



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

American Indian & Alaska Native Tribal Government Policy 2024 Annual Report

**Report to Office of Management and Budget
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Introduction

This annual report summarizes key accomplishments the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) undertook in fiscal year 2024 to invest in Tribally led clean energy and other initiatives and to meet its Tribal consultation commitments.

Key Accomplishments

1. Sustainable Energy

Historic funding to Tribal communities to date, and more to come

Over the last four years, DOE committed more than half a billion dollars in Tribal energy investments for clean energy generation and deployment, electrification and grid resilience, and more. These investments, largely from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), will bring equity and energy sovereignty to those communities, and strengthen the national energy security of the United States.

Implementation of the Indian Energy Purchase Preference at Federal Facilities

In August 2024, the Federal Government announced the Government's first-ever purchase of carbon pollution-free electricity from a Tribal majority-owned business under the Indian Energy Purchase Preference provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The General Services Administration (GSA) purchased unbundled Energy Attribute Certificates (EACs). As a result, the net annual usage for 185 buildings in 12 states has been matched with 100% carbon pollution-free electricity. Collectively, the total electricity load for these Federal buildings is 349,108 megawatt-hours, which is equivalent to the power that 32,780 typical homes consume in a year. The purchase also represents a savings of nearly \$800,000 compared to the average price that GSA paid for unbundled Carbon Pollution-Free (CFE) EACs last year. The procurement was supported through interagency collaboration with the DOE.

Supporting Tribal Capacity with Clean Energy Innovator Fellows

When Tribal Nations are in the lead, energy projects are more likely to respect sacred sites and the environment, and the benefits are more likely to reach Native communities. To support Tribal capacity and sovereignty on energy development, DOE piloted a Tribal cohort of Clean Energy Innovator Fellows. Fourteen Clean Energy Innovator Fellows were placed in Tribes and Inter-Tribal Organizations in 2023 and 2024. These Fellows are recent graduates and energy professionals who support critical Tribal energy organizations in advancing clean energy solutions that will help decarbonize the power system, electrify transportation and industry, and make community power system more resilient, equitable and inclusive. The program is strengthening the next generation of Tribal energy professionals in Indian Country. The Fellows are supported through the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, the DOE Grid Deployment Office, and the DOE Office of Indian Energy.

Loan Programs Office Administers First Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee

On September 13, 2024, the Department of Energy's Loan Programs Office closed on a partial loan guarantee of a \$72.8 million to finance the development of a solar-plus-long-duration-energy-storage microgrid. The microgrid will be located on the Tribal lands of the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians of the Viejas Reservation near Alpine, California.

2. Tribal Consultation

DOE Order & Policy 144.1

The Department of Energy updated its internal directives on Tribal consultation and engagement:

- [DOE Policy 144.1](#): *U.S. Department of Energy Policy on Consultation and Engagement with Federally Recognized Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Corporations* (Policy)
- [DOE Order 144.1](#): *Department of Energy (DOE) Requirements for Consultation and Engagement with Federally Recognized Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Corporations Pursuant to DOE Policy 144.1* (Order)

The Policy establishes Federal Indian policy direction in the conduct of the Department's mission. The Order establishes management objectives, requirements, and assignment of responsibilities consistent with applicable requirements and policies. The Order also contains a contractor requirements document. These revisions clarify DOE roles, responsibilities, and requirements, and strengthens DOE's capacity to better meet the agency's Tribal trust responsibilities through enhanced Tribal consultation and engagement practices.

New requirements for Tribal Letters of Support and Tribal Awareness on the Department of Energy Funded Projects

The Department of Energy finalized new guidance for when certain DOE funded projects potentially impact Indian Tribes. Under this guidance, referred to as [FAL 2024-03](#), applicants for DOE financial assistance and other transaction agreements are required to make Tribes aware of projects that potentially impact them and, when projects are proposed on Tribal land, obtain and provide Tribal letters of support at the time of application. This policy complements DOE's updated Order & Policy 144.1 and ensures that applicants for DOE funding are assisting DOE in Tribal consultation, if needed.

3. Historic Agreement

Reintroduction of Salmon in the Upper Columbia River

The Federal Government reached a historic agreement to support Tribally led efforts to restore healthy and abundant salmon populations in the Upper Columbia River Basin. The agreement between the United States, the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe, and the Spokane Tribe of Indians will fund efforts to reintroduce salmon in blocked habitats in the Upper Basin. The agreement includes \$200 million over 20 years from the Bonneville Power Administration, a federal power marketing administration under the Department of Energy, to advance the Tribally led implementation plan.