



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

# **American Indian & Alaska Native Tribal Government Policy 2023 Annual Report**

**Report to Office of Management and Budget  
(OMB)**

**January 2025**

**United States Department of Energy  
Washington, DC 20585**



# American Indian & Alaska Native Tribal Government Policy 2023 Annual Report

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## A Message from the Department of Energy

Dear Tribal Leaders,

From week one, President Biden affirmed this Administration's respect for Tribal sovereignty, self-governance, and commitment to fulfilling our federal trust and treaty responsibilities with Tribal Nations, in addition to regular, meaningful, and robust consultation with Tribal Nations.

In year three of this Administration, the Department of Energy (DOE or the Department) continued to work diligently to strengthen our Nation-to-Nation relationships with Tribal and Alaskan Native governments. DOE hired several Tribal liaisons across our programs, created a new community of practice to improve coordination across the Department, continued to update our order and policy on Tribal consultation, advanced energy transition memoranda of understanding with Tribes, held the seventh DOE Tribal Energy Summit, and engaged in hundreds of meetings with Tribes. These efforts are geared to systematically improve your interactions with the Department now and into the future.

The Department is committed to listening to you and following through with action. This report reflects, in detail, how DOE continues to implement our action plan to improve Tribal consultation and engagement.

Thank you for your leadership and partnership in serving Indigenous communities.

Sincerely,

**Wahleah Johns**

Director, Office of Indian Energy

**Jennifer Bumgarner**

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of  
Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs

## Introduction

Under the Biden-Harris Administration, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has seen exponential growth, investment, and focus on initiatives to improve Tribal engagement and consultation.

This report reflects fiscal year (FY) 2023 activities and fulfills the reporting requirements found in:

- [Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships](#) (January 26, 2021) Section 1. (c) states “the head of each agency shall submit to the Director of Office of Management and Budget, within 270 days of the date of this memorandum, and annually thereafter, a progress report on the status of each action included in the agency’s plan, together with any proposed updates to its plan.”<sup>i</sup>
- DOE Order 144.1 [Department of Energy American Indian & Alaska Native Tribal Government Policy](#) (January 16, 2009) Section 5. (c), under which the Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs “collects from heads of departmental elements an annual report that details interactions with American Indian Governments and compliance with the principles of the Indian Policy.”<sup>ii</sup>

This annual report is organized to show DOE activities in FY 2023 that supported the seven principles in the [Department of Energy American Indian & Alaska Native Tribal Government Policy](#). This policy ensures DOE effectively engages in Nation-to-Nation relationships with federally recognized Indian Tribes<sup>1</sup>. The policy principles are based on the United States Constitution, treaties, Supreme Court decisions, Executive Orders, statutes, existing federal policies, Tribal laws, and the dynamic political relationship between Indian Nations and the federal government.

### Policy Principles

1. The Department recognizes the federal trust relationship and will fulfill its trust responsibilities to American Indian and Alaska Native Nations.
2. The Department recognizes and commits to a Nation-to-Nation relationship and will institute appropriate protocols and procedures for program and policy implementation.
3. The Department will establish mechanisms for outreach, notice, and consultation, and ensure integration of Indian Nations into decision-making processes.
4. Department-wide compliance with applicable federal cultural resource protection and other laws and executive orders will assist in preservation and protection of historic and cultural sites and traditional religious practices.
5. The Department will initiate a coordinated Department-wide effort for technical assistance, business and economic self-determination development opportunities, education, and training programs.
6. The Secretary of Energy will conduct periodic summits with Tribal leaders for performance review of policy implementation and issue resolution.
7. The Department will work with other federal and state agencies that have related responsibilities and relationships to our respective organizations as they relate to Tribal matters.

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<sup>1</sup> ‘Indian Tribe or Tribes’ has the same definition as in the Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act, 25 U.S.C. § 5304(e). This definition includes certain Alaska Native entities, specifically “any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians. Note: We decided to switch to the List Act definition of Indian Tribe or Tribes”

## Key Accomplishments

Throughout this report are highlights from across all program offices in DOE; however, a few key accomplishments are outlined below:

- Across the Department program offices have hired several Tribal liaisons to serve directly as points of contact for Tribal governments.
- The Department created a new community of practice to improve coordination across newly created infrastructure program offices on Tribal energy deployment related matters.
- The Department has continued to update Order and Policy 144.1 and held a final consultation regarding the matter which provides guidance on Tribal consultation and engagement.
- The Department in collaboration with many other federal agencies advanced energy transition memorandums of understanding with the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe.
- The Office of Indian Energy held the seventh DOE Tribal Clean Energy Summit and engaged in hundreds of meetings with Tribes.
- A memorandum of understanding was signed outlining commitment to pathways of co-stewardship of the Rattlesnake Mountain (Laliik) at the Hanford Reservation.

**Please Note:** The Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs functions as the Consultation Officer for the DOE leading Nation-to-Nation consultation with federally recognized Tribal governments. In this role, the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs facilitated and led the drafting of this report in close collaboration with the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs.

# Policy Principles from Consultation Action Plan & Progress

## 1. The Department Recognizes the Federal Trust Relationship and will Fulfill its Trust Responsibilities to American Indian and Alaska Native Nations.

### **DOE Tribal Government Interactions Policy and Order Update**

After [consulting with Tribal leaders](#) in April 2021, the Department proceeded to prepare an update to DOE Order 144.1 to, among other things expressly include DOE offices created after the order was issued in 2009. This order lays out DOE's responsibilities for interacting with Tribal governments.

The Secretary of Energy or Deputy Secretary make decisions on departmental policies, orders, and other directives based on recommendations from the DOE Directives Review Board, which is a group of senior leaders representing each DOE office and program. The Directive Review Board approved the creation of an Integrated Project Team, comprised of subject matter experts and associated representatives from DOE offices to review and recommend updates to DOE Order 144.1. The Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs and Office of Indian Energy serve as co-chairs of the Integrated Project Team.

The Integrated Project team continued to work on updating the policy and order in 2023. The Integrated Project Team drafted a preliminary set of recommendations to update the policy and order based on input received from Tribal leaders in the April 2021 consultation and recent interagency agreements like the [Memorandum of Understanding](#) on Tribal treaty rights.

## 2. The Department Recognizes and Commits to a Nation-to-Nation Relationship and will Institute Appropriate Protocols and Procedures for Program and Policy Implementation.

### Departmental Consultation and Best Practices

Over the course of FY 2023 DOE program offices have engaged in many actions to advance the mission of maintaining strong Nation-to-Nation relationships with Tribes such as a) training staff on best practices for engaging with Indian Nations, b) consulting with Tribes, and c) participating in Tribal engagement activities.

### Staff Training

#### *DOE Indian Country Education and Tribal Consultation Training*

Training is essential to further the understanding of DOE's responsibility to ensure effective implementation of a Nation-to-Nation relationship. The Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs developed a series of virtual trainings for DOE staff who engage with Tribal Nations, called DOE Indian Country Education and Tribal Consultation Training (DOE Tribal Training). The trainings were recorded and are available to DOE staff members on-demand. The on-demand training focuses on requirements to consult with Indian Tribes, including:

- Indian Country, Law, and Policy overview including discussion of geographic, demographic, cultural, and historical aspects of Indian Country, the evolution of federal Indian policy and law to include Tribal sovereignty and the federal-Tribal relationship.
- Tribal Consultation requirements and best practices including DOE Order 144.1.
- Current White House and DOE Tribal Policy overview, including the [Memorandum on Tribal Consultation](#) as well as DOE Tribal Consultation Policy and Practices.
- [National Environmental Policy Act](#) (NEPA)<sup>2</sup> Tribal consultation requirements.
- [The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act](#) (NAGPRA)<sup>3</sup> Tribal consultation requirements.
- [Archeological Resources Protection Act](#) (ARPA)<sup>4</sup> Tribal consultation requirements.
- [National Historic Preservation Act](#) (NHPA)<sup>5</sup> Tribal consultation requirements.

<sup>2</sup> NEPA requires federal agencies to assess the environmental effects of proposed federal actions prior to making decisions, evaluate the environmental and related social and economic effects of proposed actions, and provide opportunities for public review and comment on those evaluations.

<sup>3</sup> NAGPRA requires the repatriation and disposition of certain Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony.

<sup>4</sup> ARPA aims to secure the protection of archaeological resources that are on public lands and Indian lands, and to foster increased cooperation and exchange of information between governmental authorities, the professional archaeological community, and private individuals having collections of archaeological resources and data which were obtained before October 31, 1979, per 16 U.S.C. §470aa (b).

<sup>5</sup> NHPA, specifically Section 106, requires federal agencies to consider the effects of federally funded projects on historic properties, and when applicable, provide other consulting parties and the public an opportunity to comment on such projects prior to the expenditure of any federal funds.



In late FY 2023, DOE assessed the effectiveness of the virtual trainings and plans to expand offerings. To dates, many program offices have developed training modules and opportunities for their staff who regularly engage with Tribal Nations. An overview of these programs is highlighted below.

<b><i>Staff Training</i></b>	<b><i>Responsible Staff</i></b>	<b><i>Date of Completion</i></b>
Every month OCED presents <b><i>on-boarding training</i></b> to all new employees, the training is ongoing, and all OCED staff have received it so far. The training covers: (1) an introduction to federally recognized Tribes and their political and legal relationship with the federal Government; (2) the history and development of federal Tribal policy and how it has impacted the Tribes and the Tribal-federal relationship; (3) DOE Order 144.1, and how it impacts DOE decision making, DOE’s commitment to Nation-to-Nation consultation with the Tribes and DOE’s federal Tribal trust responsibilities.	Office of Clean Energy Deployment (OCED)	Ongoing
In June 2023, roughly 70 people attended a <b><i>Tribal Interactions, Consultations, and Sacred Sites</i></b> discussion at EM’s Annual Training in Idaho Falls, ID.  In July 2023, the Hanford Site’s Cultural Resources Program conducted an <b><i>Introduction to Federal Cultural Resource Management Laws</i></b> for Hanford personnel, 27 people attended.	Office of Environmental Management (EM)	June 15, 2023  July 24-27, 2023
IE conducts periodic <b><i>2-day onboarding training</i></b> for new federal and contractor employees. The extensive trainings orient new staff to the overall agency responsibilities in DOE’s Policy and Order 144.1 and particular responsibilities of IE through its statutory mission to support Tribes in their energy planning, infrastructure development, and execution and overall energy needs.	Office of Indian Energy (IE)	Ongoing
In February, six staff from the Office of Legacy Management (LM) attended a training on <b><i>Maximizing Uranium Mining’s Social and Economic Benefits: A Guide to Stakeholders</i></b> from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA). This training included specific content on Tribal engagement related to uranium mining and its impact.  In April 2023, 10 LM staff members were trained to use the <b><i>Tribal Treaties Database 101 Tool</i></b> . The database includes agreements between Tribal Nations and the United States (1778-1886) published in the 1904 work <b><i>Indian Affairs: Laws and Treaties</i></b> .	Office of Legacy Management (LM)	February 2023  April 2023  June 2023

<b>Staff Training</b>	<b>Responsible Staff</b>	<b>Date of Completion</b>
<p>In June 2023, LM hosted an annual in-person training for 80 federal employees, which included a 1.5-hour presentation on <b>Indigenous Knowledge and Cultural Awareness</b>. The training included discussion of Tribal perspectives, cultural sensitivity, and the importance of timely and consistent communication.</p> <p>In October 2022 and February 2023, LM hosted two <b>Tribal Tracker Dashboard</b> trainings with 65 staff in attendance. The Dashboard was developed to specifically support and track Tribal engagement activities across 25 sovereign nation partners. It provides system generated workflow tasks to reduce manual notifications and processes. Tribal data is only available to trained LM staff working regularly with Tribal partners and data is protected through multiple DOE information technology processes.</p>		<p>October 2022 &amp; February 2023</p>
<p>In July 2023, 24 OP staff members completed an <b>Indian Country Training</b>. The training included historical and contemporary context on the Nation-to-Nation relationship and the basics of cultural competency when working on Tribal issues.</p>	<p>Office of Policy (OP)</p>	<p>July 17, 2023</p>
<p>SC oversees ten<sup>6</sup> National Laboratories, and each are in various stages of implementing training for employees engaged in Tribal consultation. Two Laboratories that see significant Tribal engagement are Brookhaven National Laboratory and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.</p> <p>At Brookhaven National Laboratory, the Tribal Point of Contact provides an <b>Overview on Tribal Engagement</b> training to Laboratory management on a request basis.</p> <p>Pacific Northwest National Laboratory conducts Tribal consultation and engagement training on an annual basis each January and with new hires. The training covers <b>DOE Order 144.1</b>, relevant regulations, and a site-specific <b>Cultural Awareness Training</b> developed and administered as part of a Memorandum of Agreement stipulation.</p>	<p>Office of Science (SC)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>WAPA routinely consults with Tribes on infrastructure and power system activities. WAPA also has over 150 Tribal customers and routinely meets on DOE business matters. Over 25 WAPA staff are required to maintain knowledge of relevant laws,</p>	<p>Western Area Power Administration (WAPA)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<sup>6</sup> Ames National Laboratory, Argonne National Laboratory, Brookhaven National Laboratory, Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, and Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility.

<b>Staff Training</b>	<b>Responsible Staff</b>	<b>Date of Completion</b>
<p>regulations, policies, orders, and guidelines pertaining to Tribal engagement.</p> <p>Staff participated in the DOE <b>Tribal Training</b> along with a <b>Collaboration with Native Nations and Tribal Consultation Engagement</b> training from the Udall Foundation, John S. McCain National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution; an <b>Early Coordination with Indian Tribes for Infrastructure Projects</b> webinar from the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation; an <b>Incorporating Indigenous Knowledges into Federal Research and Management</b> series from the U.S. Geological Survey training on: (1) Understanding the new White House guidance on Indigenous Knowledge; (2) Case studies of successful Indigenous Knowledge engagement; and (3) Best practices for engaging with Tribal Nations and Indigenous peoples surrounding Indigenous Knowledge.</p>		

**Consultation**

Executive Order 13175 [Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments](#) (November 6, 2000) establishes the need for “regular and meaningful consultation and collaboration with Tribal officials in the development of federal policies that have Tribal implications, to strengthen the Nation-to-Nation relationships with Indian Tribes, and reduce the imposition of unfunded mandates upon Indian Tribes.”<sup>iii</sup> Offices from across the Department engage in [consultation](#) with Tribes, defined in DOE Tribal policy as “Prior to taking any action with potential impact upon American Indian and Alaska Native nations, providing for mutually agreed protocols for timely communication, coordination, cooperation, and collaboration to determine the impact on traditional and cultural ways of life, natural resources, treaty and other federally reserved rights involving appropriate tribal officials and representatives throughout the decision-making process, including final decision-making and action implementation as allowed by law, consistent with a government to government relationship.”<sup>iv</sup>

*Consultation Topics*

DOE site offices regularly consult with Tribes in accordance with federal laws and guidelines including NEPA, Section 106 of NHPA, and the [National Register of Historic Places](#) (NRHP).<sup>7</sup>

An overview of other consultations conducted by DOE offices are listed below.

<b><i>Consultation</i></b>	<b><i>Responsible Staff</i></b>	<b><i>Date of Completion</i></b>
<b><i>Consultation Topics:</i></b> LPO consults and engages with all potentially interested Tribes as part of LPO’s environmental review procedures for Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements. In addition, as a requirement of completing a <a href="#">Community Benefits Plan</a> , all LPO loan applicants are asked to detail their plans for engagement with neighboring and affected Tribes, partnerships with Tribal Colleges and Universities, and potential business partnerships and downstream economic opportunities. Office of Indian Energy provided additional guidance and advice to support LPO in these efforts.	Loan Programs Office (LPO)	Ongoing
<b><i>Consultation Topics:</i></b> OCED consults with Tribes on issues such as Tribal energy planning, challenges for communities with a lack of access to electricity, challenges faced by rural Alaska Native communities, how Tribes and DOE can work together to facilitate energy deployment, specific energy technologies (like geothermal energy generation); and the <a href="#">Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas</a> (ERA) program.	Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED)	Ongoing
<b><i>Confederated Tribes and Bands of Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Nez Perce Tribe, and Wanapum Band of Priest Rapids   Richland, WA:</i></b> On May 24, 2023, consultation was initiated between, DOE, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Tribal leaders about the future management co-stewardship of a sacred site.	Office of Environmental Management (EM)	May 24, 2023
<b><i>Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe Consultations:</i></b> IE consulted with the Navajo and Hopi Tribes, respectively, to develop separate Memoranda of Understandings (MOU) to support the Tribes’ clean energy transitions. The MOUs were signed at the 2023 White House Tribal Nations Summit.	Office of Indian Energy (IE)	2023

<sup>7</sup> NRHP is the “official list of the Nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.”

<b>Consultation</b>	<b>Responsible Staff</b>	<b>Date of Completion</b>
<p><b>Consultation Support:</b> IE provided advice, guidance, and supplemental support to various DOE offices in their consultations and engagements given IE’s long experience and successful track record in working with all federally recognized Tribes.</p>		Ongoing
<p><b>First Nations and Tribal Governments:</b> MESC held a consultation with Tribal Governments and First Nations Governments from both sides of the U.S.-Canada border to discuss partnership opportunities around the development of North American critical minerals, rare earth metals value chains, and small modular reactors. Office of Indian Energy provided additional guidance and advice to support MESC in these efforts.</p>	Office of Manufacturing and Supply Chains (MESC)	2023
<p>SC conducts outreach and consultation activities primarily through site offices and National Laboratories.</p> <p><b>Tribes of the Pacific Northwest:</b> Pacific Northwest Site Office, engages in regular consultation with Tribes throughout the Pacific Northwest on topics including activities on the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory campuses, specific research projects, DOE policies, and local and national topics of concern. The Site Office also engages in consultation with Tribal Governments during Section 106 of the NHPA process.</p> <p><b>Tribes in San Mateo County:</b> In August 2023, Stanford Linear Accelerator Center National Accelerator Laboratory notified 13 Tribes having traditional lands or cultural places located in San Mateo County, where the laboratory is located of the upcoming proposed Critical Utilities Infrastructure Revitalization Project, Low Emittance Injector Tunnel Project, and Linac Photon Infrastructure undertakings and to seek Tribal input related to the undertaking area. Three Tribes responded with recommendations, to request additional information, or to request consultation. Consultation discussions are ongoing with one Tribe.</p>	Office of Science (SC)	Ongoing  Ongoing
<p><b>Home Energy Rebate Program:</b> SCEP led a nationwide virtual consultation with Tribes on March 29, 2023, regarding the <a href="#">Home Energy Rebate Program</a> which will help American households save money on energy bills, upgrade to clean energy equipment and improve energy efficiency, and reduce indoor and outdoor air pollution.</p>	Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP)	March 2023

<p><b>Consultation Topics:</b> In FY 2023, SWPA consulted with Tribes on Section Sec. 106 of the NHPA process, reviews for specific undertakings, and Programmatic Agreement <a href="#">36 CFR 800.14</a> consultations for documents covering the states of Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Missouri. Tribal consultations included determinations of eligibility for listing in the NRHP for prehistoric archaeological sites, recommended treatments to avoid adverse effects to NRHP-eligible prehistoric archaeological sites, and contents of draft Programmatic Agreements for the states of Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Missouri.</p>	<p>Southwestern Area Power Administration (SWAPA)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Consultation Topics:</b> WAPA consultations generally support compliance with the NEPA and NHPA. WAPA consulted with 172 Tribes in FY 2023 on the following topics: Southwest Power Pool Regional Transmission Organization membership; Section 106; and follow up. Section 106 of the NHPA process, specifically regarding the area of potential effects, identification of historic properties, NRHP eligibility determinations, and findings of effects for agency undertakings, and resolution of adverse effects; Section 106 of the NHPA consultation and programmatic agreement outcomes; Memorandum of Agreements for certain projects; information gathered on properties or resources of interest to the Tribes within project areas; requests for Tribal participations in cultural surveys; Tribal review of cultural resources; and Tribal monitors for archaeologists utilized Tribal monitors, when requested; and to coordinate and consult with Tribes pursuant to <a href="#">Executive Order 13175 Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments</a> and <a href="#">Executive Order 13007 Indian Sacred Sites</a>.</p>	<p>Western Area Power Administration (WAPA)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

### Tribal Engagement Activities

In FY 2023, Departmental offices engaged in activities, meetings, seminars, and workshops related to Tribal matters that do not fall under Nation-to-Nation Tribal consultation. Leaders and staff from offices attend Tribal-focused events to exchange knowledge and resources. The Department also maintains groups and staff positions focused on building agency and capacity to respond to Tribal consultation and engagement requests. An overview of these groups and events are listed below.

#### *New Tribal Liaison Hires*

Many program offices have formalized the process of hiring Tribal liaisons who serve as the main point of contact for Tribal engagement. Offices that have or are in the process of hiring Tribal liaisons include:

- Office of Manufacturing and Supply Chains
- Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
- State and Community Energy Programs
- Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management

#### *Tribal Energy Steering Committee*

The DOE Tribal Energy Steering Committee (TESC) was created in 2009 to support the implementation of DOE Order 144.1 and meet the Department’s Nation-to-Nation responsibilities with Tribes. TESC has

been highly active this year. TESC coordinates across DOE offices on Tribal consultation, engagement, technical assistance, and energy issues. The group meets every other week to share current events, share best practices, coordinate attendance at conferences and events, and to organize DOE's participation in interagency initiatives announced by the White House Council on Native American Affairs.

### *Tribal Energy Infrastructure Deployment Community of Practice*

The Tribal Energy Infrastructure Deployment Community of Practice (Tribal Energy Infrastructure COP) includes participants from the DOE Office of the Under Secretary for Infrastructure<sup>8</sup> who focus on deploying clean energy infrastructure programs. Specifically, infrastructure related to the Inflation Reduction Act and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and programs serving Tribal partners through financial and technical assistance and other support systems to ensure that the needs of historically underserved communities are met. The Tribal Energy Infrastructure COP meets bi-weekly to identify opportunities for collaboration and to share updates, information, and resources.

### *Tribal Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee*

The Tribal Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee (TRMTC) provides DOE with Tribal input on programs and activities related to the transportation and storage of radioactive materials and spent nuclear fuel. TRMTC consists of members of 21 Native American Tribes that meet semi-annually to learn about and prepare for shipments of radioactive materials through Tribal lands and discuss topics relevant to the National Transportation Stakeholders Forum (NTSF). The NTSF is the mechanism through which DOE communicates at a national level with Tribes and states about shipments of radioactive waste and materials. DOE Office of Nuclear Energy's Office of Integrated Waste Management and Office of Environmental Management's Office of Packaging and Transportation jointly fund a cooperative agreement to provide staff support to TRMTC, cover meeting costs, and travel for TRMTC members.

### *Tribal Working Groups*

To coordinate on consultation and other Tribal matters the DOE hosts, manages, and supports many Tribal working groups that provide relevant input on the perspectives and interests of Tribal communities on issues related to DOE program actions like long-term stewardship, environmental cleanup, ongoing nuclear energy research and development, and Tribal energy development.

- The DOE Office of Environmental Management funds the **State and Tribal Government Working Group (STGWG)**, which includes policy-level representatives from states and Tribal Nations that host DOE facilities or are impacted by them. STGWG was established in 1989 by the Secretary of Energy as a means for DOE to engage states and Tribal nations located near Office of Environmental Management sites collaboratively and meaningfully in cleanup decisions. STGWG semi-annual meetings permit states, Tribes, and federal officials from Office of Environmental Management headquarters and field offices to discuss issues of mutual interest or concern, share perspectives, strengthen relationships, and gain a better understanding of priorities and concerns to enhance cleanup decisions.
- The **Indian Country Energy Infrastructure Working Group (ICEIWG)** was established by the Secretary of Energy in 2011 under the auspices of the Office of Indian Energy with the aim of

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<sup>8</sup> Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response, Grid Deployment Office, Office of Federal Energy Management Programs, Office of Indian Energy, Loan Programs Office, Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains, Office of State and Community Energy Programs, Bonneville Power Administration, Southeastern Power Administration, Southwestern Power Administration, and the Western Area Power Administration.

establishing baseline information to guide policy and program prioritization and long-term strategy related to energy and infrastructure development on Tribal lands. ICEIWG seeks to support the Office of Indian Energy’s mission related to its implementation of the authorities and requirements of [Title V of the Energy Policy Act of 2005](#). Tribal membership is comprised of Tribal leader and technical energy staff representatives from 21 Tribes and organizations reflecting regional diversity and viewpoints from Alaska and the lower 48 States.

- Established by the Secretary of Energy in 2014, the DOE Office of Nuclear Energy funds a cooperative agreement to support the operation of the **Nuclear Energy Tribal Working Group** (NETWG) whose purpose is to engage federally recognized Tribal Governments and their designated representatives in departmental activities and issues related to topics such as nuclear energy, advanced and small modular reactors, cultural resources, science, technology, engineering, and math education. NETWG serves as a conduit to foster communication, expand educational opportunities of all generations, and promote active involvement of Tribal governments.

<i>Tribal Engagement</i>	<i>Responsible Staff</i>
<p><b>National Transmission Needs Study:</b> This year, GDO continued efforts to finalize the <a href="#">National Transmission Needs Study</a>, which is an assessment of current and anticipated national electric transmission capacity constraints and congestion across the U.S. power system. Initial outreach to Tribes included invitations to provide input on the public draft of the needs study. Engagement included notification letters sent to Tribal governments and invitations to participate in two briefing webinars as well as invitations for private meetings at the request of Tribes.</p> <p><b>Tribal Nations Dialogue:</b> GDO participated in a Tribal Nations dialogue as part of a multi-agency convening workshop on the <a href="#">National Transmission Needs Study</a>. DOE sought Tribal Nation input throughout federal offshore wind transmission activities, including the <a href="#">Atlantic Offshore Wind Transmission Action Plan</a> and the <a href="#">West Coast Offshore Wind Transmission Study</a>.</p>	<p>Grid Deployment Office (GDO)</p>
<p><b><u>Water Power Technologies Office (WPTO)</u></b></p> <p><b>Community-scale Aquaculture:</b> Under WPTO’s Marine Energy Program, researchers from Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) are working with the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe to assess the feasibility of using marine energy for community-scale aquaculture projects in the Salish Sea, develop outreach and education material for the general public, and synthesize lessons to support sustainable practices for aquaculture projects in the Pacific Northwest.</p> <p><b>Hydrokinetic River Current Device:</b> WPTO has a longstanding partnership with the village of Igiugig, AK, where they funded the deployment of a hydrokinetic river current energy device in collaboration with the Igiugig Village Council.</p> <p><b>Best Practices Guide:</b> PNNL researchers are working to develop a set of best practices and guidance for designing, implementing, and evaluating indigenous</p>	<p>Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)</p>



<p>partnerships in WPTO-funded projects, which will be applied to a case study through a partnership with the International Western and Indigenous Science Hub.</p> <p><b><i>Inclusive Energy Innovation Prize:</i></b> WPTO was one of several DOE offices which funded and managed the <a href="#">Inclusive Energy Innovation Prize</a>. One of the winners of the prize, announced in June 2023, was <a href="#">Tebughna Sunshine</a>, which led a project that served the Dena’ina Athabascan Tribal community of the Native Village of Tyonek. This project uses traditional principles of land stewardship for Alaska Native communities to create and identify technical assistance resources for renewable energy technologies and pilot a solar array at Tyonek’s Tribal center. The team also plans to create an accessible handbook for deploying equitable clean energy in Alaska Native Villages. Finalists in the prize also included Native Sun Community Power Development, which serves over 20 Tribes in the Minneapolis, MN, area, and Red Cloud Renewable, which is run by members of the Oglala Lakota Tribe.</p> <p><b><u>Geothermal Technologies Office (GTO)</u></b></p> <p><b><i>Hawai’i Outreach Project:</i></b> GTO supports the Hawai’i Outreach Project that aims to establish relationships with Hawai’ian community members to identify 1) their current and future relationship with geothermal energy, 2) barriers to geothermal development from their perspectives, and 3) recommended solutions to overcome those barriers. This project will work with Native Hawai’ian communities and will be led by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory who will produce findings in a technical report.</p>	
<p><b><i>EM Tribal Engagement:</i></b></p> <p>EM has longstanding engagement with Tribes with ties to sites where EM is addressing the nation's environmental legacy from the Manhattan Project through the end of the Cold War.</p> <p><b><i>Pueblo de Cochiti   Cochiti Pueblo, NM:</i></b> On October 19, 2022, the EM Los Alamos Site Manager and staff met with the Pueblo de Cochiti Traditional Council.</p> <p><b><i>Pueblo de San Ildefonso:</i></b> In November 2022, the EM Los Alamos began a collaboration with the National Nuclear Security Administration Los Alamos National Laboratory and Pueblo de San Ildefonso on a plant and wildlife co-management project.</p> <p><b><i>Shoshone Bannock Tribes   Fort Hall Tribal Conference Room, ID:</i></b> On November 7, 2022, EM Site Management met with the Fort Hall Business Council to discuss the Middle Butte Cave Updated Memorandum of Understanding and Programmatic Agreement.</p> <p><b><i>Cochiti, Jemez, Santa Clara and San Ildefonso Pueblos   Los Alamos, NM:</i></b> On February 23, 2023, Deputy Secretary David M. Turk met with leadership and representatives from the Cochiti, Jemez, Santa Clara and San Ildefonso Cochiti, Jemez, Santa Clara, and San Ildefonso Pueblos.</p>	<p>Office of Environmental Management (EM)</p>

<p><b>Shoshone Bannock Tribes   Idaho Falls, ID:</b> On March 24, 2023, Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm visited the Fort Hall Business Council to hear about the Shoshone Bannock experience as it intersects with the DOE in hopes to have a better understanding of how the Department work with the Tribes to be a strong partner and collaborator.</p> <p><b>Shoshone Bannock Tribes   Fort Hall Tribal Conference Room, ID:</b> On March 28, 2023, EM Senior Advisor Ike White met with the Fort Hall Business Council to discuss the Wet to Dry Spent Nuclear Fuel Transfer.</p> <p><b>Pueblo de San Ildefonso:</b> On July 10, 2023, EM Deputy Assistant Secretary Jeff Avery and EM Los Alamos Field Office Deputy Manager consulted with Pueblo de San Ildefonso – they toured a proposed monitoring well site on Pueblo de San Ildefonso land. The Governor and Environmental Director of Pueblo de San Ildefonso facilitated access to the Pueblo. They viewed the proposed location and determined that EM will minimize the well pad size, and work with the Pueblo closely throughout the process.</p>	
<p><b>Bridging the Gap Meeting:</b> Southwestern Area Power Administration EHS staff has attended the <a href="#">Bridging the Gap</a> meeting at selected Tribal facilities for four years. The meeting is an exchange of indigenous knowledge, networking for Tribes and federal agencies, and a way to create avenues of individual working relationships. The FY 2023 meeting was co-hosted by the Quapaw Nation’s Historic Preservation Office and the U.S. Forest Service.</p>	<p>Southwestern Area Power Administration (SWAPA)</p>
<p><b>Tribal Meeting Attendance:</b> FECM participated in several meetings with Tribal officials and conferences to discuss federal funding opportunities, carbon storage, critical minerals, and coal and coal waste.</p> <p><b>Four Corner Rapid Response Team:</b> FECM participates in the Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities’ Economic Revitalization <a href="#">Four Corners Rapid Response Team</a>, which brings together federal agencies<sup>9</sup> and their regional staff to partner with Tribes, local officials and community leaders in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Utah as they navigate the region’s energy transitions and transformations. Historic investments from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act present energy communities with a multitude of opportunities to revitalize communities, diversify workforces, and support energy workers. The Four Corners Rapid Response Team will serve the region by helping communities access these resources to ensure a just and equitable energy transition.<sup>v</sup></p>	<p>Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM)</p>

<sup>9</sup> Department of Agriculture, Department of Energy, Department of the Interior, Department of Labor, Department of Transportation, Department of Health and Human Services, and Department of Treasury, along with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Economic Development Administration.

<p><b>Multi-agency Meetings:</b> IE planned and supported five in-person, multi-agency meetings, focused on project application development. Meeting attendees included representation from the Navajo Nation government, Navajo enterprises, Navajo-affiliated non-profits and community members, and the White House, DOE, Department of the Interior, and other federal agencies.</p> <p><b>Event Organization:</b> IE organized the following events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October 4-5, 2022, IE <a href="#">Tribal Clean Energy Summit</a> held in Washington, DC and streamed virtually. <a href="#">Annual Program Review</a> highlighting Tribal work and presenting opportunities for IE grant support for clean energy infrastructure and deployment.</li> <li>• IE helped organize three different multi-agency meetings in Window Rock, Arizona in support of the <a href="#">Navajo Nation intergovernmental MOU</a> with aims to <a href="#">support project development</a> at Navajo Nation. Meeting attendees included representatives from the White House Council on Native American Affairs, IE, Navajo government, non-profits, for-profits, and Navajo universities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Conference and Outreach Attendance:</b> IE attended and participated in the following conferences and outreach opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• American Indian Science and Engineering Society National Conference in Palm Springs, CA. IE discussed internship and employment opportunities and supported a DOE information booth.</li> <li>• Reservation Economic Summit in Las Vegas, NV. IE hosted an information booth and presented on opportunities for energy development grants to summit attendees.</li> <li>• Delivered keynote address to 5th Annual Seminole Tribe of Florida Renewable Energy and Sustainability Conference in Hollywood, FL.</li> <li>• Presented at the National American Indian Housing Council conference in Hawaii on IE funding opportunities and hosted a booth.</li> <li>• IE presented virtually at the Native American Development Corporation Conference on IE funding and technical assistance support.</li> <li>• Presented to students and faculty at Fort Lewis College regarding IE opportunities.</li> <li>• IE presented virtually to Native American students at the American Indian Higher Education Consortium Climate Resilience Research Program, providing an overview of IE, IE internships offered through Sandia National Laboratories, and case studies of Tribal success.</li> <li>• Worked with team of Tribal energy experts to develop a journal article for Stanford University on barriers to Tribal energy development that include costs to development and federal support to alleviate those barriers. This article is currently in review at peer reviewed journal, <i>Science</i>.</li> </ul>	<p>Office of Indian Energy (IE)</p>
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**Meeting Facilitation:** IE assisted with and facilitated meetings for many DOE offices and other federal agency offices. IE advised on programmatic direction, edited communications, and provided general best practice guidance. Some key examples include:

- Providing support to the Office of State and Community Energy Programs with the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program
- Supporting general and subcommittee meetings for the White House Council on Native American Affairs
- Supporting the Federal Energy Management Program in developing Tribal listening sessions, presenting, and fielding questions
- Supporting a Tribal waiver for the [Build America Buy America](#) program
- Tribal Power Preference Policy
- Communities Local Energy Action Program support

**Call Support:** IE supported many DOE calls briefing Tribal leadership and staff on programs and funding opportunities available through IE and other DOE offices. These meetings were often in depth related to certain projects Tribes and Tribal entities were pursuing.

**Additional Support:** IE provided support to the following groups:

- Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior
- Secretary of Energy Advisory Board
- DOE Tribal Energy Infrastructure Deployment Community of Practice
- Department of Interior’s [Tribal Electrification Program](#)
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory’s [Atlantic Offshore Wind Transmission Study](#)
- Interagency Working Group on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Revitalization – [Four Corners Rapid Response Team](#)

<p><b>Tribal Partnerships:</b> LM partners with 25 Tribal Nations. federal and contractor staff regularly engage to inform Tribal leaders on stewardship activities including aerial drone surveys, environmental testing, abandoned mine lands issues, stakeholder relations, seeking Indigenous Knowledge, and science, technology, engineering and mathematics promotion.</p> <p><b>Navajo Nation Visit:</b> LM senior leadership visited the Navajo Nation in March 2023 for a first meeting with the Nations’ newly elected President to share an overview of LM’s mission to protect future human health and the environment, and to discuss current work on the Navajo Nation.</p> <p><b>Defense-Related Uranium Mines:</b> The LM <a href="#">Defense Related Uranium Mines</a> (DRUM) program continued its partnership with the Navajo Nation to further assess the potential physical and environmental risks posed by legacy abandoned uranium mines. As of June 30, 2023, the DRUM program has inventoried 15 Navajo Nation mines and developed 16 mine reports. The DRUM program participated in Navajo-Hopi tri-annual meetings and continues to facilitate the Navajo Nation working alongside representatives from the Navajo Environmental Protection Agency and Abandoned Mine Lands Department, EPA Region 9, and the Bureau of Indian affairs. The group meets monthly to address administrative and logistical project needs. The DRUM program regularly communicates with local Navajo government officials. Participating in Navajo chapter house meetings and meeting with chapter house grazing officials seeking Navajo government approval for DOE to access mines and to prevent disruption of local grazing operations.</p> <p><b>Shiprock, NM, LM Office:</b> LM established a new physical office presence in Shiprock, NM, in the Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority complex. The office provides space for Shiprock community involvement and further solidifies DOE’s commitment to in-person engagement with the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation Abandon Mines Lands Reclamation Department, a key LM partner, also has offices at the property.</p> <p><b>Window Rock, AZ, LM Office:</b> LM’s Window Rock Outreach Office moved to a larger and more visible space for members of the public to visit and learn about LM’s work on the Navajo Nation. The office serves as an information hub for federal and Tribal partners and stakeholders. The space houses the Navajo Nation Community Outreach Network, a group of federal and Tribal agencies tasked with coordinating and supporting the multi-agency effort through outreach, planning, and information sharing.</p> <p><b>Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska Agreement:</b> DOE authorized a five-year agreement with the Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska in August 2023 to participate in a collaborative oversight role of LM activities associated with long-term maintenance and surveillance of DOE’s Amchitka Island Sites. The Tribe will support LM’s activities by communicating the history of the Amchitka site; communicating Alaska Native concerns into LM’s site surveillance activities; and support LM’s STEM outreach activities with Tribal community representatives and members.</p>	<p>Office of Legacy Management (LM)</p>
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<p><b>Amchitka Island, Alaska Sampling:</b> LM finalized an environmental sampling plan for Amchitka Island, AK, and safely completed site work in July 2023. <a href="#">Public Law 96-487</a> designated a portion of Amchitka Island as a wilderness area. This law also defines the claims of the Alaska Native Tribes, allowing the Tribes to select certain portions of Alaska to be considered for return to the Native populations.</p> <p><b>LM Resources in Support of Tribal Initiatives:</b> Approximately 20 staff are routinely engaged with Tribal partners to accomplish LM’s mission of long-term stewardship of sites for which it is responsible and protecting public health, safety and the environment. LM also employs more than six Tribal members among federal and contract staff to build Indigenous Knowledge into the agency.</p>	
<p><b>Tribal Event Attendance:</b> MESC has participated in several Tribal meetings and events to discuss funding and other opportunities including individual meetings with Tribes and participating in events like the DOE Tribal Clean Energy Summit; the National Tribal Energy Roundtable: Critical Minerals, Research and Development, and Advanced Manufacturing webinar; and Indian Country Energy and Infrastructure Working Group meetings.</p>	<p>Office of Manufacturing and Energy Supply Chains (MESC)</p>
<p><b>Consent-Based Siting:</b> DOE is responsible for the management of the Nation's nuclear waste. This includes finding sites to store and dispose of the spent nuclear fuel. DOE is committed to a consent-based approach to siting and an integrated waste management system that enables broad participation and centers on equity and environmental justice. NE issued a Request for Information seeking public feedback on the consent-based siting process, to which over 30 Tribal entities responded, this feedback was incorporated into the consent-based siting process. In June 2023, NE released a \$24 million Funding Opportunity Announcement to establish a Consent-Based Siting Consortia designed to engage communities and Tribes in the consent-based siting process which included mechanisms to provide sub-grants and resources to Tribes and Tribal organizations to reduce barriers to participation.</p>	<p>Office of Nuclear Energy (NE)</p>
<p><b>Tribal Meeting Attendance:</b> Oak Ridge National Laboratory participated in the <a href="#">Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere Cooperative</a> which includes the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. Two meetings were held with the Tribe and the National Speleological Society to develop a strategic plan to disseminate information on caves and cultural resources, build new partnerships in clean energy development, and aquatic connectivity with the Tribe’s reservation and planning for a wastewater hydropower facility.</p> <p><b>Tribal-focused Staff:</b> Brookhaven National Laboratory committed to increasing budget and staff to support Tribal consultation and engagement. These efforts include the creation of a new management level position within the Stakeholder Relations Office-Manager, Government Relations, and Strategic Engagement.</p>	<p>Office of Science (SC)</p>

<p><b>Technology Commercialization Fund:</b> Through the <a href="#">Technology Commercialization Fund</a>, OTT supports the <a href="#">Boost Platform</a> project, led by Sandia National Laboratories. Boost Platform is a community entrepreneurship and mentoring program involving 14 National Laboratories. The project started with community workshops in Alaska and New Mexico focused on community needs regarding energy, climate change, and related technology issues. These workshops involved Tribal communities among the attendees. The workshops provided a list of areas for the involved labs to conduct intellectual property market assessments, which consist of identifying technologies that may be able to address community needs. Key topics included water conservation and microgrids. The workshops also identified entrepreneurs and gave teams of startups points of contact in these communities to help when thinking about understanding the market for technologies.</p>	<p>Office of Technology Transitions (OTT)</p>
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### 3. The Department will Establish Mechanisms for Outreach, Notice and Consultation and Ensure Integration of Indian Nations into Decision-making Processes.

#### Development of New Financial Assistance Protocols

The Department is committed to establishing mechanisms for outreach, notice and meaningful consultation with Tribal nations and ensuring the integration of Tribes in decision-making processes.

The Department is working to develop a Financial Assistance Letter/Other Transaction Letter (FAL/OTL) that will provide guidance to ensure Tribes are engaged and consulted when projects impact Tribes. After finalization, the FAL/OTL is expected to address the following in future Funding Opportunity Announcements:

- Applicants to answer questions, tailored to the subject of each Funding Opportunity Announcement, which help determine if Tribal lands, water rights, mineral rights, and other reserved rights could be impacted.
- Applicants to document efforts taken to identify potential Tribal impacts.
- Letters of support from impacted Tribes, including requirements regarding which Tribal designees can sign the letters.
- A notice that funding applications could be shared with Tribes, and directions for applicants to mark any sensitive information or trade secrets which cannot be shared.

The new Funding Opportunity Announcements will also encourage DOE program offices to coordinate with the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs and the Office of Indian Energy when Tribes are impacted. The new requirements are being piloted in a forthcoming Funding Opportunity Announcement on minerals processing.

#### Reporting

The Solar Energy Technology Office funded the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and the Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association to publish an [Addressing Regulatory Challenges to Tribal Solar](#)



[Deployment Guidebook](#). Developed through extensive engagement with Tribes, utilities, regulators, and other interested stakeholders, this three-part guidebook explores the regulatory barriers Tribes face when trying to deploy solar energy on Tribal lands.

In December 2020, Congress included in its FY 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act for DOE to assess and report on the current status of access to electricity and electricity reliability for households in Tribal communities. DOE's Office of Indian Energy finalized a [Congressional Report on Electricity Access and Reliability](#), by engaging Indian Tribes and evaluating (1) prior investments by DOE, and (2) the needed investments in electricity access and reliability. The report received positive affirmation on its extensive and thorough content. The Office of Indian Energy briefed the Department of the Interior Assistant Secretary on Indian Affairs and DOE Acting Under Secretary for Infrastructure on the report prior to Senate testimony.

## **4. Department-wide Compliance with Applicable Federal Cultural Resource Protection and Other Laws and Executive Orders will Assist in Preservation and Protection of Historic and Cultural Sites and Traditional Religious Practices.**

### **Co-Stewardship of a Sacred Site**

At the 2023 White House Tribal Nations Summit, DOE and the Department of the Interior signed a MOU [demonstrating a shared commitment to exploring Tribal involvement in the protection and preservation of Rattlesnake Mountain](#), a sacred site for the Yakama Nation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Nez Perce Tribe, and the Wanapum Band of Indians. This MOU was developed after constructive discussions between the federal agencies and Tribal leaders.

Pursuant to the memorandum, an interagency team will be formed to support discussions with Tribal leadership to discuss the potential for additional protective measures and improved access for Tribal members to conduct religious ceremonies and traditional gatherings. Discussions will also focus on potential opportunities for Tribes to take a more active role in stewardship and for Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge to be incorporated in future management plans.

Rattlesnake Mountain, known as "Lalíik" in the native Sahaptin language, is located within the Hanford Reach National Monument. In 2008, DOE determined the area is a historic property of cultural and religious significance to the Tribes and eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places as a traditional cultural property under the National Historic Preservation Act. The area is managed by the Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under a permit from DOE.

The memorandum is consistent with the 2021 [Memorandum of Understanding](#) regarding Interagency Coordination and Collaboration for the Protection of Indigenous Sacred Sites and [Executive Order 13007 Indian Sacred Sites](#) issued May 24, 1996, which directs federal land management agencies to "(1) accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners and (2) avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites. Agencies shall maintain the confidentiality of sacred sites, unless directed otherwise by the associated Tribe(s)<sup>vi</sup>." The Department is



committed to complying with applicable federal cultural resource protection and other laws and Executive Orders that will assist in the preservation and protection of historic cultural sites and traditional religious practices, such as Tribal co-stewardship of Rattlesnake Mountain.<sup>vii</sup>

### **Federal Agency Best Practices Guide on Tribal and Native Hawaiian Sacred Sites**

The Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of Energy Management, Office of Indian Energy, and DOE Office of the General Counsel, along with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, White House Council on Environmental Quality, and Tennessee Valley Authority worked collaboratively to develop a [guide for federal agencies](#) on best practices for engaging with Tribal and Native Hawaiian sacred sites.

### **Indigenous Knowledge Progress Report**

“[Indigenous Knowledge](#) is a body of observations, oral and written knowledge, innovations, practices, and beliefs developed by Tribes and Indigenous Peoples through interaction and experience with the environment.”<sup>viii</sup> The definition of Indigenous Knowledge, also known as Traditional Ecological Knowledge, was updated by the Office of Science Technology and Policy and the Council on Environmental Quality in November 2021. DOE began incorporating Indigenous Knowledge, with the updated definition, into multiple policies and agreements, such as procedures for Tribal consultation.

### **Memorandums of Understanding with Hopi Tribe and Navajo Nation**

At the 2023 White House Tribal Nations Summit, DOE and eight federal agencies<sup>10</sup> signed two historic MOUs with the Hopi Tribe and an amended MOU with the Navajo Nation supporting the Tribes’ economic revitalization efforts. The MOUs launch a [multiyear, multiagency effort to boost prosperity](#) and improve quality of life for the Navajo and Hopi people.

The Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe have historically produced coal resources to power major cities in Arizona, Nevada, and California. Since the closure of the Navajo Generating Station and Kayenta coal mine in 2019, Tribes have lost up to 80% of their annual revenues and 1,500 Native American jobs. The goal of the MOUs is to help coordinate federal resources during economic revitalization efforts and ease Tribal access to federal funding available through national policies including the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors and Science Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law along with programs offered annually by agencies.

Efforts to sign these agreements were part of a White House Council on Native American Affairs initiative, spearheaded by the Office of Indian Energy with support from the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs. On December 1, 2022, DOE, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the Navajo Nation signed the [original MOU](#), which was considered a [top accomplishment](#) for DOE, and have since convened more than five meetings on the Navajo Nation. The Director of the Office of Indian Energy and staff presented the MOU to the Navajo Nation Council’s Resources and Development Committee and received full council approval. The Office of Indian Energy worked with the Navajo Nation to streamline proposed clean energy projects, helping to identify 40 projects that will be sent to the White House Council on Native American Affairs for funding alignment.<sup>ix</sup> The Office of Indian Energy also created and drafted an implementation plan with projects and timelines, which was required by the

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<sup>10</sup> U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Labor, and the Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council Executive Director.

MOU, and submitted it to the Secretary of Energy; hired contract staff through Sandia National Laboratory to support MOU implementation; released a blog on the MOU that was shared on the DOE website and social media.

Regarding the Hopi MOU, the Office of Indian Energy worked with the Hopi Chairman and Hopi staff to develop the MOU language. The Office of Indian Energy also facilitated communications and led meetings between multiple agencies to support the development of all MOUs.

## 5. The Department will Initiate a Coordinated Department-wide Effort for Technical Assistance, Business and Economic Self-determination Development Opportunities, Education, and Training Programs.

### Technical Assistance

The Office of Indian Energy provides federally recognized Indian Tribes, including Alaska Native regional and village corporations, and Tribal entities, with [technical assistance](#) to advance Tribal energy projects. The Office of Indian Energy sponsors technical assistance upon request at no-cost to Indian Tribes and Tribal entities. Additionally, program offices from across the DOE with support from the DOE National Laboratories work together to provide technical assistance to Tribes. A few key examples include:

<i>Technical Assistance</i>	<i>Responsible Staff</i>
<p><b>Combined Heat and Power Technical Assistance Partnerships:</b> The Industrial Efficiency and Decarbonization Office of EERE engaged with Tribes in 2023 through the <a href="#">Combined Heat and Power Technical Assistance Partnerships</a> which promote and assist manufacturers in implementing combined heat and power, waste heat to power, and district energy technologies in facilities across the U.S. Examples of engagement with Tribes include:</p> <p>On August 15, 2023, the Midwest Combined Heat and Power Technical Assistance Partnerships Assistant Director provided a presentation on Wastewater Treatment Plants at a <a href="#">Minnesota Technical Assistance Partnership Wastewater Treatment Plants Energy Efficiency Training Workshop</a>. Attendees included a representative from a Tribal entity from Northern Minnesota.</p> <p>The <a href="#">Northwest Combined Heat and Power Technical Assistance Program</a> is providing technical assistance to the Native Village of Eklutna in Alaska to evaluate combined heat and power opportunities to thermal rights on heat from the local power plant for use of waste heat. The initial analyses were completed in June 2023, and additional assistance will be provided as needed.</p>	<p>Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)</p>

<b><i>Technical Assistance</i></b>	<b><i>Responsible Staff</i></b>
<p><b><i>Energy Transitions Initiative Partnerships Project:</i></b> WPTO provided funding to the <a href="#">Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project</a> where there are several communities that feature work with Tribes including in Igiugig, AK, in Dillingham, AK (surrounded by five Alaska Native villages including Koliganek, Stuyahok, Ekwok, Levelock, and Aleknagik) and the Makah Tribe in Washington.</p>	
<p><b><i>West Coast Offshore Wind Transmission Study:</i></b> GDO, in partnership with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, are working to engage with Tribal Nations on the <a href="#">West Coast Offshore Wind Transmission Study</a>, including a focus on all aspects of the environmental, siting, and techno-socio-economic valuation tasks related to offshore wind transmission development. All Tribal Nations on the West Coast were included in the Advisory Committee for all technical tasks. The Grid Deployment Office is also creating a new national program for Tribal Nation Technical Assistance to support Tribal Nation participation in transmission planning and development for offshore wind, which will be implemented in FY 2024.</p>	<p>Grid Deployment Office (GDO)</p>
<p><b><i>Electric Vehicle Charing:</i></b> JOET provides technical assistance to Tribes on how to deploy electric vehicle charging.</p>	<p>Joint Office of Energy and Transportation (JOET)</p>
<p><b><i>Nuclear Research:</i></b> NE’s Office of Integrated Waste Management, in partnership with Pacific Northwest National Laboratory provided funding and technical assistance support for a <a href="#">Prairie Island Indian Community</a> research project to estimate radioactive doses to lands, people, and resources from future DOE transportation of spent nuclear fuel from an adjacent nuclear power plant.</p>	<p>Office of Nuclear Energy (NE)</p>
<p><b><i>Entrepreneurial Training:</i></b> Sandia National Laboratory is piloting technical assistance programs in New Mexico and Alaska and adapting entrepreneurial training focused on guiding communities to regional resources and local sources of capital for businesses.</p>	<p>Office of Technology Transitions (OTT)</p>

## Workforce Development Initiatives

Multiple offices have developed initiatives to enhance workforce development efforts in and with Tribal Nations including:

<b><i>Workforce Development Initiative</i></b>	<b><i>Responsible Staff</i></b>
<p><b>PL477:</b> Congress directed twelve<sup>11</sup> federal agencies, including the Department of Energy to negotiate and execute a <a href="#">Memorandum of Agreement</a> (MOA) to implement the <a href="#">Indian Employment, Training, and Related Services Consolidation Act or Public Law 102-477</a> (PL477), which is a program that allows Tribal governments and organizations to consolidate federal funding for job training, workforce development, and other economic development purposes into a single plan, with a single reporting requirement. Administered by the BIA in DOI, the intent of the program is to reduce administrative, reporting, and accounting costs for Tribes accessing federal grant funding. The DOE Office of Policy serves as the main Departmental point of contact. Federal and Tribal officials established a workgroup to determine how the MOA can best support the implementation of PL477 while upholding Tribally determined goals consistent with the policy of self-determination. The Office of Policy participated in these working group meetings and is collaborating with the BIA to support the integration of DOE programs into Tribes’ PL477 agreements.</p>	<p>Office of Policy (OP)</p>
<p><b>Advancing Equity Through Workforce Partnerships:</b> In FY 2022, SETO announced <a href="#">Advancing Equity Through Workforce Partnerships</a> which is a \$13.5 million funding program for the development of collaborative workforce programs. The program facilitates the rapid deployment of solar energy technologies while supporting an inclusive workforce with opportunities for union membership. DOE announced the selection of 12 projects on June 13, 2023. Awardees included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Red Cloud Renewable of Pine Ridge, SD, received an award of \$1,500,000 to support an apprenticeship readiness program that aims to increase recruitment, training, and career placement in the solar workforce through family-centric services and in-person training to place Native American women in careers in the solar workforce across the country.</li> <li>• Emerald Cities Collaborative of Seattle, WA, received \$725,000 to support a partnership with union-led training centers. This project aims to develop solar installer trainings and union-based electrical pre-apprenticeship programs in Washington. It will provide entry-level employment for apprentice candidates and pilot pathways to solar installer positions that can provide living wage employment and relevant work experience as students prepare for apprenticeships and other training.</li> </ul>	<p>Solar Energy Technologies Offices (SETO)</p>

<sup>11</sup> Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of the Interior, Department of Justice, Department of Labor, Department of Transportation, and Department of Veterans Affairs.

### Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education Efforts

Many offices have supported science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, outreach, and engagement efforts including:

<b><i>STEM Education</i></b>	<b><i>Responsible Staff</i></b>
<p><b>Clean Energy Innovator Fellowship Program:</b> GDO provided six fellowship positions at Tribal utilities, Inter-Tribal Councils, and other Tribal organizations through the <a href="#">Clean Energy Innovator Fellowship Program</a>, in partnership with the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education. Recent graduates and energy professionals will spend up to two years at these host institutions supporting the advancement of clean energy solutions that will help decarbonize the power system, electrify transportation and industry, and make the U.S. power system more resilient, equitable and inclusive.</p>	<p>Grid Deployment Office (GDO)</p>
<p><b>American Indian Science and Engineering Society Annual Conference:</b> Multiple<sup>12</sup> DOE program offices and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory came together to support a Coral Sponsorship at the American Indian Science and Engineering Society Annual Conference and hosted a booth. They hosted an educational session titled <i>U.S. Department of Energy: The American Indigenous Experience</i> where they had four panelists from the Office of Indian Energy and the Environmental Management offices discuss their experience applying for federal job positions and working in the DOE.</p>	<p>Office of Indian Energy (IE) &amp; Office of Environmental Management (EM)</p>
<p><b>LM STEM Engagement:</b> LM regularly participates in <a href="#">STEMsation</a> events on the Navajo Nation, and participated in the <a href="#">STEM Fest</a> on the Cherokee Nation. LM also participated in the <a href="#">Utah State University Blanding STEAM Exposition</a> and the <a href="#">Kayenta Township Uranium 101 Workshop</a> in Arizona. The office has established a relationship with <a href="#">Miss Navajo Nation</a>, who also champions STEM Tribal activities and support a growing partnership with the Southern Ute Education. The office was a leader in the annual <a href="#">Waste Management Symposia Remediation Conference</a> in promoting STEM work among DOE partners.</p>	<p>Office of Legacy Management (LM)</p>
<p><b>Industrial Research and Assessment Centers:</b> The Office of Manufacturing and Supply Chain’s <a href="#">Industrial Research and Assessment Centers</a> program advances a clean energy and manufacturing workforce that represents the diversity of America, and a reinvigorated manufacturing base prepared to lead the global clean energy transition. The Office of Manufacturing and Supply Chain’s engagement team amplified the expansion of funding to create new Industrial Research and Assessment Centers at community colleges, trade schools, and union training programs to expand access to energy- and manufacturing-related career pathways while providing hands-on support to the Tribal Colleges and Universities network.</p>	<p>Office of Manufacturing and Supply Chains (MESCC)</p>

<sup>12</sup> Office of Science, Office of Nuclear Energy, Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Office of Energy Justice and Equity, National Nuclear Security Administration, Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs, Office of Environmental Management, and Office of Legacy Management.

<b><i>STEM Education</i></b>	<b><i>Responsible Staff</i></b>
<p><b>NE STEM Efforts:</b> The Office of Nuclear Energy co-leads a <a href="#">Supporting STEM Education in Tribal Communities</a> project team. In FY 2023, the Office of Nuclear Energy in partnership with the national organization <a href="#">Beyond 100k</a>, worked to respond to the unique educational needs of Tribes and Native villages by co-developing <a href="#">FIRST STEPS: A Resource for Engaging with Indigenous Communities in STEM</a>. FIRST STEPS offers non-Native educators a robust set of questions, considerations, and resources to support them in conducting due diligence research and relationship building before and while engaging with a Tribal community. Over fifty Tribal members from Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, Pueblos of Jemez, Pojoaque, and San Ildefonso assisted in the creation of the resource and their perspectives and ideas were centered in the development. NE and Beyond 100Kin 10 also garnered additional feedback and review from numerous educator networks including the National Science Teachers Association and National Environmental Justice Conference. In October 2023, NE presented the resource publicly in a workshop at the American Indian Science and Engineering Society annual conference in Spokane, WA and at a Consent-Based Siting Consortia meeting in November 2023.</p> <p>The Office of Nuclear Energy’s University and Competitive Research Team established a University Programs Engagement Committee comprised of individuals from minority-serving institutions to provide guidance in creating more purposeful opportunities that leverage the capabilities at these institutions. Engagement with university students and faculty has taken place via in-person and virtual visits to promote university program funding opportunities. These include visits to two- and four-year institutions as well as Minority Serving Institutions, including historically Black colleges and universities and Tribal colleges and universities. Under the <a href="#">University Nuclear Leadership Program</a>, the Office of Nuclear Energy offers a scholarship track focused on the participation of students receiving training as nuclear technicians at two-year community colleges and trade schools in areas such as health physics and nuclear operations.</p> <p>The Office of Nuclear Energy offers research and development work scopes under its Consolidated Innovative Nuclear Research Funding Opportunity Announcement that rely on the expertise of both nuclear energy experts and those from social science disciplines, including sociology, political science, psychology, economics, education, and business management, and required Minority Serving Institution collaboration. One scope specifically focuses on research and development at Minority Serving Institutions, ensuring they are the lead institutions, and requires that 80% of project funding goes back to them.</p>	<p>Office of Nuclear Energy (NE)</p>



<b>STEM Education</b>	<b>Responsible Staff</b>
<p><b>Shoshone Bannock Tribes STEM Engagement:</b> Battelle Energy Alliance is the prime contractor for Idaho National Laboratory who engage with regional Tribes in the areas of workforce development and STEM education with Indigenous Knowledge applications to keep students engaged and help establish sustainable capacity-building to promote economic prosperity for members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes. On an annual basis, the Laboratory provides transportation and meals for students, teachers, Fort Hall Business Council Members, and Tribal department heads to visit ancestral and culturally significant sacred sites including Middle Butte Cave.</p>	
<p><b>Reaching a New Energy Workforce:</b> Pacific Northwest National Laboratory’s Office of Workforce Development for Teachers and Scientists sponsored a Reaching a New Energy Workforce <a href="#">Pathway Summer School</a> with the goal of creating a regional STEM learning hub focused on critical needs to engage and retain Native American students in STEM studies and to prepare them for internships and other pathways that lead to diversifying the future energy sciences workforce. Based on listening sessions with Native communities, the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory’s Office of STEM Education leverages its demonstrated workforce development expertise and ongoing relationship and engagement network with Tribes to immerse recent high school graduates and early undergraduate students in culturally relevant, hands-on learning activities focused on advanced clean energy and community energy resilience and equity.</p> <p><b>STEM Outreach Program:</b> Pacific Northwest National Laboratory has a robust STEM outreach program with a strong focus on underrepresented communities, which includes Tribal communities ranging from providing materials, one-day outreach activities, to 4-week long summer schools for Native American high school and undergraduate students at the laboratory’s Sequim Campus.</p> <p><b>Materials and Energy Solutions Workshop:</b> Ames National Laboratory engaged with Tribal organizations through the Materials and Energy Solutions Workshop. The workshop brought together laboratory staff and 19 faculty and students representing seven unique minority serving institutions including University of North Carolina at Pembroke, a Native American-Serving Nontribal Institution, and Virginia Commonwealth University and University of California Riverside, both Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions. The goals of the workshop were to broaden participation across all the laboratory’s science directorates, establish strong scientific collaborations with participating institutions, and use these outcomes to create a strong, diverse, next-generation scientific workforce.</p> <p><b>Tribal Adapted STEM Curriculum:</b> Brookhaven National Laboratory staff led a new STEM education program at the <a href="#">Shinnecock Nation’s Boys and Girls Club</a>, at their request. The program is based on a Tribal adapted STEM curriculum used by the Boys and Girls Club of America. Brookhaven Science Associates provided \$15,000 to the Shinnecock Nation’s Boys and Girls Club.</p>	<p>Office of Science (SC)</p>

## 6. The Secretary of Energy will Conduct Periodic Summits with Tribal Leaders for Performance Review of Policy Implementation and Issue Resolution.

### **Tribal Clean Energy Summit**

The Secretary of Energy is committed to conducting periodic summits with Tribal leaders for performance review of policy implementation and issue resolution, such as the Tribal Clean Energy Summit. The most recent summit took place October 4-5, 2022. These summits create a place for Nation-to-Nation discussions exploring how Tribes can harness clean energy to enhance energy sovereignty, address climate resilience, and build stronger economies.

#### *Summit*

Tribal leaders joined DOE Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm, the Office of Indian Energy Director Wahleah Johns, and other DOE senior leaders for a Nation-to-Nation discussion exploring how Tribes can harness clean energy to enhance energy sovereignty, address climate resilience, and build stronger economies as part of the Tribal Clean Energy Summit. The 2022 Summit, the seventh summit in DOE's history, represented the culmination of years of work by Tribal Nations, DOE, and key energy stakeholders. The Summit offered a platform for Tribal leaders and federal officials to openly discuss challenges and opportunities, acknowledge the turbulent history that has shaped generations, and look ahead with optimism toward a shared goal of economic sovereignty for Tribes through the pillar of clean energy development. It was repeated throughout the conference regardless of the types of energy resources Tribes are developing, they want to achieve the cleanest forms possible. Through both formal and informal exchanges, the Summit provided a forum for idea exchange, learning, and relationship building about how energy can provide a new path to economic sovereignty.

Nearly 300 individuals, including Tribal leaders and key energy partners from across the United States, including 61 American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native villages from 20 states, gathered to participate in joint plenary sessions followed by focused Tribal leader agenda tracks or key energy partner agenda tracks centered around:

- Federal energy programs and opportunities such as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.
- Increasing access to energy project finance and capital.
- Energy access, security, reliability, and transition issues.
- Workforce development and transition.
- Ensuring consultation and meaningful Tribal leader participation in national energy and infrastructure decision making.

Key goals for the 2022 Summit included:

- Listen and provide Tribal leaders a forum for Nation-to-Nation feedback with senior DOE leadership to chronicle the history of energy development and its respective impact on Tribes, relative respective barriers, current and emerging opportunities for energy development, and how DOE can advance Tribal energy sovereignty through its programs, policies, and actions.



- Communicate specifically DOE's efforts to strengthen Tribal energy sovereignty through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Inflation Reduction Act and other DOE programs, as well as to gather insights to improve DOE's consultation process and Tribal engagement.
- Demonstrate DOE's community engagement process that connects Tribes to opportunities that programs have to offer and technical assistance.

### *Departmental Attendance*

DOE had leadership and representatives from nearly all external facing program offices present during the Secretary of Energy's roundtable with Tribal leaders.

## **7. The Department Will Work with Other Federal Agencies, and State Agencies, that Have Related Responsibilities and Relationships to our Respective Organizations as they Relate to Tribal Matters.**

### **Implementation of the Indian Energy Purchase Preference at Federal Facilities**

To ensure that investments in the clean energy economy reach Tribal lands, DOE's Office of Indian Energy with support from the Federal Energy Management Program and the Office of Policy, and in coordination with the White House Council on Native American Affairs, the Department of Defense and the General Services Administration— [launched a new initiative](#) to increase federal agencies' use of Tribal energy through purchasing authority established by statute. Title V of the [Energy Policy Act of 2005](#) establishes for federal agencies a preference for purchasing electricity and other energy products from Indian Tribes and Tribal enterprises. DOE program offices will implement the following in accordance with the initiative:

- Department of Defense will integrate the Indian Energy Purchase Preference into electricity procurement strategies.
- General Services Administration will lead a pilot focused on Tribal energy production to develop procurement strategies and will issue a request for information.
- Agencies will develop training and resources for Tribes and Tribal majority-owned businesses to foster technical expertise in the development of carbon pollution-free electricity projects, improve awareness of the Preference, and encourage partnerships for carbon pollution-free electricity development.
- The Office of Policy is also funding a policy research project which will identify strategies to better support Tribal clean energy development.
- The Department will work with the Secretary of Energy to sign a memorandum initiating the development of procurement procedures for the Indian Energy Purchase Preference.

### *Energy Purchase Preference Listening Session*

The Office of Policy organized, with the Office of Indian Energy and the Federal Energy Management Program, a listening session related to the [Indian Energy Purchase Preference](#) on May 18, 2023. Through the authority of the Indian Energy Purchase Preference, part of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, federal agencies may give preference to Tribal majority-owned businesses as defined in the statute when

purchasing electricity or other energy products and byproducts. The goal of the session was to gain insight directly from Tribes, Tribally owned businesses, Tribal utilities, and Tribal entrepreneurs regarding any interest, availability, development, or challenges associated with generating and selling electricity to the federal government using the Preference. The sessions also aimed to better understand the market conditions for Tribes and Tribal majority-owned businesses developing carbon pollution-free electricity.

### *Indian Health Service Solar Power Purchase Agreement*

The Federal Energy Management Program and experts from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory provided technical assistance to Indian Health Service (IHS) as IHS made a formal offer to buy solar power from a Tribal utility to power a health clinic. The offer helps build Tribal energy capacity by relying on Tribal employees to both install the solar array and maintain it over a 20-year period, under the terms of the Utility Energy Service Contract, which relies on authority under the Buy Indian Act. This contract could serve as a model for other Tribal utilities to follow while enhancing the resilience of health care in Indian Country.

### **Electric Vehicle Initiative for Tribal Nations**

At the 2022 White House Tribal Nations Summit, the Biden Administration announced an [Electric Vehicle Initiative for Tribal Nations](#) to ensure that Tribal Nations and Native communities are part of the Electric Vehicle (EV) future of the country. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law includes funding to secure an American EV supply chain and build out the first-ever nationwide public EV charging network of 500,000 EV chargers.

- DOE coordinates with the [White House Council on Native American Affairs](#), [Interagency Working Group on Coal Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization](#), and nine<sup>13</sup> other participating agencies to enhance Tribal awareness, accessibility and engagement opportunities related to electric vehicle infrastructure deployment.
- DOE participates in regional conferences cross-promoting electric vehicle infrastructure funding announcements and materials.
- DOE intends to enter into an MOU with interested Tribes to establish frameworks for collaboration.
- DOE offices have been working with Clean Cities Coalitions partners to develop local partnerships with Tribal communities, facilitate community engagement, and provide technical assistance related to electric vehicles and infrastructure. On June 1, 2023, the Clean Cities Coalition Network, in partnership with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, and Northern Arizona University's Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, held an introductory workshop for Clean Cities coalitions working with Tribes. The workshop discussed important historical and legal contexts as well as the current Tribal energy and transportation landscape. Participants heard from Tribal experts and had an opportunity to ask questions. The workshop had 58 total attendees including, 27 Clean Cities coalition staff members from 19 unique Clean Cities coalitions, 21 DOE National Laboratory staff, and 10 DOE staff.

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<sup>13</sup> Department of Agriculture, Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of the Interior, Department of Labor, Department of Transportation, Environmental Protection Agency, and General Services Administration.

- The Joint Office of Energy and Transportation developed, hosts, and updates a [Tribal resources page](#) to provide education, technical assistance, and information on funding opportunities for Tribes to deploy EV infrastructure.
- The Joint Office of Energy and Transportation also held several meetings with Tribal representatives on topics in 2023 including:
  - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law related funding opportunities including the [National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Formula Program](#), and the [Community Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program](#).
  - The potential use of funds on Tribal lands not located on alternative fuel corridors and Tribal consultation on the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure State Plan Certification Process.
  - The need for charging infrastructure to facilitate tourism.
  - A potential Tribal Advisory Board and installing direct current fast chargers in remote locations on Tribal lands.
- The Office of Indian Energy released Funding Opportunity Announcements that were developed that provide financial support for Tribal Electric Vehicle efforts including the [Clean Energy Development on Tribal Lands](#), [Tribal Colleges and Universities Clean Energy](#), and [Powering Unelectrified Buildings funding opportunities](#).

### Clean Energy

The Office of Indian Energy selected 18 Tribal communities to receive \$34 million in competitive grants to deploy clean energy technologies. The office also made an additional \$50 million available for Tribal clean energy projects and \$15 million to transition Tribal Colleges and Universities to clean energy, adding to the \$120 million invested from 2010-2022.

### Access to Capital

Many program offices across DOE provide Funding Opportunity Announcements or funding programs for Tribes. Not all programs are listed below but an overview of key programs that are still available and those that have already awarded funding to Tribes are highlighted below.

<b><i>Access to Capital</i></b>	<b><i>Responsible Staff</i></b>
<p><b><i>Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grants:</i></b> GDO engaged with Tribes to provide information on their available allocations for the <a href="#">Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grant Program</a>. Outreach efforts included notification letters sent to Tribal Leadership through emails, physical mail, and faxes. One-on-one meetings were offered to those who wished to learn more about Grid Deployment Office funding opportunities. GDO attended 11 Tribal conferences and presented information on the formula grant through 25 different Tribal speaking engagements and two site visits and worked with Sandia National Laboratories and the Denali Commission to provide additional outreach and grant application assistance.</p> <p><b><i>Reducing Barriers:</i></b> GDO identified and reduced several barriers to the formula grant program, including: creating application templates for easier submission; allowing multiple Tribes to apply together through a Tribal consortium to reduce administrative burden; accepting mail and fax submissions for Tribes without reliable internet; providing a list of cost match resources for Tribes; maintaining a dedicated</p>	<p>Grid Deployment Office (GDO)</p>

<b><i>Access to Capital</i></b>	<b><i>Responsible Staff</i></b>
<p>email address specifically for Tribes to increase communication options; and providing flash drives containing application materials to Tribes with limited internet.</p>	
<p><b><i>Advancing Clean Hydrogen Technologies:</i></b> HFTO released a <a href="#">\$750 million Bipartisan Infrastructure Law</a> Funding Opportunity Announcement for research, development, and demonstration efforts to dramatically reduce the cost of clean hydrogen that specifically called out operating in partnership with Tribal energy development organizations, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, Native Hawaiian community-based organizations, or territories or are located in economically distressed areas of the major natural gas-producing regions of the U.S.</p> <p><b><i>H2Matchmaker:</i></b> HFTO developed an online tool, <a href="#">H2Matchmaker</a>, that assists hydrogen suppliers and users with self-identifying collaborators and opportunities to expand development toward realizing <a href="#">regional hydrogen hubs</a>. This tool also included a designated Tribal registration for voluntary self-identification. The goal for the tool was to surface interest and capabilities that would enable project developers and interested parties to find each other and potentially apply as a team for open funding opportunities.</p>	<p>Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology Office (HFTO)</p>
<p><b><i>Decarbonization Loans:</i></b> LPO provides loans and loan guarantees to projects that have demonstrated potential to accelerate the decarbonization of the U.S. economy and works in close collaboration with the Office of Indian Energy in designing its Tribal energy financing products and reaching out to Tribes.</p> <p><b><i>Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program:</i></b> LPO has authority for financing under several programs, which include the <a href="#">Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program</a> which supports Tribal investment in energy-related projects by providing loan guarantees to federally recognized Tribes, including Alaska Native villages or regional or village corporations, or a Tribal Energy Development Organization that is wholly or substantially owned by a federally recognized Indian Tribe or Alaska Native Corporation. The Inflation Reduction Act increased the available loan authority from \$2 billion to \$20 billion and provided \$75 million to carry out the program. In FY 2023, the Loan Programs Office supported 336 Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program applicants in an attempt to engage Tribes and assist with the federal process. LPO conducted 175 pre-application and initial engagements and 161 follow-up and pre-qualification engagements, including in-person meetings, teleconferences, and electronic communications.</p> <p>LPO also offers the following loan and loan guarantee programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturer Assistance</a> program, established in section 136 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, Public Law 110-140, as amended by section 129 of Public Law 110-329.</li> </ul>	<p>Loan Programs Office (LPO)</p>

<b><i>Access to Capital</i></b>	<b><i>Responsible Staff</i></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Carbon Dioxide Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation</a> program established by Section 40304 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act <a href="#">Public Law 117-58</a>.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Title 17 Loan Guarantee Program</a>, established in <a href="#">Title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005</a>, as amended, for projects that “avoid, reduce, utilize, or sequester air pollutants or anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases” and “employ new or significantly improved technologies as compared to commercial technologies in service in the United States.”<sup>x</sup></p>	
<p><b><i>Tribal Application Support:</i></b> CESER’s <a href="#">State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Program</a> developed a resource with the National Conference of State Legislatures that supports Tribes applying for the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s <a href="#">Building Resilience Infrastructure and Communities</a> program pre-disaster hazard mitigation funds with emphasis on energy projects. It aims to help Tribes access these important resources to help build renewable energy resources in their communities with the goal of improving Tribal energy resilience.</p>	Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER)
<p><b><i>Underserved and Indigenous Community Microgrids:</i></b> OE’s <a href="#">Underserved and Indigenous Community Microgrids</a> Funding Opportunity Announcement was released on July 18, 2023. The three funding opportunities are responsive to the challenges and needs facing underserved and Indigenous communities in remote and island regions. Topics included coordination on research and development and local workforce development. An estimated number of 10-12 awards are anticipated for \$14.7M total of DOE funding. Tribal Nations are eligible to apply to the opportunity. The outcomes of these awarded projects are expected to enhance the metrics of resilience, decarbonization, and social equity for communities, through implementing replicable microgrid solutions with improved affordability.</p>	Office of Electricity (OE)
<p><b><i>Buildings Upgrade Prize:</i></b> EERE’s <a href="#">Buildings Upgrade Prize</a> is a capacity-building prize focused on reducing greenhouse gas emissions in existing buildings through energy efficiency and efficient electrification. In Phase 1 application support was offered to encourage new and under-resourced applicants to participate. Fifty teams were awarded \$5,000 and 10 hours of technical assistance to support their concept plan development in Phase 1. Two Tribes, Lac Du Flambeau-Chippewa Housing Authority in Wisconsin and Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission in Oregon were awarded application support prizes.</p>	Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE)
<p><b><i>Current Funding Opportunities:</i></b> IE maintains a list of all currently available funding opportunities to Tribes from their office on their <a href="#">website</a>.</p>	Office of Indian Energy (IE)

<p><b><i>Tribal Home Electrification and Appliance Energy Rebates:</i></b> The Office of Policy collaborated with the State and Community Energy Program on outreach and engagement with Tribes, Tribal housing staff, and relevant partners to determine the allocation formula for the <a href="#">Tribal Home Electrification and Appliance Energy Rebates Programs</a>. These programs will provide up to \$14,000 per eligible Tribal household for energy efficiency and electrification home upgrades. The Office of Policy and the State and Community Energy Program met one-on-one with several housing staff and partners to better gain insight into the potential benefits and barriers in the implementation of an electrification rebate program by Tribes.</p>	<p>Office of Policy (OP)</p>
<p><b><i>Addressing Challenges for Wind Development:</i></b> WETO <a href="#">selected 15 projects</a> totaling \$27 million to address key deployment challenges for offshore, land-based, and distributed wind systems. The Yurok Tribe was awarded \$500,000 to support their project to build the capacity of the tribe to foster and engage community participation in floating offshore wind development off the coast of California. The Tribe will conduct research and leverage Traditional Ecological Knowledge to understand the impacts of offshore wind planning, development, construction, and operations on the local community.</p>	<p>Wind Energy Technologies Office (WETO)</p>

# Appendix

## Glossary of Acronyms

ARPA – Archeological Resources Protection Act  
BIA – Bureau of Indian Affairs  
BTO – Buildings Technology Office  
CESER – Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response  
DOE – U. S. Department of Energy  
DRUM ——— Defense-Related Uranium Mines  
EERE – Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy  
EM – Office of Environmental Management  
EHSS – Office of Environment, Health, Safety and Security  
EV – Electric Vehicle  
FECM – Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management  
FL/OTL – Financial Assistance Letter/Other Transaction Letter  
GDO – Grid Deployment Office  
GTO – Geothermal Technologies Office  
ICEIWG – Indian Country Energy Infrastructure Working Group  
LM – Office of Legacy Management  
LPO – Loan Programs Office  
MESC – Office of Manufacturing and Supply Chains  
MOU – Memorandum of Understanding  
NAGPRA – Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act  
NE – Office of Nuclear Energy  
NEPA – National Environmental Policy Act  
NETWG – Nuclear Energy Tribal Working Group  
NHPA – National Historic Preservation Act  
OCED – Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations  
OE – Office of Electricity  
OP – Office of Policy  
OTT – Office of Technology Transitions  
SC – Office of Science  
STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics  
STGWG – State and Tribal Government Working Group  
TESC – Tribal Energy Steering Committee  
Tribal Energy Infrastructure COP – Tribal Energy Infrastructure Deployment Community of Practice  
TRMTC – Tribal Radioactive Materials Transportation Committee  
WAPA – Western Area Power Administration  
WPTO – Water Power Technologies Office

## Definitions

**Indian Nation.** Any American Indian or Alaska Native Tribe, Band, Nation, Pueblo or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village [as defined or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), which is acknowledged by the federal government to constitute a Tribe with a Nation-to-Nation relationship with the United States and eligible for the programs, services, and other relationships established by the United States for Indigenous peoples because of their status as American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes, Bands, Nations, Pueblos, or communities.

**American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal Government.** The recognized Government of an Indian nation and any affiliated or component band Government of such nation that has been determined eligible for specific services by Congress or officially recognized pursuant to 25 CFR Part 83, in the most recent Bureau of Indian Affairs Federal Register Notice, “Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs.” See Federal Register / Vol. 72, No. 55 / Thursday, March 22, 2007.

**Trust Responsibility.** Promotion and protection of Tribal treaty rights, federally recognized reserved rights, and other federally recognized interests of the beneficiary American Indian and Alaska Native nations; determining, documenting, notifying, and interacting with Tribal Governments with regard to the impact of Departmental programs, policies, and regulations to protect American Indian and Alaska Native traditional and cultural lifeways, natural resources, treaty and other federally recognized and reserved rights.

**Consultation.** Prior to taking any action with potential impact upon American Indian and Alaska Native nations, providing for mutually agreed protocols for timely communication, coordination, cooperation, and collaboration to determine the impact on traditional and cultural lifeways, natural resources, treaty and other federally reserved rights involving appropriate Tribal officials and representatives throughout the decision-making process, including final decision-making and action implementation as allowed by law, consistent with a Government to Government relationship.

**Cultural Resources.** This includes but is not limited to “historic properties” as defined in the National Historic Preservation Act, “archaeological resource” as defined in the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, and “cultural items” as defined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

**Treaty and Trust Resources and Resource Interests.** Natural and other resources specified and implicit in treaties, statutes, and agreements, or lands or other resources held in trust by the United States for the benefit of Tribes or individual Indian beneficiaries, including land, water, timber, fish, plants, animals, and minerals. In many instances, Indian nations retain hunting, fishing, and gathering rights, and access to these areas and resources on lands or waters that are outside of Tribally owned lands.



## References

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- <sup>i</sup> [Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships | The White House](#)
- <sup>ii</sup> [DOE Order 144.1: Department of Energy American Indian Tribal Government Interactions and Policy \(2009\)](#)
- <sup>iii</sup> [Federal Register: Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments](#)
- <sup>iv</sup> [Consultation Dept of Energy Tribal Gov Policy.PDF \(ncai.org\)](#)
- <sup>v</sup> [Federal Rapid Response Team to Support Four Corners Energy Communities - I-WEST \(iwest.org\)](#)
- <sup>vi</sup> [Executive Order No. 13007: Indian Sacred Sites | Advisory Council on Historic Preservation \(achp.gov\)](#)
- <sup>vii</sup> [Federal Agencies Commit to Stronger Collaboration With Tribes | Department of Energy](#)
- <sup>viii</sup> [111521-OSTP-CEQ-ITEK-Memo.pdf \(whitehouse.gov\)](#)
- <sup>ix</sup> [U.S. Department of Energy Leads Interagency Agreement with the Hopi Tribe and the Navajo Nation to Advance an Equitable Clean Energy Transition | Department of Energy](#)
- <sup>x</sup> [ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE REINVESTMENT | Department of Energy](#)