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Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations

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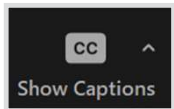


Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas (ERA) Fixed Award Grant Program Western Region Briefing

Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations
U.S. Department of Energy
May 23, 2024

Webinar Logistics

How do I turn on live captions?

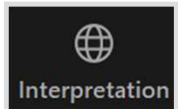


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Is this webinar being recorded?

No, this webinar will not be recorded.

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Will the slides be shared?

Yes, a copy of the presentation slides will be shared via email with registrants and on the OCED website within the next week.



Welcome!



Agenda

- Welcome
- Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas (ERA) Fixed Award Grant Program Overview
- Regional Project Overview
 - Greencare: Empowering Resilience in Poteau
 - Grid Access and Resiliency for Unserved Rural and Indigenous People Project
 - Lake City Area Power and Resiliency Augmentation Enterprise
 - Navajo Sun Power! Home Solar Project
 - Permanent, High-Quality Clean Energy Access for Rural Indigenous Communities
 - Ravalli Electric Community Storage Project
- Feedback Session
- Community Benefits and Engagement
- Next Steps and Resources
- Wrap-up and Close



Introductions



Emmanuel Taylor
Facilitator



Eric Miller
Associate Director of
Project Management,
OCED



Toniqua Hay
ERA Stakeholder
Engagement Specialist,
OCED



ERA \$50M Funding Opportunity

In May 2023, OCED announced a \$50 million Grant Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for the Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas (ERA) program for small community-driven projects.

This FOA is a direct response from rural communities' feedback.

Reduce Barriers to Federal Funding

- ✓ Simplified application process
- ✓ Removed cost-share requirement
- ✓ Offered technical assistance
- ✓ Reduced financial reporting requirements

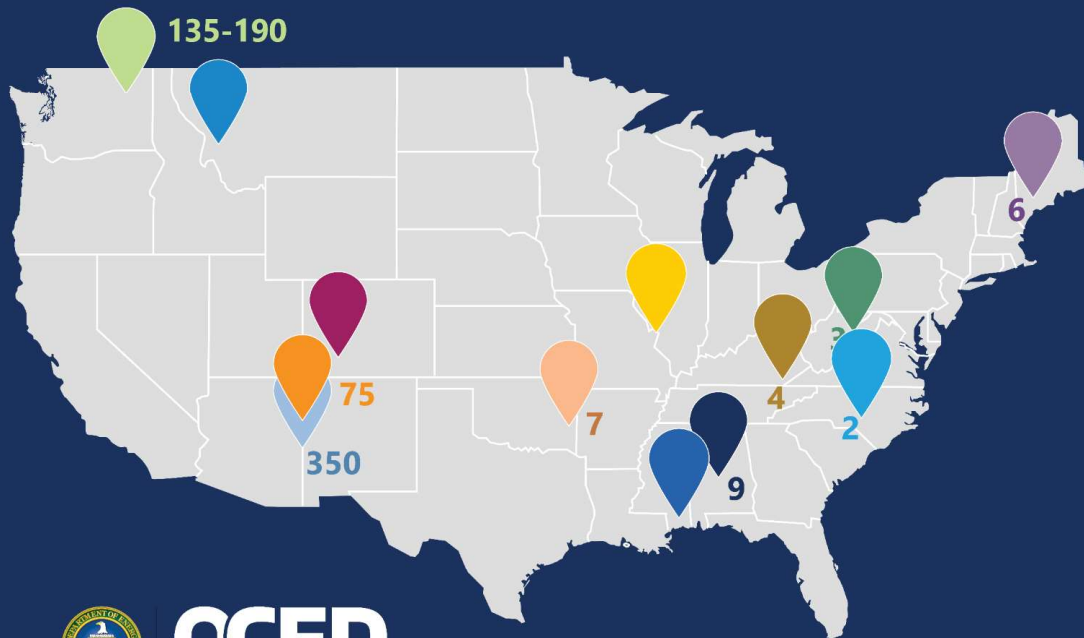
Status to Date





Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas (ERA) Fixed Award Grant Program

ERA GRANT PROJECT SELECTIONS – LOWER 48



	Grid Access and Resiliency for Unserved Rural and Indigenous People Project
	Ravalli Electric Community Storage Project
	Lake City Area Power and Resiliency Augmentation Enterprise
	Permanent, High-Quality Clean Energy Access for Rural Indigenous Communities
	Navajo Sun Power! Home Solar Project
	Greencare: Empowering Resilience in Poteau
	Adams Electric Cooperative Green Energy Project
	East Central Community College Solar and Lighting Upgrades
	Clean Energy and Efficiency for Dallas County Alabama Schools
	Reliability and Cost Effectiveness in Rural Areas Using Environmentally Sound
	Rural Rebuild and Reconnector
	REMC Transmission Line Rebuild
	Cost-Effective and Equitable Cooperative Community Solar in Western Maine

Notes:

- Subscripts indicate multi-site projects



OCED
Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations



Project Overviews



Greencare: Empowering Resilience in Poteau

Trent Marlett

Project Manager

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Greencare: Empowering Resilience in Poteau

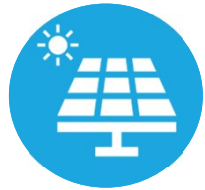
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and Oklahoma Gas & Electric (OG&E)

Project Overview



OG&E

Technology Snapshot



- Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma (CNO) will implement various energy efficient measures including, but not limited to: Lighting retrofits to LED, HVAC upgrades, building envelope improvements, and BAS/Building Energy Management Systems
- Engineering Design through completion is estimated to occur from Q4 of 2024 through Q4 of 2026
- Installation of 2.1 MWh of battery backup systems on the primary side of electric service to alleviate power outages and offset dependence on diesel-fired generators

Value and Impacts



- Project improvements will enable the CNO Poteau Campus to operate during severe weather events and continue to provide vital services to Tribal Members and community members
- Through energy efficient improvements and by drastically reducing the use of existing diesel-fired generators, greenhouse gas emissions will significantly be reduced, providing a positive environmental outcome
- Energy saved by implementing efficient technologies will increase local electrical grid capacity providing improved power quality to the local area

Location

Poteau, Oklahoma – Choctaw Nation Poteau Campus



Greencare: Empowering Resilience in Poteau

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and OG&E

Proposed Community Benefits



OG&E



Investing in America's Workforce

- We expect this project could create approximately 50 jobs throughout the entire supply chain
- Working with partner organizations, we plan to improve career awareness and workforce development opportunities throughout the region



Community & Labor Engagement

- The CNO and OG&E are an integral part of the City of Poteau, LeFlore County, and the eastern Oklahoma region of the Reservation
- We will continue to cultivate community support for the project by actively engaging with the City of Poteau and LeFlore County utilizing local resources where possible for employing, sourcing, and installation of equipment and materials



DEIA

- The CNO and our project partners OG&E are committed to DEIA goals and outcomes so that our workforce experiences reflect the diversity of the communities we live, work, and serve in
- We intend to live our values by continuing to strengthen our existing community partnerships and cultivating diverse talent



Justice40

- 100% of project funds will serve to provide benefits to DAC and Tribal lands in alignment with the Justice40 Initiative
- The project is located at the CNO Poteau campus, in the southwest portion of the city which services Tribal members in Poteau and throughout the Choctaw Nation

GreenCare: Empowering Resilience in Poteau

Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and OG&E

Contact Information



OG&E

Points of Contact

POC and Project Manager: Trent Marlett, Choctaw Nation
tmarlett@choctawnation.com

Business Contact: Stan Self, Choctaw Nation sself@choctawnation.com

Grant Office Lead: Kandace Smith, OG&E smithka@oge.com

To contact OCED about this project, please email us at:

WEST_ERA3045@hq.doe.gov





Grid Access and Resiliency for Unserved Rural and Indigenous People Project

Steve VanSlyke

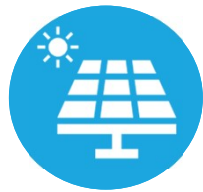
General Manager

Public Utility District (PUD) No. 1 of Ferry County,
Washington

Grid Access and Resiliency for Unserved Rural and Indigenous People

PUD No. 1 of Ferry County, Washington

Project Overview



Technology Snapshot

- Extend approximately 30 miles of electric distribution circuits to the unserved rural and indigenous people within our service area
- Upgrade “Strassburg” substation to increase capacity and improve resiliency



Value and Impacts

- Promote Energy Equity by improving energy affordability and resilience for vulnerable communities
- Environmental - reduce reliance on carbon-intensive energy sources
- Providing access to clean, lower cost, electric energy will reduce energy burdens for disadvantaged community households



Locations

- Keller, Republic, Curlew, Malo, Danville, Wauconda, and the unincorporated rural areas within the service area of PUD No. 1 of Ferry County, WA



Grid Access and Resiliency for Unserved Rural and Indigenous People

PUD No. 1 of Ferry County, Washington

Proposed Community Benefits



Investing in America's Workforce

- Grid extension construction by current PUD line crew (four International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) qualified electrical workers)
- Substation upgrade project will require engineering consultants and electrical construction contractors (IBEW)



Community & Labor Engagement

- Community Benefits Plan Taskforce, County Fairs, Conservation Fairs, Job Fairs, Energy Efficiency and Renewables Workshops



DEIA

- Promote conservation and energy assistance at scheduled Conservation Fairs, annual Community Benefits Plan workshops and the Ferry County Fair
- Educational opportunities and internships will be identified and promoted in coordination with Colville Tribes Higher Education and local schools



Justice40

- Access to the electric grid will reduce energy burdens for disadvantaged community households, reduce carbon emissions, and improve health metrics
- Grid access also facilitates affordable access to the internet, improving work and educational opportunities, and improving remote healthcare access

Grid Access and Resiliency for Unserved Rural and Indigenous People

PUD No. 1 of Ferry County, Washington

Contact Information



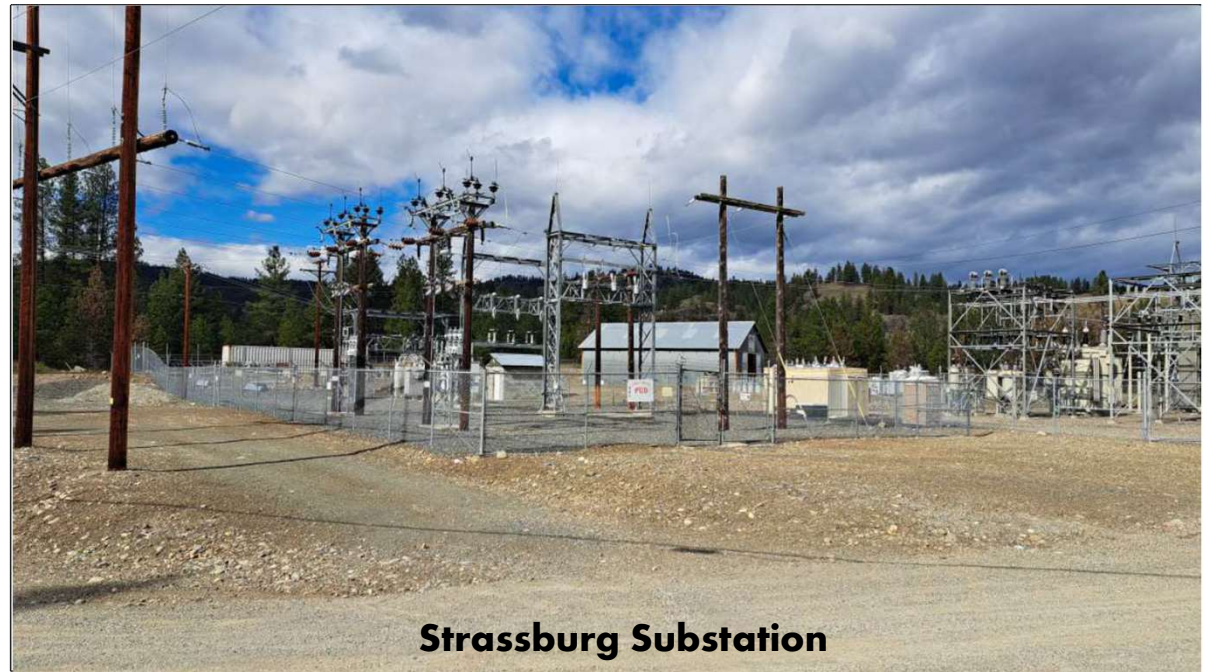
Point of Contact

Steve VanSlyke – General Manager

Method of Contact

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Email: svanslyke@fcpud.com

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Strassburg Substation



Lake City Area Power and Resiliency Augmentation Enterprise

Matt Feier

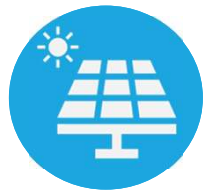
Strategy Execution Specialist

Gunnison County Electric Association (GCEA),
Colorado

Lake City Area Power and Resiliency Augmentation Enterprise

Gunnison County Electric Association, Colorado

Project Overview



Technology Snapshot

- 30 circuit miles of new 4kV distribution infrastructure
- New D1-4/0 conductors and new Class 4 poles throughout
- Engineering, permitting to be completed in 2024
- Construction to be completed by 2027



Value and Impacts

- Improves electric system reliability and resilience while keeping electricity rates stable
- Accelerates clean energy deployment by increasing distribution capacity
- Reduces reliance on propane and wood heating
- Spurs economic development in a remote, rural, and economically limited area of Colorado



Locations

- Rural southwestern Gunnison County, Colorado
- Powderhorn, Colorado
- Linking to Lake City and Hinsdale County, Colorado



Lake City Area Power and Resiliency Augmentation Enterprise

Gunnison County Electric Association, Colorado

Proposed Community Benefits



Investing in America's Workforce

- Hiring 3 permanent full-time positions at 75th percentile total compensation
- Contracted construction will bring an estimated 47 skilled workers to the area
- Workers and improved infrastructure will provide economic benefit to the community



Community & Labor Engagement

- Holding at least three in-person events to share project information
- Engaging Colorado Parks & Wildlife, US Bureau of Land Management, Gunnison County, US National Park Service, Cattleman's Association, and area landowners in public permitting processes
- Working with municipal partners to bring this project to fruition



DEIA

- Created an Employee Engagement committee
- Identifying and enacting at least three DEIA related improvements within internal employee recruitment and vendor selection processes
- Creating a data-driven baseline to measure company DEIA improvements over time



Justice40

- Gunnison County Electric Association has identified disadvantaged communities within a two-hour radius for contractor recruitment
- Project will keep energy cost stable for vulnerable populations
- Project will increase resiliency and access to beneficial electrification technologies
- Project will reduce reliance of propane and wood heating

Lake City Area Power and Resiliency Augmentation Enterprise

Gunnison County Electric Association, Colorado

Contact Information



Point of Contact

Matt Feier

Gunnison County Electric Association Strategy Execution Specialist

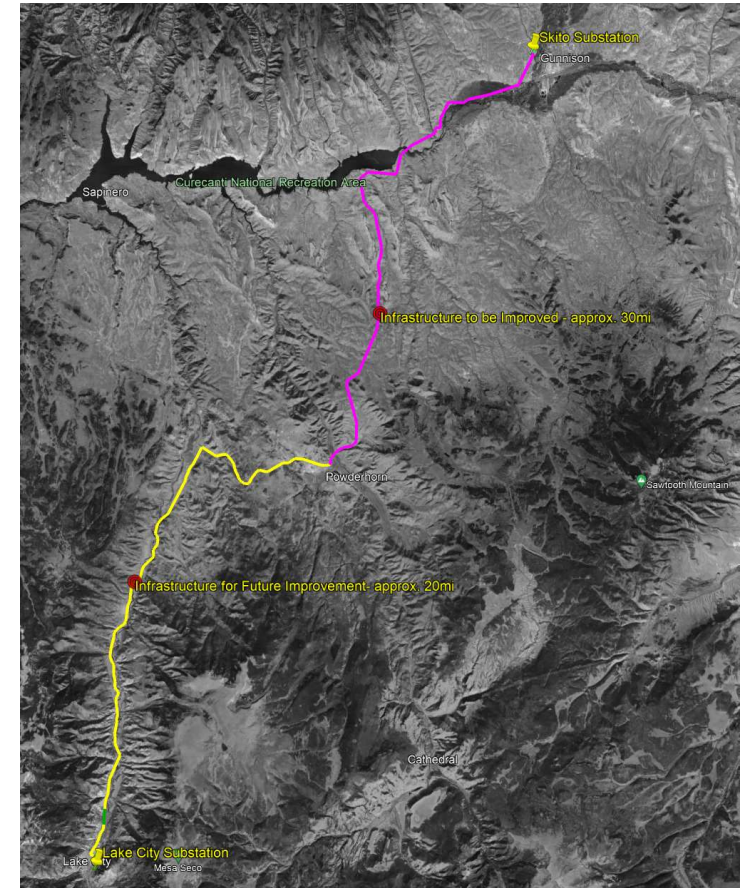
Method of Contact

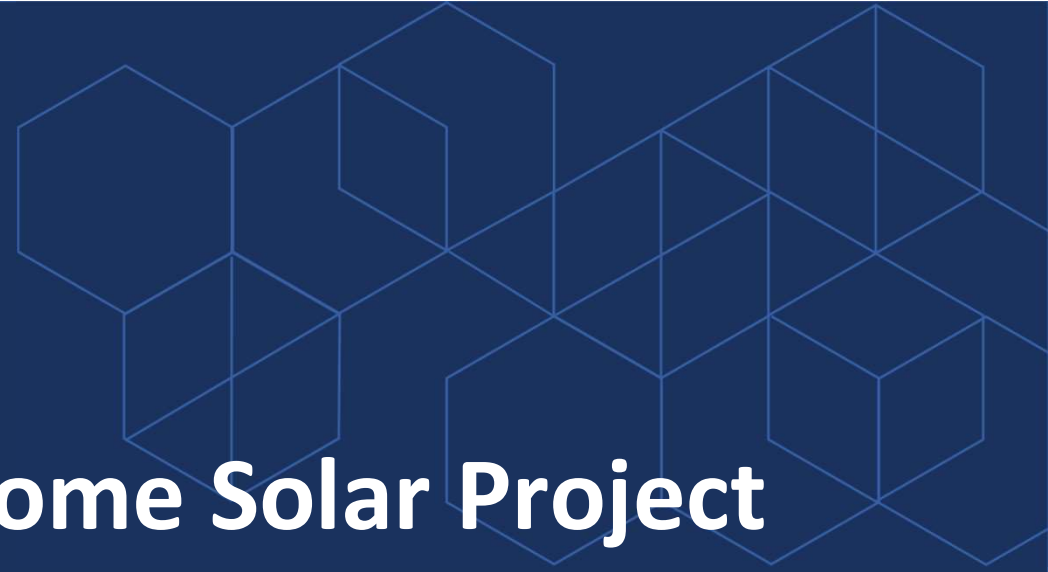
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**To contact OCED about this project,
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Navajo Sun Power! Home Solar Project

Yolanda Benally

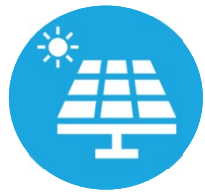
Community Engagement Specialist

Navajo Transitional Energy Company (NTEC)

Navajo Sun Power

Navajo Transitional Energy Company

Project Overview



Technology Snapshot

- Install a 2.4 kW off-grid solar PV system with battery storage for 75 homes on the Navajo Reservation
- Proposed timeline of construction / completion is 5 years beginning in 2024 and finishing in 2029



Value and Impacts

- Provide homes with off-grid remote clean energy to provide power for refrigerators and cistern pumps for homes
- Enhance quality of life improvements with access to food refrigeration
- Enhance health benefits by providing access to power to install water and sanitation facilities in rural locations



Location

- Navajo Nation – New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona



Navajo Sun Power

Navajo Transitional Energy Company

Proposed Community Benefits



Investing in America's Workforce

- Navajo Woman-Owned Solar Company will install each system.



Community & Labor Engagement

- Engaging with each community in-person to recruit candidates that are located in remote areas of the Navajo Reservation with no access to the electric grid



DEIA

- Navajo Transitional Energy Company will be contracting Navajo owned companies to assist in the installation and electrical work to be completed



Justice40

- Navajo Nation has thousands of homes without power and running water
- Installing 75 systems will improve the quality of life for 75 homes

Navajo Sun Power

Navajo Transitional Energy Company

Contact Information



Points of Contact

Yolanda Benally (505) 320 9731, yolanda.benally@Navenergy.com

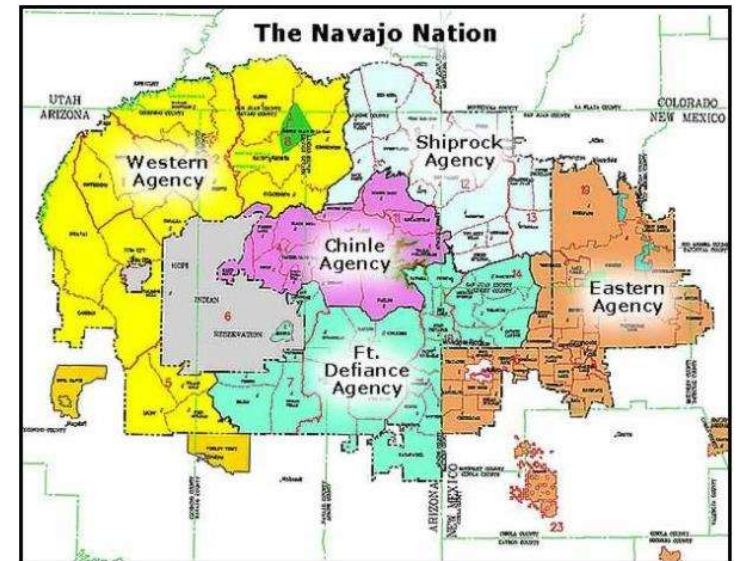
Andy Hawkins (505) 787-1900, andy.hawkins@Navenergy.com

Method of Contact

Phone or email

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Permanent, High-Quality Clean Energy Access for Rural Indigenous Communities

Chanse Foster

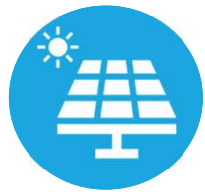
Operations Manager

Navajo Power Home

Permanent, High-Quality Clean Energy Access for Rural Indigenous Communities

Navajo Power Home

Project Overview



Technology Snapshot

- Install a total of 568 kW of off-grid PV solar systems for over 350 homes on Navajo & Hopi Tribal Nations
- 140 will be subsidized for economically vulnerable homes
- Tranches of 20-30 installations per month over an estimated 14 months
- 10-year service terms included



Value and Impacts

- Reduce dependence on gas generators for power; decreasing air and noise pollution
- Improved living conditions, health outcomes as well as educational/economic opportunities for residents
- Creates economic and energy resilience in an area historically and systemically excluded from such development



Locations

- Navajo and Hopi Nations – Arizona, Utah, and New Mexico



Permanent, High-Quality Clean Energy Access for Rural Indigenous Communities

Navajo Power Home

Proposed Community Benefits



Investing in America's Workforce

- Hiring 4-6 people for project manager, installer, solar technician, surveyor, and customer relations positions



Community & Labor Engagement

- Engagement with local government Chapters
- In-person tabling/tents
- Door-to-door off-grid surveying



DEIA

- Gender-balanced team
- Legally bound to a Native preference hiring policy
- Currently 50/50 male/female and 100% Indigenous



Justice40

- 140 qualifying customers identified from high needs families will be able to receive subsidized rates for our services

Permanent, High-Quality Clean Energy Access for Rural Indigenous Communities

Navajo Power Home

Contact Information



Points of Contact

Morgan Babbs, Founding Team
Chanse Foster, Operations Manager

Method of Contact

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chanse@navajopowerhome.com

**To contact OCED about this project,
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WEST_ERA3045@hq.doe.gov**





Ravalli Electric Community Storage Project

Alyssa Kay

Demonstrations Project Manager, OCED

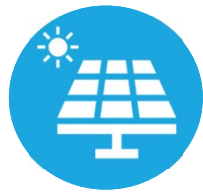
On behalf of Pacific Northwest Generating
Cooperative

Ravalli Electric Community Storage Project

Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative (PNGC)



Project Overview



Technology Snapshot

- Add 1 MWh Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) to existing substation and Community Solar Project
- Project completion less than 3 years



Value and Impacts

- Help reduce peak demand charges and provide cost stability
- Increase resilience and electric reliability, especially during extreme weather events
- Provide local jobs and training opportunities geared towards enhanced grid operations



Location

Victor, Montana



Ravalli Electric Community Storage Project

Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative (PNGC)

Proposed Community Benefits



Investing in America's Workforce

- PNGC and Ravalli Electric Community are invested in outreach, training, and supporting the next generation of energy professionals
- This project will help invest in Americas workforce development including several local jobs for construction, implementation and operation



Community & Labor Engagement

- Engaged local stakeholders and leaders including schools, emergency facilities, and government agencies to raise awareness about the project, including job, educational, and workforce development opportunities
- Continued engagement and education programs for local youth



DEIA

- Continue to build upon existing DEIA policies and programs
- Partner with Montana's Small Business Development Center and utilize Certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and Small Business Enterprise databases to notify upcoming procurement, contracting, and employment opportunities for disadvantaged communities



Justice40

- Project will modernize the grid benefiting the Justice40 communities of Victor and Pinesdale Montana
- Increase system reliability and resiliency during extreme weather events including critical emergency services such as medical and local fire facilities
- Increased cost savings and rural workforce development programs
- Increases the ability to integrate future renewable resources in the area

Ravalli Electric Community Storage Project

Pacific Northwest Generating Cooperative (PNGC)

Contact Information



Point of Contact

Erin Erben, Senior Vice President

Method of Contact

Email: eerbin@pngcpower.com



To contact OCED about this project, please email us at:

WEST_ERA3045@hq.doe.gov

Feedback Session



Ground Rules for Discussion

Submit questions using the Q&A feature

Reserve judgement

One idea at a time

It is okay to build on the ideas of others-
Clarifying questions are okay





Community Benefits Plan

Prioritizing Community Benefits in OCED Projects

OCED **requires** applicants to include a Community Benefits Plan (CBP) to help ensure broadly shared prosperity in the clean energy transition.

By **prioritizing community benefits**, we can ensure the next chapter in America's energy story is marked by greater justice, equity, security, and resilience.

Community & Labor Engagement



Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Accessibility



Investing in the American Workforce



Justice40 Initiative





Next Steps & Resources

Get Involved

How could this project impact me?

[Learn more about OCED's Community Benefits Plan Framework](#) →

NEPA engagement →

Is there an ERA Grant project near me?

[Learn more about the selected projects here](#) →

Project awarded

One phase, up to 5 years

Ramp-Up & Operate
Community Benefit Commitments Public

Install, Integrate, Construct
Community Benefit Commitments Public

Project Development
Community Benefit Commitments Public

Project Planning
Community Benefit Commitments Public

[Learn more about project milestones](#) →

What is an ERA Grant project?

[Learn more](#) →

When are the ERA Grant project-specific briefings?

[Learn more and register here](#) →

How do I stay informed?

[Sign up for updates](#) →

Project selected

WE ARE HERE

Announcement

Projects have been selected, but awards have not been made



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Community Benefit Commitments Public
Project Milestones



For more information

- For questions regarding ERA projects in the Western Region
WEST_ERA3045@hq.doe.gov

- OCED Website & Newsletter Sign-up
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- OCED Exchange (RFIs, NOIs, and FOAs)
oced-exchange.energy.gov
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linkedin.com/company/doe-oced/

Resources

- **ERA Program**
 - [OCED ERA Program Webpage](#)
 - [ERA Grant Selections for Award Negotiations | Department of Energy](#)
 - [Federal Energy Funding for Rural and Remote Areas: A Guide for Communities](#)
 - [Rural or Remote Areas Geospatial Dashboard](#)
- **Justice40 Initiative**
 - <https://www.energy.gov/diversity/justice40-initiative>
- **Energy Justice Dashboard (BETA)**
 - <https://energyjustice.egs.anl.gov/>
- **Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool**
 - <https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5>



Thank you!



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