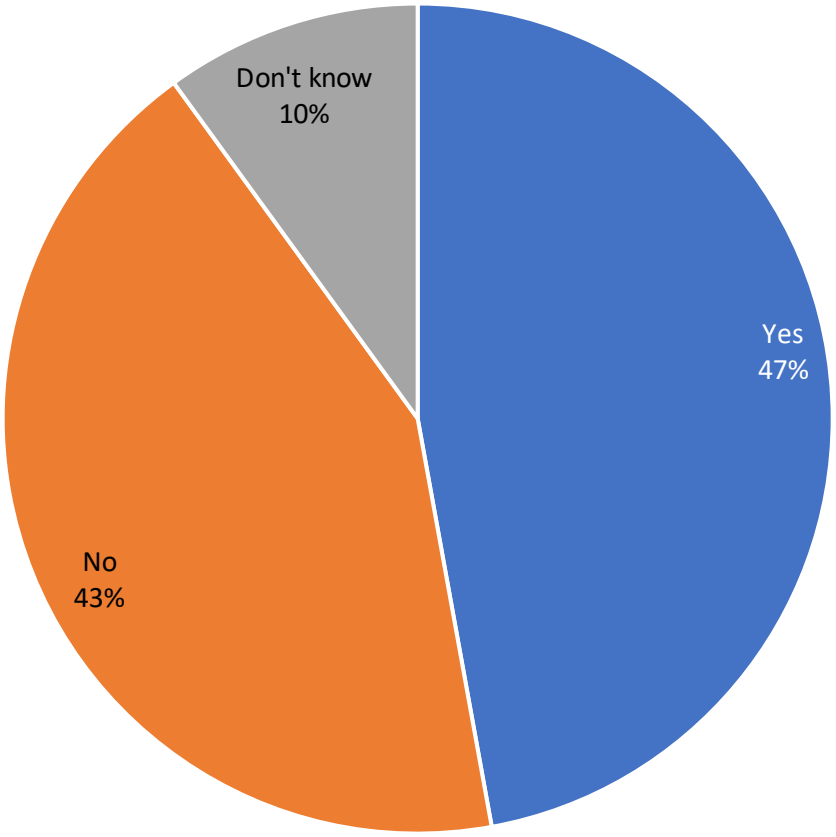


Question	Answers	Number of Attendees Selected	Percentage of Attendees selected
8. What training and/or education is needed to support these types of jobs for tribal members? (Select all that apply)	a. Renewable Energy	69	93%
	b. Conventional Energy	48	65%
	c. Operations and Maintenance	69	93%
	e. Weatherization and/or Energy Efficiency	59	80%
Response Rate- 62%	f. Other	9	12%

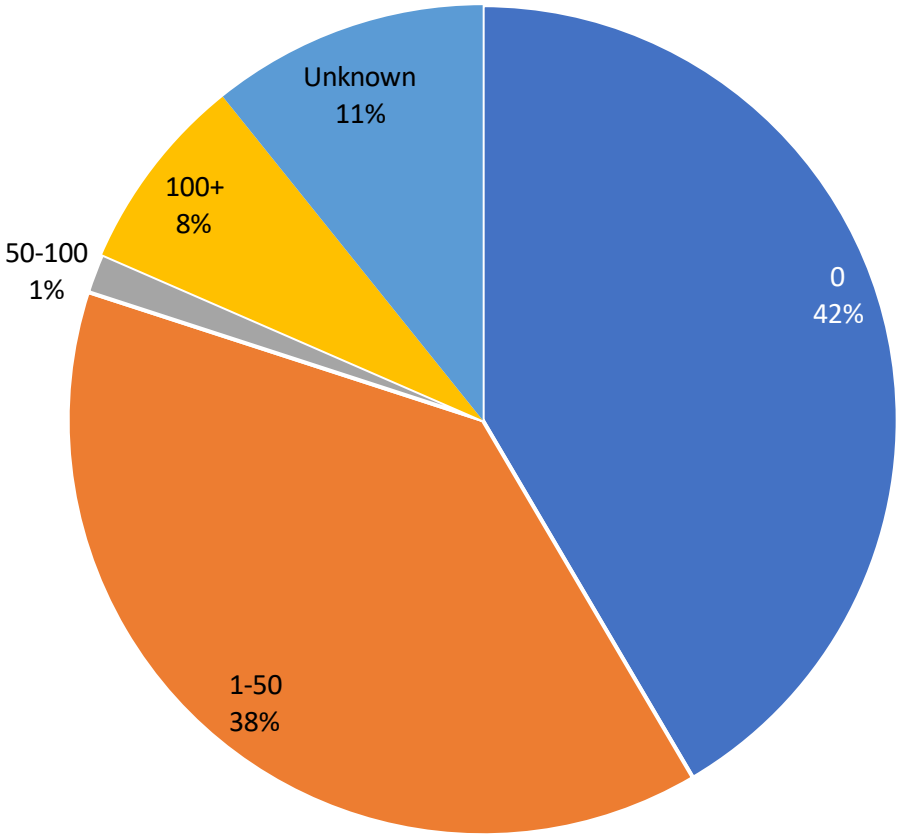


Section 4: Electricity Access
Description: The percentage of households residing in Tribal communities or on Indian land that do not have access to electricity

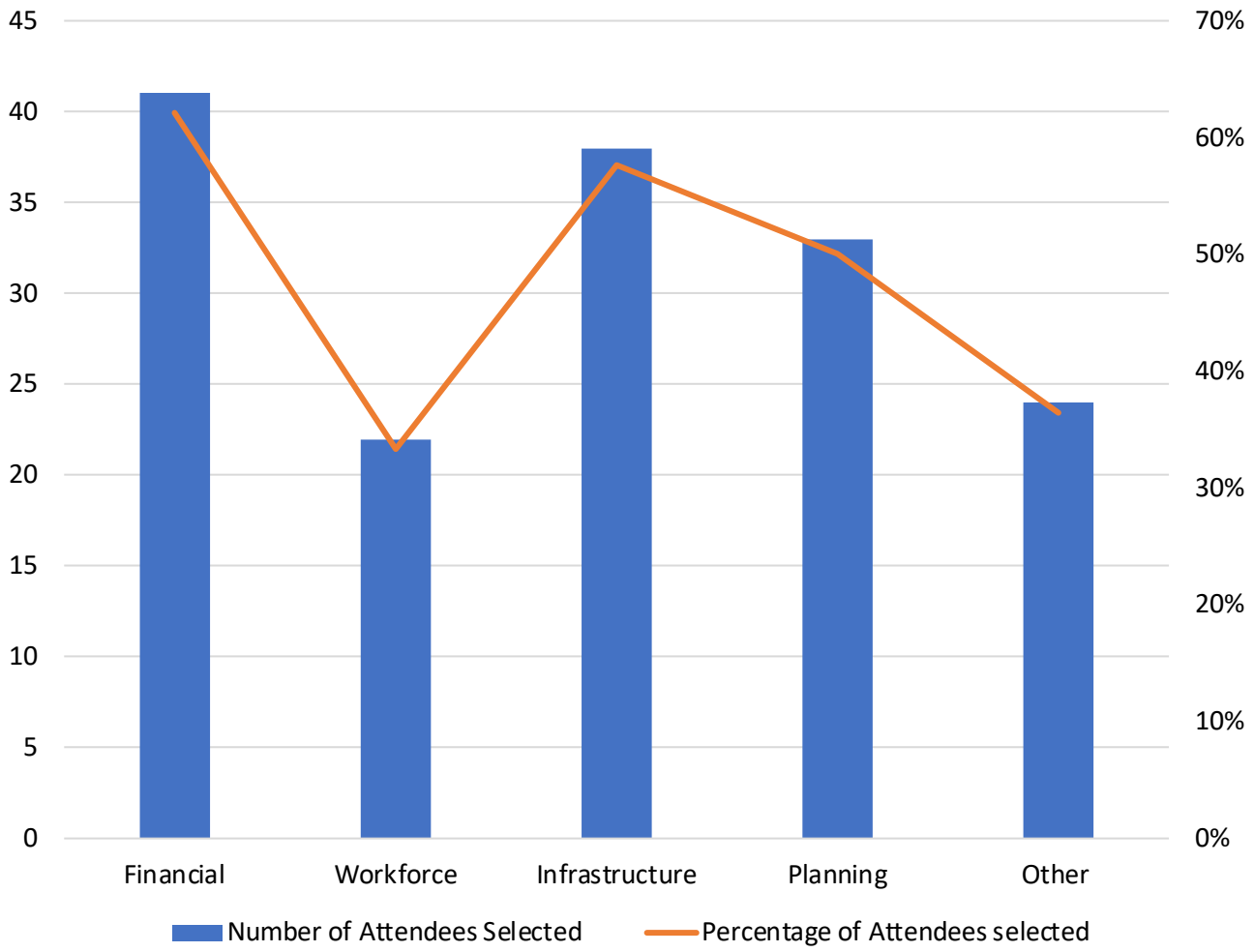
Question	Answers	Number of Attendees Selected	Percentage of Attendees selected
9. Are any households in your community not connected to the centralized grid or not connected to a community-scale microgrid? Response Rate- 59%	a. Yes	33	47%
	b. No	30	43%
	c. Don't know	7	10%



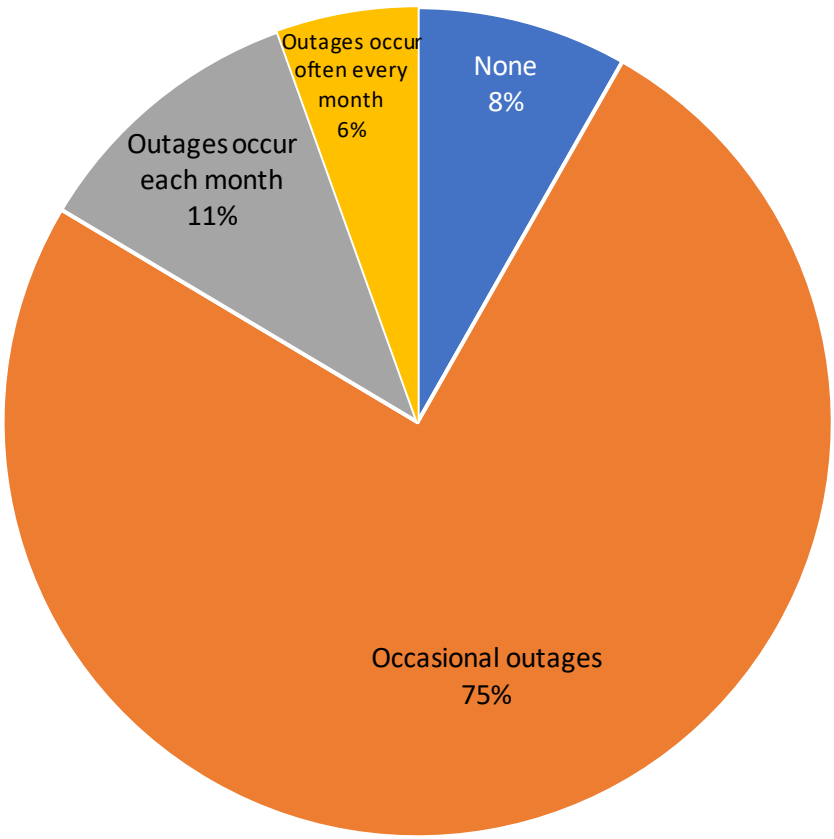
Question	Answers	Number of Attendees Selected	Percentage of Attendees selected
10. How many households in your community are not connected to the grid? Response Rate- 55%	a. 0	27	42%
	b. 1-50	25	38%
	c. 50-100	1	2%
	d. 100+	5	8%
	e. Unknown	7	11%



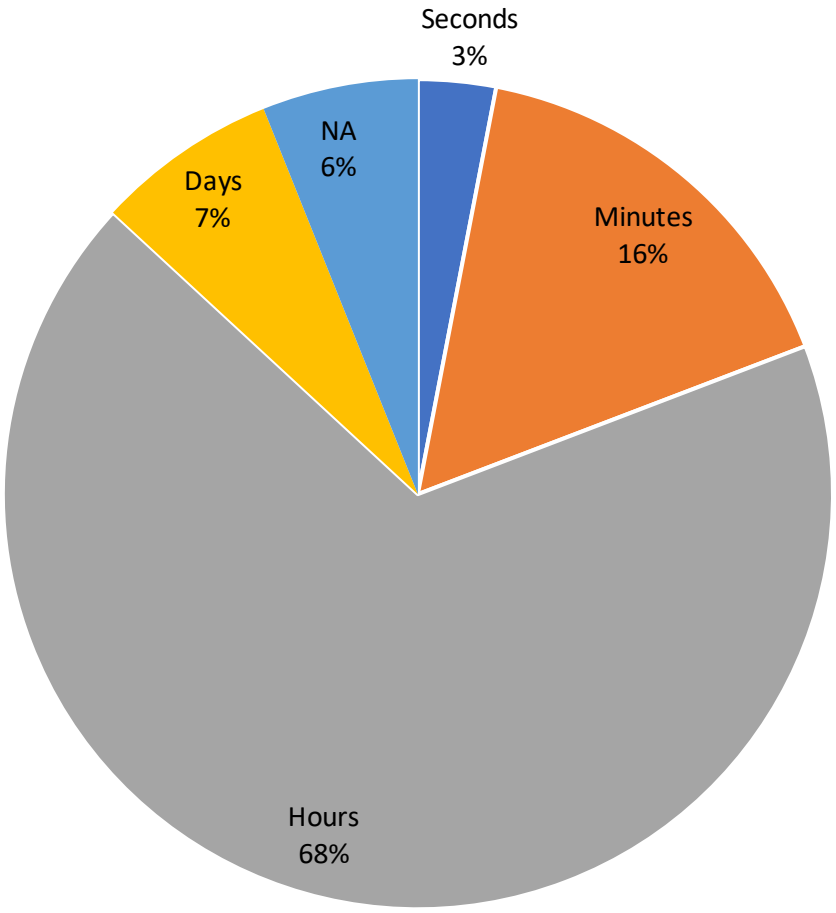
Question	Answers	Number of Attendees Selected	Percentage of Attendees selected
11. What barriers exist to providing electric service to unelectrified homes in your community? (Select all that apply) Response Rate- 55%	a. Financial	41	62%
	b. Workforce	22	33%
	c. Infrastructure	38	58%
	d. Planning	33	50%
	e. Other	24	36%



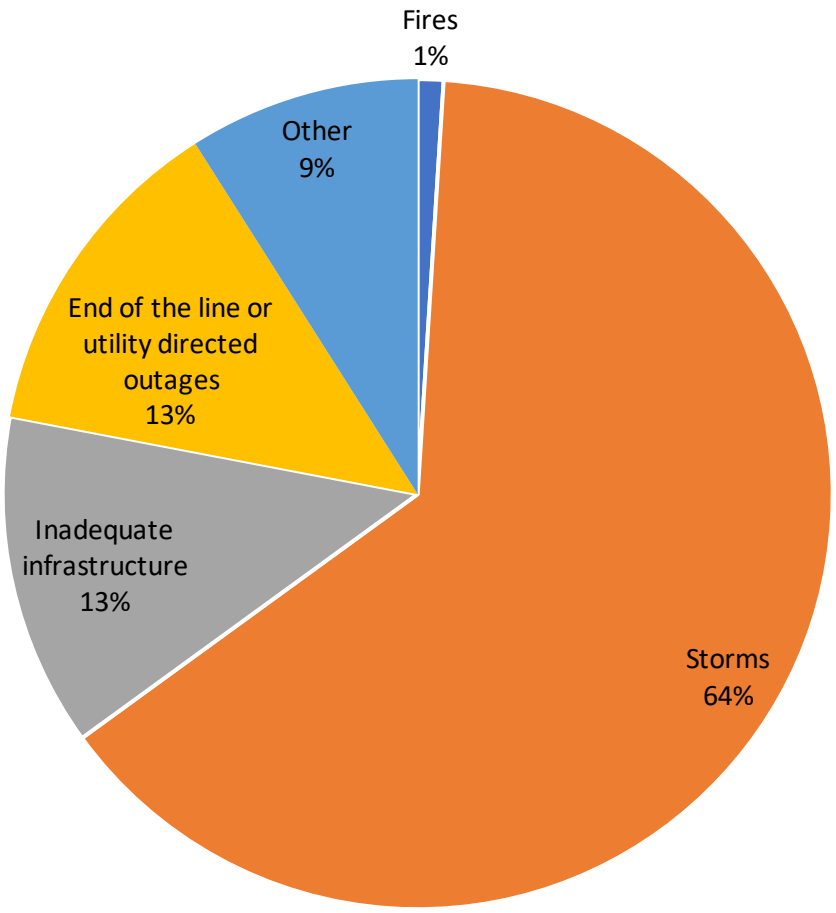
Question	Answers	Number of Attendees Selected	Percentage of Attendees selected
12. How many electricity outages do you have in your community per month? Response Rate- 61%	a. None	6	8%
	b. Occasional outages	55	75%
	c. Outages occur each month	8	11%
	d. Outages occur often every month	4	5%



Question	Answers	Number of Attendees Selected	Percentage of Attendees selected
13. How long do the electricity outages typically last?	a. Seconds	2	3%
	b. Minutes	11	16%
	c. Hours	45	67%
	e. Days	5	7%
Response Rate- 56%	f. Not applicable	4	6%

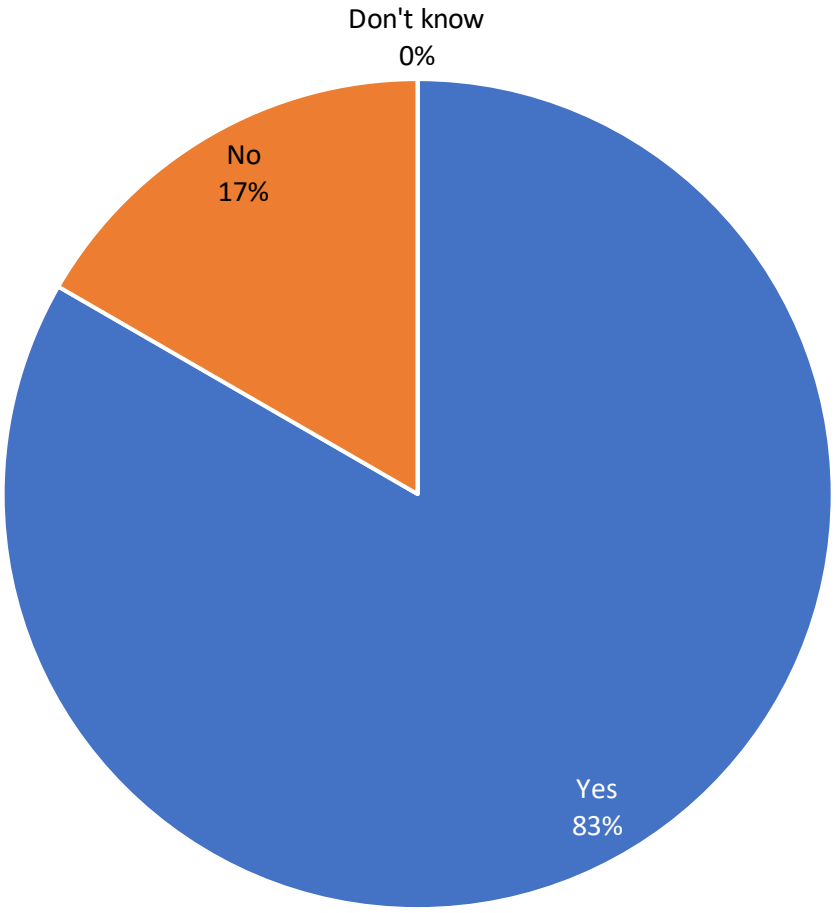


Question	Answers	Number of Attendees Selected	Percentage of Attendees selected
14. If outages do occur, what are the causes of those electricity outages?	a. Fires	1	1%
	b. Storms	45	64%
	c. Inadequate infrastructure	9	13%
	d. End of the line or utility directed outages	9	13%
Response Rate- 59%	e. Other	6	9%

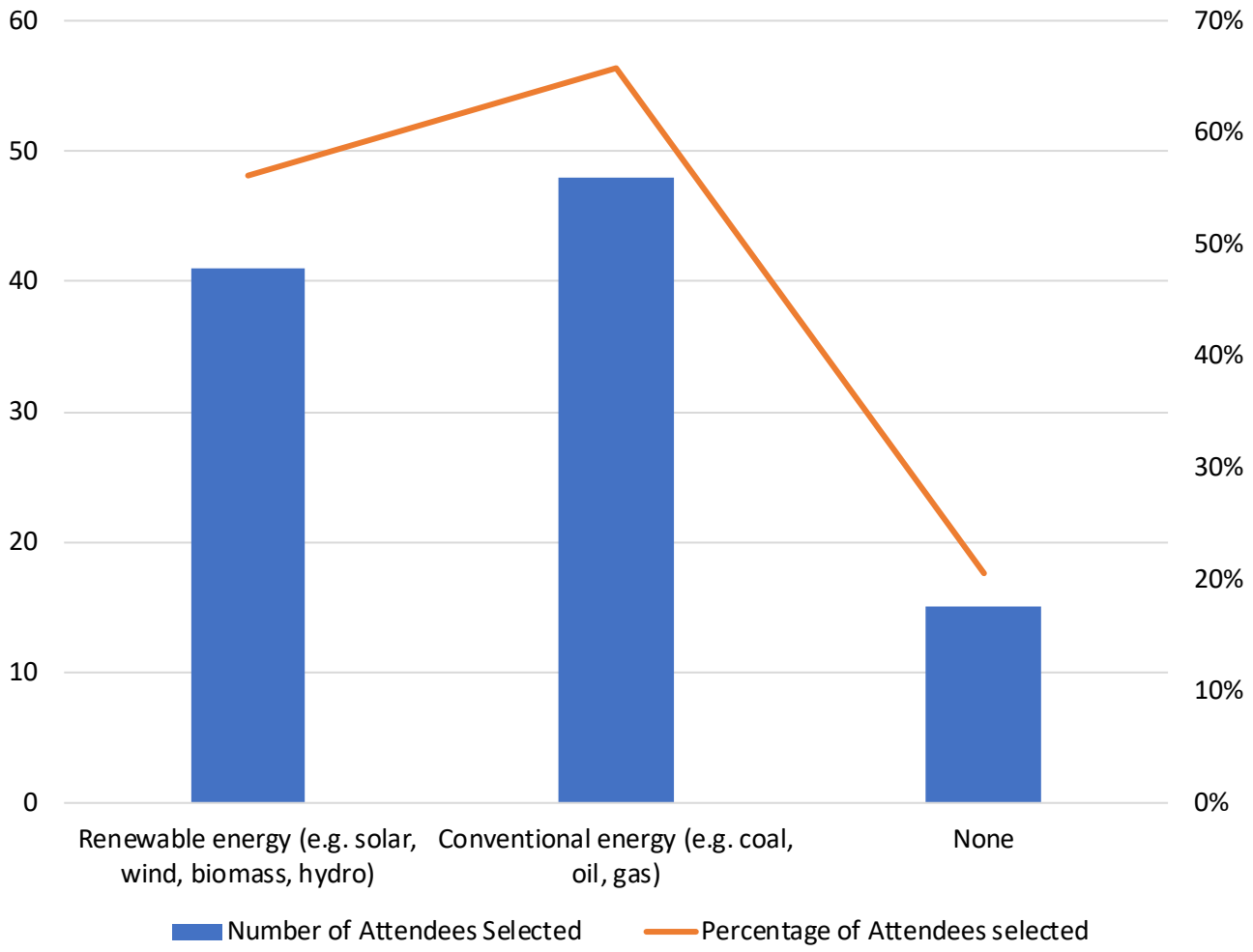


Section 5: Distributed Energy Potential
Description: The potential of distributed energy resources to provide electricity to households residing in Tribal communities or on Indian land

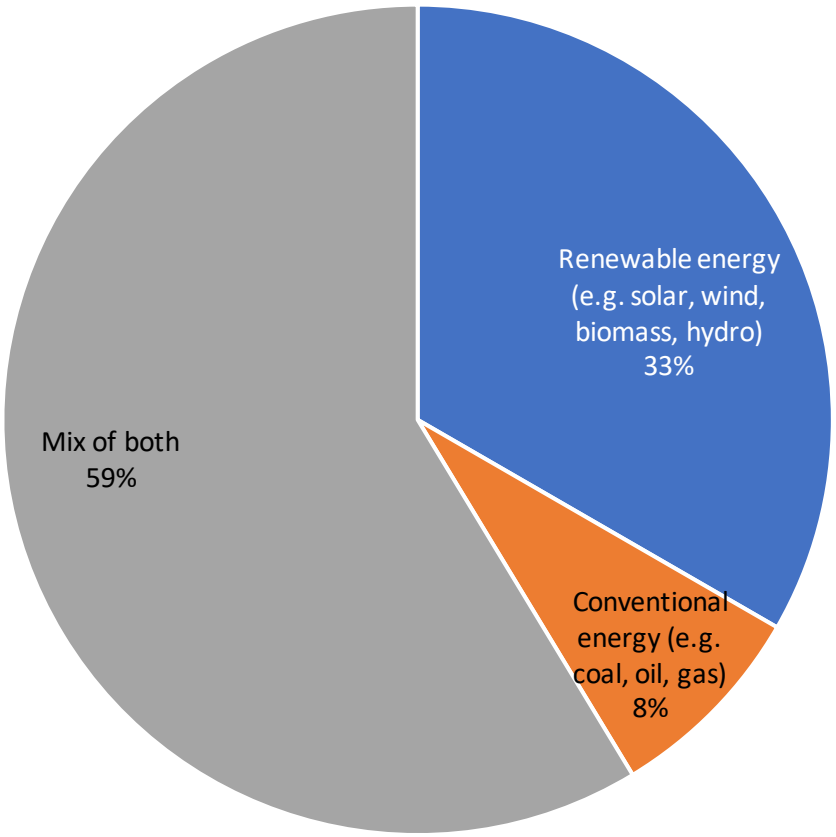
Question	Answers	Number of Attendees Selected	Percentage of Attendees selected
15. Have you quantified the potential for wind, solar, hydro, biomass or other distributed resources on your tribal lands? Response Rate- 4% (Note: There was an issue with the polling question at this time, thus there were only 6 responses)	a. Yes	5	83%
	b. No	1	17%
	c. Don't know	0	0%



Question	Answers	Number of Attendees Selected	Percentage of Attendees selected
16. What types, if any, of electricity generation do you currently have in your community? (Select all that apply) Response Rate- 61%	a. Renewable energy (e.g. solar, wind, biomass, hydro)	41	56%
	b. Conventional energy (e.g. coal, oil, gas)	48	66%
	c. None	15	21%

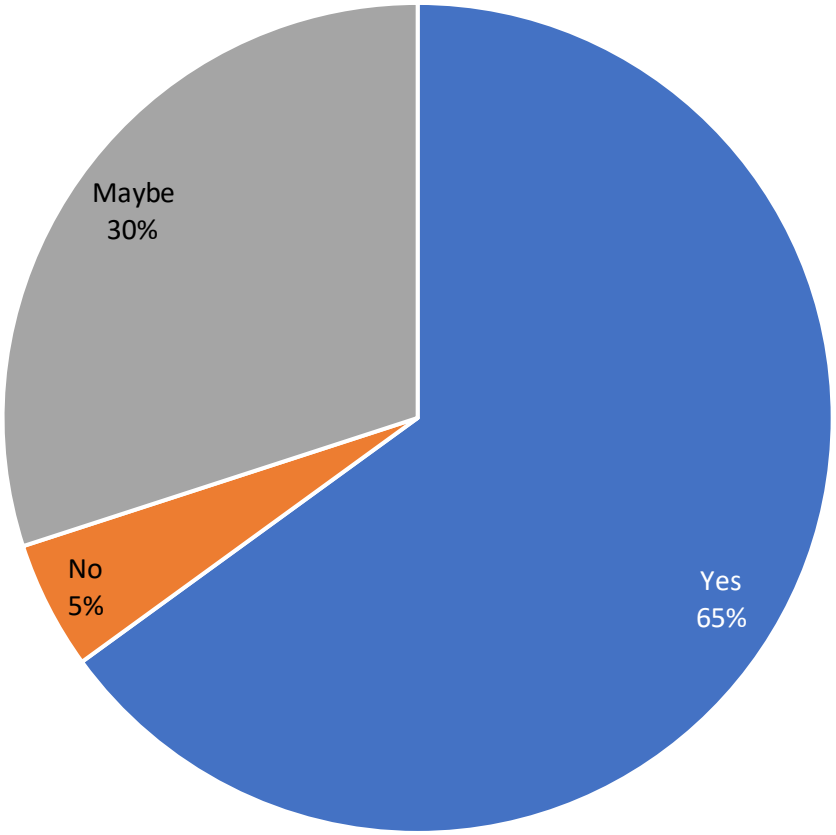


Question	Answers	Number of Attendees Selected	Percentage of Attendees selected
17. Does your community have a preference for renewable energy or conventional energy or a mix of both? Response Rate- 63%	a. Renewable energy (e.g. solar, wind, biomass, hydro)	25	33%
	b. Conventional energy (e.g. coal, oil, gas)	6	8%
	c. Mix of both	44	59%



Section 6: Tribally-Owned Utility Potential
Description: The potential for tribally-owned electric utilities or electric utility assets to participate in or benefit from regional electricity markets

Question	Answers	Number of Attendees Selected	Percentage of Attendees selected
18. Does your community want its own tribal utility? Response Rate- 67%	a. Yes	52	65%
	b. No	4	5%
	c. Maybe	24	30%



Question	Answers	Number of Attendees Selected	Percentage of Attendees selected
19. Do you have agreements in place with a non-tribal utility(s) (e.g., right-of-way, interconnection agreement, WAPA allocation)? Response Rate- 63%	a. Yes	37	49%
	b. No	20	27%
	c. Don't know	18	24%