

An aerial photograph of the National Laboratory of the Rockies campus. The image shows several large, modern buildings with blue roofs and brick accents, interspersed with green lawns and parking areas. In the background, there are rolling green hills and a range of mountains under a clear blue sky. A semi-transparent blue box is overlaid on the top left, and another larger blue box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the main title and date.

NATIONAL  
LABORATORY  
OF THE ROCKIES

# Plugging In: Energizing State- Tribal Energy Collaboration

February 2, 2026

# National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR)

We want to express our gratitude and acknowledge that the land our main campus is on is the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Arapaho, Cheyenne, and Ute peoples. And our Alaska Campus is the traditional and ancestral homelands of Athabascan.

We recognize and pay respect to the Indigenous peoples from our past, present, and future, and we are grateful to those who have been and continue to be stewards of this land.



# Welcome from NLR



Richard Davidson  
Government Relations Liaison

# Agenda – Day 1

- 1** Welcome and Introductions
- 2** Intro to Tribal Sovereignty and Tribal Governance
- 3** State Role in Tribal Legal Framework
- 4** Wrap Up for the Day

# Agenda – Day 2

- 1 Review Tribal Sovereignty Video**

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- 2 Tribal-State Relationships: Examples from the Midwest**

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- 3 Government to Government Best Practices**

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- 4 Case Study Panel Discussion**

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- 5 Next Steps and Resources**

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- 6 Wrap up**

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# Welcome



Karlynn Cory, PI



Allison Smith,  
Project Manager



Emma Berkow,  
Researcher



Milana Pakes,  
Researcher

*Project funded by the Department of Energy (DOE)'s Office of Policy,  
in coordination with the DOE's Office of Indian Energy*

# Pilar Thomas (Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona)



*Here virtually for Day 1*

Retired from law practice

Indian energy attorney

Professor of Practice University of Arizona,  
James E. Rogers College of Law

# NLR at a Glance

## 3,717 Workforce, including:

- 2,906 regular/limited term
- 454 contingent workers
- 193 postdoctoral researchers
- 100 graduate student interns
- 64 undergraduate student interns

—as of 10/1/2025

## World-class research expertise in:

- Energy Systems Integration
- Transportation and Fuels
- Buildings and Industry

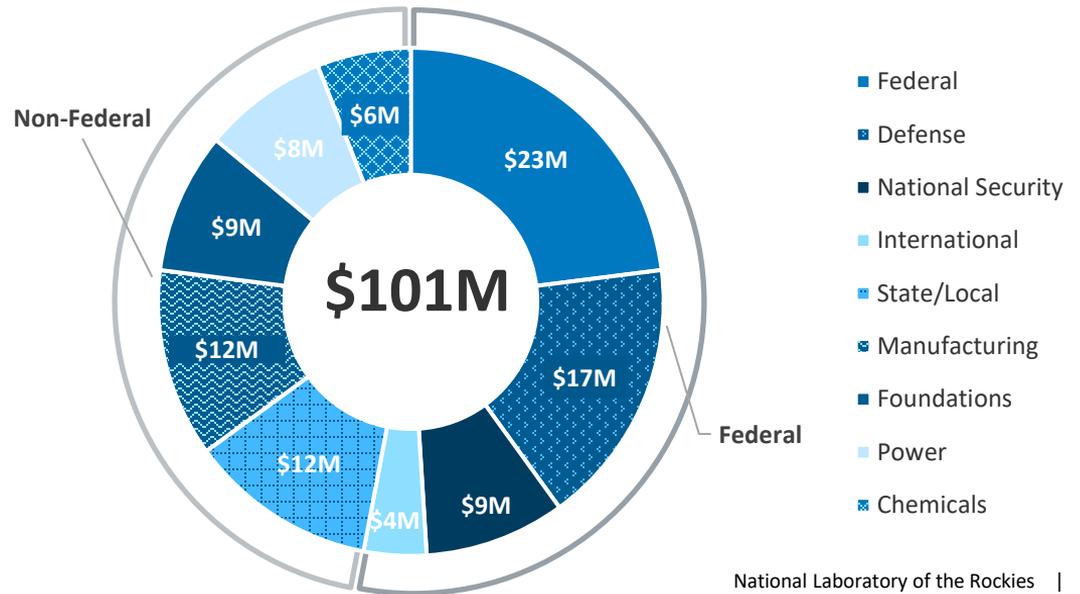
## Partnerships with:

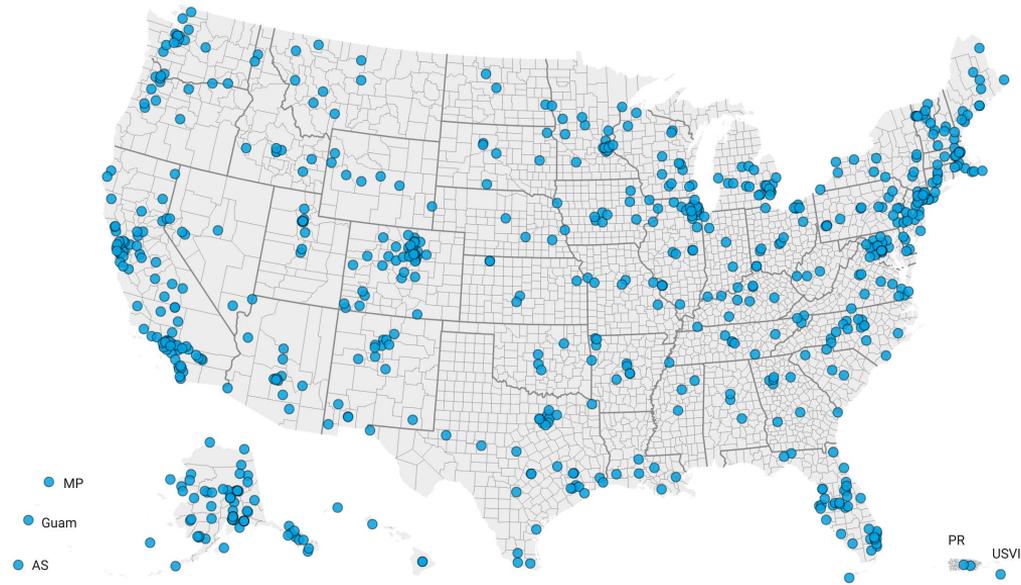
- Industry
- Academia
- Government

**4 Campuses** operate as living laboratories



## FY 2025 Partner Bookings by Sector





NLR has partnered/supported **more than 3,000** communities, tribes, jurisdictions, utilities, and businesses to achieve their **energy goals** through planning, technical assistance, capacity building, workforce development, and more.



## State-Tribal Collaboration Project Goals

- Identify and answer key state questions about Tribes, Tribal energy support, and Tribal energy issues.
- Identify ways for state governments and Tribes to successfully collaborate on Tribal self-determined energy goals
- Publish 6 fact sheets, hold 5 webinars, and conduct 2 in-person meetings

# Federally-Recognized Tribal Entities

- Until recently, there were 574 federally recognized Tribal entities as published in the [Federal Register](#).
- Of those, 229 are in Alaska and 109 are in California

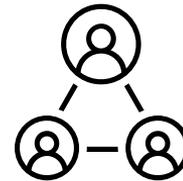
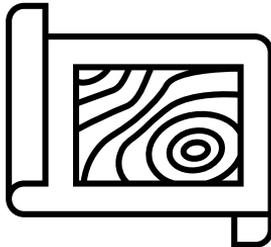


**Lumbee Tribe  
of North Carolina  
Becomes  
575<sup>th</sup> Federally  
Recognized Tribe**



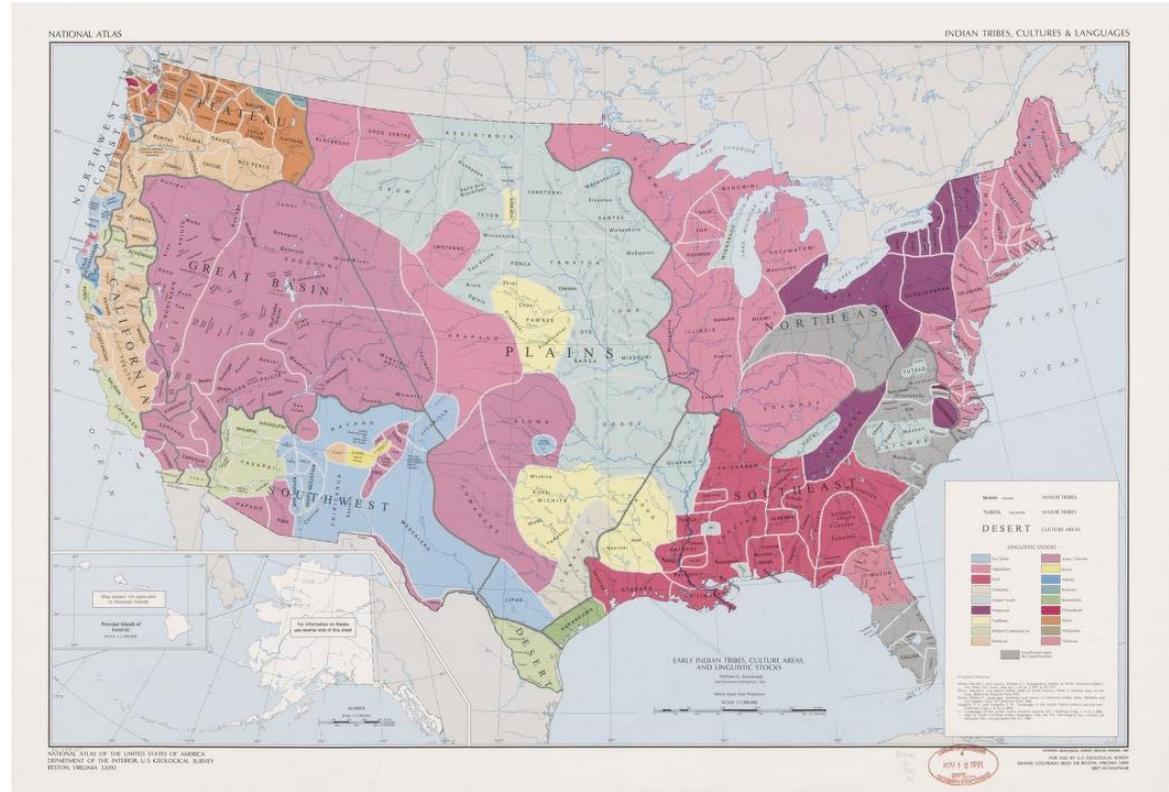
# What is Tribal Sovereignty?

***Sovereignty is the right to govern land, resources, and people***



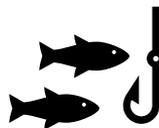
# Why are Tribes Sovereign?

- Native American Indian Tribes existed as entities before the formation of the U.S. government.
- They possess nationhood status and *retain* powers of self-government.
- Their borders also were more fluid than that of the states, as shown



# How Sovereignty is Upheld

- The Constitution, laws, cases, and treaties establishes the “inherent sovereignty” of Tribes and specifies tribal rights
- Treaty rights include rights to use ancestral land (a Tribe’s historic territory) for cultural activities even if it’s not federally-designated “Tribal land”
- Most famous is the Marshall Trilogy of Supreme Court cases:
  - Johnson v. McIntosh (1823) Legal obligation of the federal government to protect Indian lands
  - Cherokee Nation v. Georgia (1831) Established the doctrine of federal trust responsibility
  - Worcester v. Georgia (1832) Established that the laws of the state have no force in Indian lands



# "Domestic Dependent Nations"

- **Cherokee Nation v. Georgia (1831)** established that Tribes are domestic dependent nations
- This recognizes Tribes as distinct political communities with certain rights to self-governance, yet still subject to federal oversight



# Sovereign Rights

- Form their own government
- Make and enforce laws, both civil and criminal
- Control all aspects of commerce within Tribal trust land, including imposing taxes
- Determine membership
- Exclude people from Tribal lands
- Invoke eminent domain on Tribal lands
- Invoke sovereign immunity

**States are therefore not allowed to impose state taxes on tribal entities**

**Neither States nor the federal government are allowed to impose eminent domain on tribal lands, without Tribal consultation and Bureau of Indian Affairs approval**

# Nation-to-Nation Relationship

- States often do not have jurisdiction on Tribal lands or have only concurrent jurisdiction as Tribes are not subdivisions of states.
- State laws generally do not apply to Tribes unless explicitly authorized by Congress.

***Tribes are not subdivisions of the State.  
They are sovereign nations.***

# Common Energy Issues for Tribal Nations

- “The Office of Indian Energy would conservatively estimate there are approximately 17,000 homes or 54,400 people without access to electricity across Indian Country.” (*Tribal Electricity Access and Reliability, Report to Congress, August 2023*)

- Often end of the line communities
- May be served by multiple utilities (since often at the junction of utility territories)
- Checkerboard nature of Tribal lands
- Highest rates of unelectrified homes
- Lack of infrastructure investment
- High energy costs for Tribal members and Tribal governments



# Catherine Zingg (Ho-Chunk Nation)



Tribal Policy Director  
Tribal Energy Alternatives/GRID Alternatives



**TRIBAL ENERGY  
ALTERNATIVES**  
— A GRID AFFILIATE —

***State Role in Tribal Legal Frameworks: Equity vs.  
Sovereignty and Government-to-Government Relations***

*Presented by Catherine Zingg (Ho-Chunk Nation)*

*February 2, 2026*

# GRID Alternatives Mission



GRID Alternatives envisions a rapid, equitable transition to a world powered by renewable energy that benefits everyone.

Our Mission is to build community-powered solutions to advance economic and environmental justice through renewable energy.



Systems Installed

**25,025**



kW Installed

**106,232**



Lifetime Savings

**\$853,011,800**



Tons of Greenhouse Gas

Emissions Prevented

**2,343,493**



Participants Trained

**53,627**



# Tribal Energy Alternatives

## *Our Vision and Mission*

Our vision is a balanced transition to energy sovereignty for Tribal Nations grounded in traditional values for future generations.

Our mission is to support Tribal Nations build community-powered solutions to advance economic and environmental justice through sustainable energy



# Tribal Energy Alternatives IMPACTS (TO DATE)

**\$19 million**

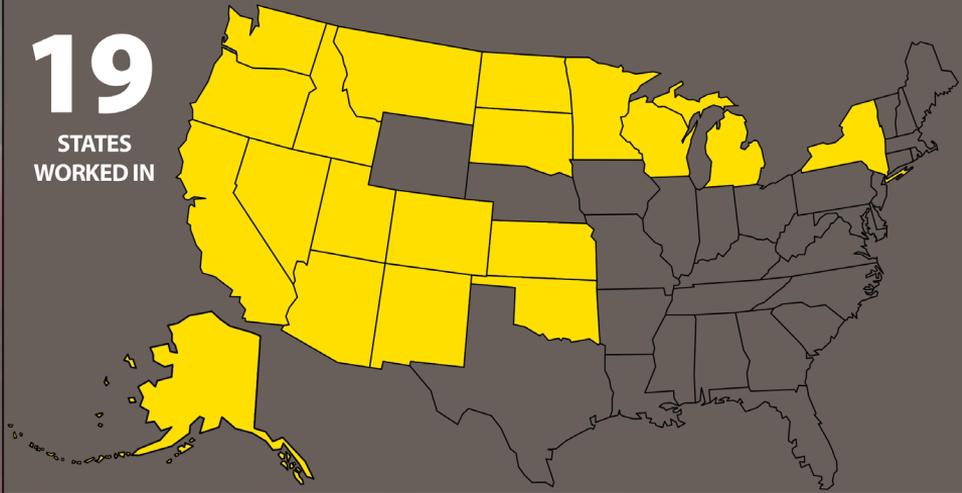
FUNDING  
AWARDED  
TO TRIBAL  
PARTNERS

**8+**

MEGAWATTS  
SOLAR FOR  
TRIBAL NATIONS

**19**

STATES  
WORKED IN



**\$44 million**

LIFETIME ENERGY SAVINGS



**75+**

TRIBAL PARTNERS







# Our Policy Priorities

## 2025-2026

### Expand Tribal access to distributed clean energy solutions.

*Support policies that enable Tribes to deploy solar and storage projects that reduce electricity costs, improve grid resilience, and advance long-term energy self-determination for Tribal members.*



### Establish Tribal-specific set-asides in state clean energy programs and appropriations.

*Create dedicated, flexible funding streams within state programs to ensure Tribes can fully participate in climate and renewable energy initiatives without competing against non-Tribal entities for limited resources.*



### Strengthen Tribal participation in regulatory and rulemaking processes.

*Ensure Tribes have a formal role in proceedings related to resource protection, utility regulation, and distributed energy resources. This includes consultation requirements, access to technical support, and mechanisms that incorporate Tribal priorities into final decisions.*



# Why Federal Policy Is Not Enough— Non-Federal Actors as De Facto Energy Policymakers

Federal dollars will stall without state-aligned sovereignty frameworks:

- IRA/IIJA was merely opportunity
- A reminder that energy issues are often state-controlled (interconnection, siting, and markets)
- States set RPS rules, GHG emission standards, clean energy standards, including DER requirements
- Municipalities control zoning and land-use
- Co-ops control distribution infrastructure across Indian Country and net-metering rates



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# A Trend Toward Equity

What we are seeing across states:

- State energy offices (SEOs) increasingly rely on equity frameworks to engage Tribal Nations in energy policy and shape program design
- Equity dockets, justice metrics, and disadvantaged community definitions are becoming default engagement tools.
- While equity frameworks are powerful— they are not designed for sovereign governments.
- And when applied without adaptation, they can flatten Tribal governments into “communities” or “disadvantaged communities.”



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# Why Tribal Frameworks Matter

Tribal Nations are sovereign governments, and only the federal government sets rules for Tribes that even Tribes can accept or reject. **It is a separate layer of authority. In short, Tribes are not just equity populations.**

- Equity frameworks and mandates focus on need and outcomes
- Tribal frameworks focus on authority, governance, and jurisdiction.
- Equity dockets can advance resources but cannot replace government-to-government engagement.
- This is where the tension lies: equity mandates focus on need not authority.
- Tribal decision-making timelines and processes differ from state and community models.
- Equity dockets risk diluting Tribal decision-making authority.



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# Increasing Tribal Access to DERS : The Policy Levers States Control

- Interconnection standards tailored for Tribal energy projects
- Fast-tracked DER review for Tribal projects
- Tribal-specific tariffs or pilot programs
- Tribal energy carveouts in RPS or clean energy standards
- State green banks with Tribal eligibility
- Recognition of Tribal jurisdiction in siting processes
- Early engagement requirements before permits are issued with Tribal consultation logs



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# Self-Generation Incentive Program (SGIP): Program Design Lessons from California

A brief history – a \$280M fund established at the California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) to support distributed energy resources + storage solutions, and over time, it has evolved to include resilience, equity, and critical facilities.

## Where Tribal allocations changed the design

- Explicit Tribal eligibility and recognition of Tribal ownership
- Dedicated Tribal funding goals separate from general equity categories
- Acknowledgement that Tribes should not compete directly with other equity applicants
- An additional need for project extensions beyond the three authorized – emphasizing timeline tensions and potential for cost shifts for Tribes with NBT transition.
- Tribal projects require Tribal governance timelines.

**Why SGIP Advocacy matters:** The program demonstrates how ongoing design choices can expand access for Tribes, normalize Tribal-specific pathways, acknowledge that Tribes need consistency, and hopefully influence other state programs



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# Equity Docket in Colorado: Opportunity & Risk

- Colorado PUC Proceeding No. 22M-0171ALL (2025) opened to solicit public comment on what the Commission should define and implement equity in its regulation of utilities.
- The opportunity is to shape how the PUC deals with energy justice, create space to address past inequities, and invest in communities that need it most.
- Within this docket, there is a potential platform to include Tribes loosely in equity definitions and statewide equity conversations.
- The Risk: Tribes have been grouped in the disproportionately impacted communities (“DICs”) definitions where heightened equity procedures should apply.
- Development of an Equity Advisory Structure where Tribal representatives can potentially be a part of if our recommendations are adopted.
- In respect to a previous rulemaking 24R-0306E regarding significant sites, there will be a promised future rulemaking to carefully design Tribal energy needs within the state.
- It is still unclear how this initial equity docket will meaningfully engage Tribal Nations.



# SCENARIO EXERCISE—

**Audience Role:** Tribal Affairs Division / Tribal Advocates

**Context:** State-Level Solar Rebate Program

**The Scene:** You are a Tribal Affairs official working directly with Tribal governments in your state. Your state has a well-funded solar rebate program designed to accelerate distributed solar adoption. Despite other communities deeply participating, Tribal participation remains low. The Governor's office has asked for recommendations.

## **The Facts:**

- Rebate program is administered by the SEO
- Program design had no Tribal co-design
- First-come, first-served funding
- Participation requires utility interconnection approval before rebate reservation, proof of site control, state-approved installers, a waiver of sovereign immunity and state wage requirements
- This is an equity initiative

## **Questions for each Small Group:**

- Where does the state override Tribal authority?
- Which requirements create barriers unique to Tribes?
- What risks does participation pose to Tribal governments?
- What are recommendations to the Governor? Outreach cannot be one of them.

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# Sovereignty is the Strategy

States can either block or enable broad participation across programs when:

- Equity frameworks adapt and have parallel tracks for Tribal sovereignty frameworks.
- When sovereignty frameworks are tied to outcomes, agencies have more flexibility to design programs that actually work. And the opposite is true.
- Tribes should never have to qualify as disadvantaged to be engaged as governments.
- Tribal-state partnership is essential infrastructure.

*“Equity and Tribal sovereignty must operate in parallel with each other; both are needed.”*





# TRIBAL ENERGY ALTERNATIVES

— A GRID AFFILIATE —

BY NATIVES **FOR NATIVES**



[czingg@tribalalternatives.org](mailto:czingg@tribalalternatives.org)



[www.tribalalternatives.org](http://www.tribalalternatives.org)

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NATIONAL  
LABORATORY  
OF THE ROCKIES

# Plugging In: Energizing State- Tribal Collaboration

February 3, 2026

# Agenda – Day 2

- 1 Review Tribal Sovereignty Video**

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- 2 Tribal-State Relationships: Examples from the Midwest**

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- 3 Government to Government Best Practices**

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- 4 Case Study Panel Discussion**

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- 5 Next Steps and Resources**

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- 6 Wrap up**

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# National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR)

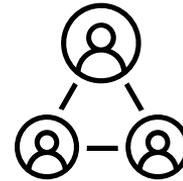
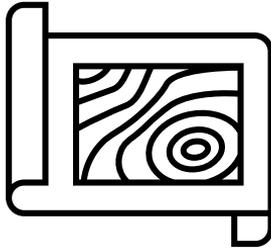
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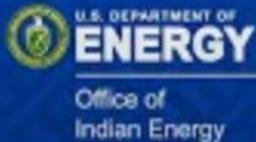


# What is Tribal Sovereignty?

***Sovereignty is the right to govern land, resources, and people***



*"What does energy sovereignty mean to you?"*



**Bernadette Cuthair**  
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe

# What does this mean for energy?

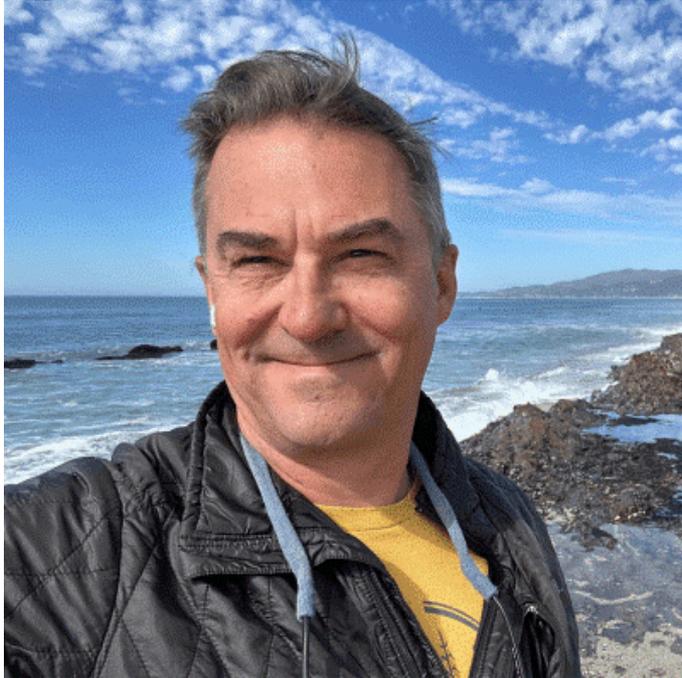
- Inherent sovereignty allows Tribes to regulate economic activity on Tribal lands, including the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity.
- Tribes can form their own Tribal Utility Authority
  - Can assert jurisdiction over energy development, rate-setting, and community energy access on Tribal land.
  - May negotiate directly with the utility and regulate activities without involvement of the state public service commission
- Tribes can acquire or form their own utility to provide utility services on the reservation
  - May generate and sell power on the wholesale market

# Recognizing Tribal Sovereignty

- Recognizing Tribal regulatory authority over energy, data, and infrastructure is essential to achieving energy sovereignty, resilience, and highlighting Tribal capacity and vision.
- Recognizing Tribal sovereignty can help address regulatory gaps, when Tribes need to be invited to the conversation, and issues of energy security.



# Andrew Bessler



Director of Policy and Advocacy  
Midwest Tribal Energy Resource  
Association (MTERA)

# Plugging In: Energizing State-Tribal Energy Collaboration

February 2, 2026

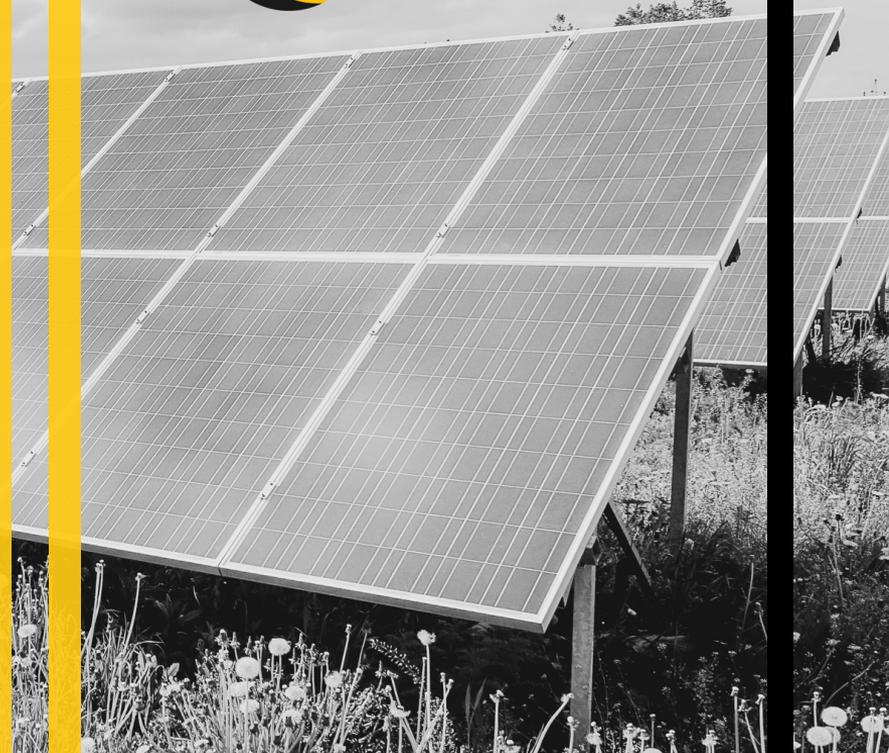
## PRESENTED BY:

Andy Bessler

MTERA Director of Policy & Advocacy



**MTERA**  
Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association, Inc.



# Plugging In:

## Today's MTERA's Presentation

### Agenda

- Introduction and Overview of MTERA
- Type of Lands within Indian Country
- Energy Siting Issues/Barriers
- MTERA's role in Tribal/State Relations
- Recommendations and Conclusions

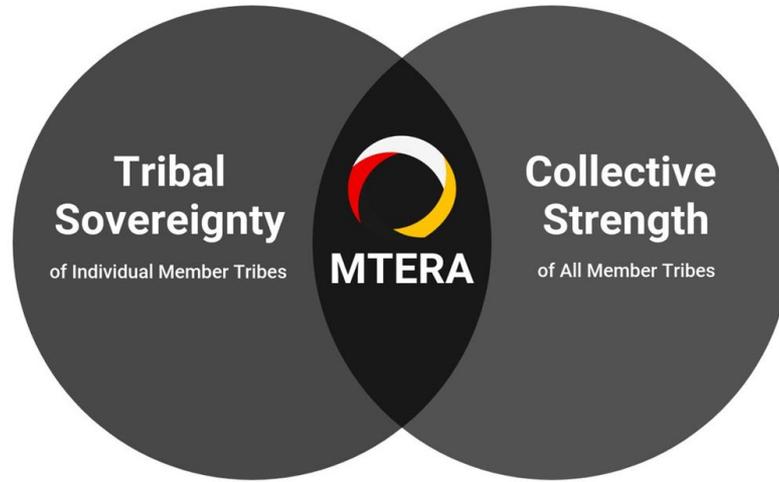
# Plugging In: Today's MTERA's Presentation



Minnesota Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan speaks during the Tribal Flag Plaza flag-raising ceremony in St. Paul on September 5, 2025.

Photo credit: Tim Evans, MPR News

# We Seek to Unlock the Benefits of Both



## About Us

The Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association (MTERA) is a non-profit intertribal organization founded in 2014 by Midwest Tribes to address energy challenges impacting Tribal lands.

## MTERA'S Mission

To empower Midwest Tribes to manage their energy resources through collective action.

## MTERA Team



**Daniel Wiggins Jr.**

Executive Director



**Leslie McLove**

Chief Operations Officer



**Andy Bessler**

Director of Policy and Advocacy



**Samantha Trvalik**

Director of Tribal Energy Workforce  
Development



**David Waybenais**

Tribal Energy Program Manager

Check out the 2025 Annual Report by MTERA published this month!



# Overview of MTERA



- **Members: Tribes from EPA Region 5**
- **2014: MTERA started with 5 members**
- **2025: Now grown to 33 members**
- **Engaged with all 35 Tribes**
- **Goal: Include all 35 Tribes in Region 5**

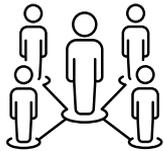


- **Governed by Tribal Energy Champions (TECs) appointed by their respective Tribal Councils through Tribal Resolution**
- **TECs govern the MTERA organization and are key to effectively deploying MTERA resources**
- **Engaged regionally with key energy stakeholders**
- **Engaged nationally with other intertribal organizations**

# MTERA'S CAPACITY BUILDING GOALS

## GOAL

Build internal capacity to support future energy initiatives for federally recognized Tribes in the Midwest (MN, WI, and MI)



## GOAL

Identify a Tribal Energy Champion to lead energy-related activities for their Tribe and serve on the MTERA Board for all 35 Tribes



## GOAL

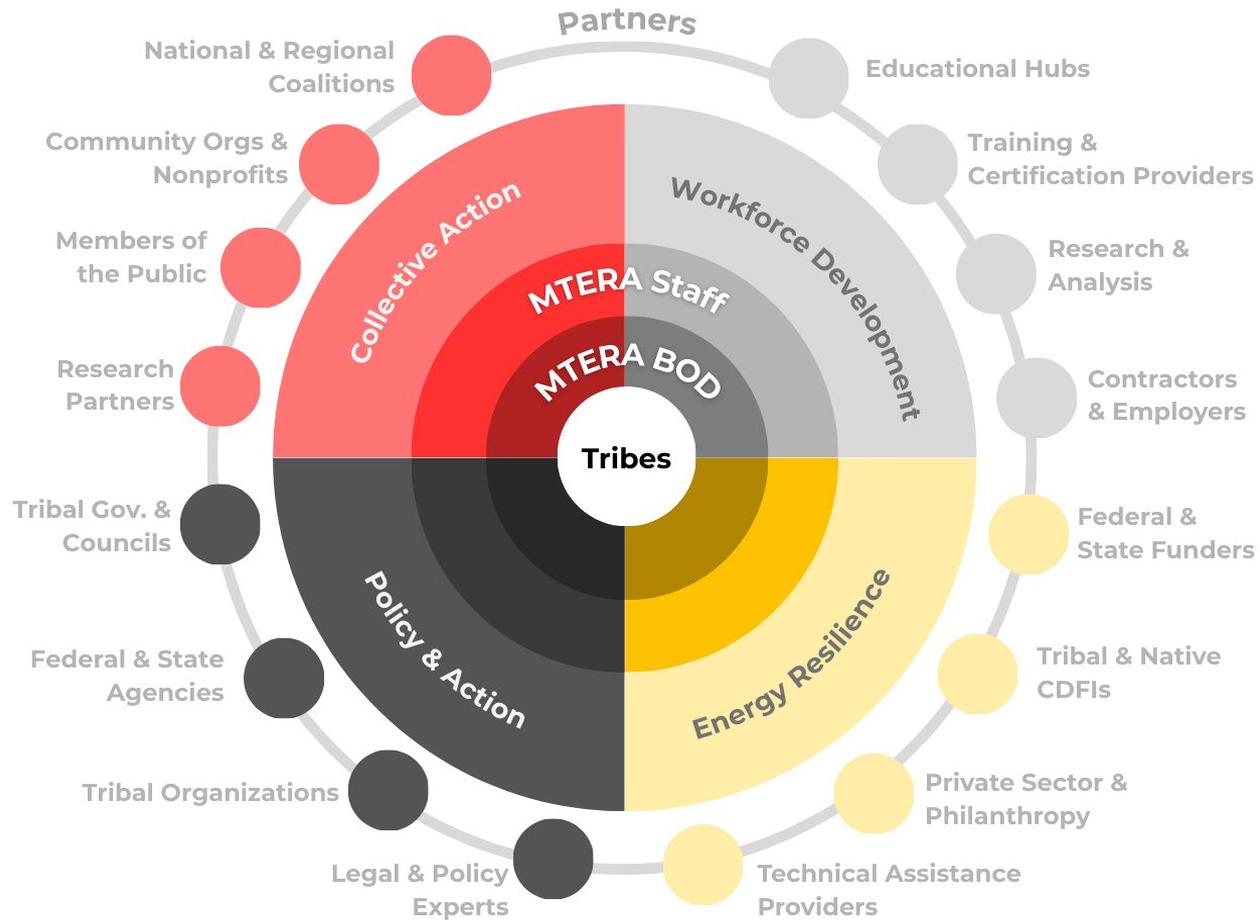
Provide energy leadership training and workforce development training for all Tribal Energy Champions



## GOAL

Identify funding that could be used for implementing energy efficiency measures or generation projects.





# Lands within Indian Country

Type of Land	Owner	Details
<b>Federal Indian Reservations</b>	<b>Federal Government (BIA) held in trust for Tribes</b>	Reserved for Tribes through treaties, acts of Congress, or executive orders. Can include different types of lands listed below.
<b>Trust Lands</b>	<b>Federal Government (BIA) held in trust for Tribes</b>	Owned by the federal government but held in trust for the benefit of a Tribe (Tribal trust land) or individual Tribal members
<b>Restricted Fee Lands</b>	<b>Tribe and/or Tribal member</b>	Restrictions against alienation (sale or transfer) or encumbrance (liens, leases, rights-of-way) that require federal approval
<b>Fee (Fee Simple) Lands</b>	<b>Tribal Member or entities (including Tribes)</b>	freely bought and sold without federal approval. Within reservations, this is often termed "fee land" or "fee simple" land
<b>Allotted Lands</b>	<b>Tribal Member</b>	A type of trust or restricted fee land owned by individual Tribal members, rather than the Tribe as a whole, often resulting from the General Allotment Act of 1887.

# Lands within Indian Country

Type of Land	Owner	Details
<b>Dependent Indian Communities</b>	<b>Federal Government (BIA)</b>	Lands formally designated for use by Indians that are under federal supervision. (e.g., Santa Fe Indian School)
<b>Alaska Native Corporation Lands</b>	<b>Native Corporations owned by Alaskan Native Tribes</b>	Lands established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).
<b>State-Recognized Reservations</b>	<b>State Government</b>	Lands held in trust by a state for a Tribe, often subject to state, rather than federal, law
<b>Ceded Lands</b>	<b>Mixed: State/Federal Land Management Agencies</b>	Lands ceded by Tribal Nations through treaties, often in exchange for compensation, reservation land, or specific retained rights like fishing and hunting that were the results of the Treaties of 1837, 1842, and 1854 with Ojibwe Nations.
<b>Surface and Mineral Rights</b>	<b>Depends</b>	Lands also have different rights ascribed such as surface rights, sub-surface mineral rights and water rights that may or may not be held by Tribes.

Source: Congressional Research Service Bulletin, "[Tribal Lands: An Overview](#)," 2021

# Federal Trust Responsibility

- “Tribes have a unique relationship with the federal government. One aspect of this special relationship is the doctrine of the *federal trust responsibility*: a legal obligation under which the United States, through treaties, acts of Congress, and court decisions, ‘has charged itself with moral obligations of the highest responsibility and trust’ toward Indian Tribes, and this responsibility can include certain fiduciary obligations on the part of the United States.”
- “The federal trust responsibility plays a significant role in the federal government's management of Tribal lands and natural resources. For example, the BIA is the lead agency responsible for the administration and management of 55 million surface acres and 59 million acres of subsurface mineral estates held in trust by the United States for Indian tribes and individual tribal members.”
- The Federal government defines Tribes as "domestic dependent nations" that exercise "inherent sovereign authority."<sup>8</sup>
- According to the BIA, "in several cases discussing the trust responsibility, the Supreme Court has used language suggesting that it entails legal duties, moral obligations, and the fulfillment of understandings and expectations that have arisen over the entire course of the relationship between the United States and Indian tribes."<sup>10</sup>
- The federal trust responsibility can include a duty on the part of the United States to protect treaty rights, lands, assets, and resources on behalf of tribes and tribal members.<sup>11</sup>

# Top Energy Siting Issues

## Identified by Tribes\*

- **Violation of Sovereign Rights & Self-Determination:** Projects often move forward without the free, prior, and informed consent of Tribal governments, treating them as stakeholders rather than sovereign nations.
- **Destruction of Sacred Sites and Cultural Resources:** Siting infrastructure on or near historically significant, spiritually sensitive, or archaeological sites.
- **Inadequate or “Check the Box” Consultation:** Consultations that occur after key project decisions (location, footprint) are made, rather than early in the planning process, rendering input meaningless.
- **Water Rights and Contamination Risks:** Concerns over the depletion of water resources for solar/geothermal cooling or contamination from mining/pipelines, particularly for communities reliant on limited aquifers.
- **Lack of Economic Benefits:** Projects built on or near Tribal land that transmit power to distant cities, while the surrounding tribal community lacks electricity access or pays higher-than-average utility rates.

\* Collected from several reports including, [\*“Increasing Tribal Renewable Energy, 2025”\*](#) and [\*“Addressing Regulatory Challenges to Tribal Solar Deployment, 2024”\*](#)

# Top Energy Siting Issues Identified by Tribes

- **"Checkerboard" Land Tenure Complications:** Complex, fragmented land ownership within reservation boundaries makes it difficult to secure consistent rights-of-way, hindering development.
- **Environmental Injustice & Legacy Pollution:** Fear that new green energy projects will simply mirror the exploitative, polluting, or extractive legacy of previous fossil fuel/mining projects.
- **Grid Interconnection and Transmission Barriers:** Limited, outdated, or nonexistent electrical infrastructure on reservation land, combined with high costs for grid upgrades, prevents projects from connecting to the market.
- **Disruption of Traditional Foodways and Ecological Systems:** Siting that displaces traditional hunting, gathering, or fishing areas.
- **Lack of Regulatory Capacity and Technical Data:** Limited financial and personnel resources within Tribes to review, model, or negotiate complex, large-scale projects, leaving them at a disadvantage against corporate developers.

# MTERA's Role in Tribal / State Relationships

- **MTERA submits comments and produce policy tool kits for Tribes to engage on state-level issues**
  - Public comment submitted in Upper Sioux Community's complaint at the MN PUC.
  - Michigan IRP Parameters Toolkit published in November 2025.
  - Tribal Energy Paths: Strategic Planning, Code Development, and Pathway Documents in 2026.
- **MTERA is coordinating Tribal Coalitions within each State:**
  - TACE in MN
  - TECWI in WI
  - Working with ITCM to stand up a Michigan Coalition.
- **The MTERA Coalition:** Provides a platform for States to collaborate with other States and Tribes across multiple energy discussions.

# MTERA's First Tribal Policy Toolkit

- MTERA's first policy tool kit was shared with MI Tribes to submit comments to MI PSC on their Integrated Resource Planning Parameters for Investor-Owned Utilities
- MTERA submitted a letter along with two MI Tribes that submitted a letter using MTERA's template including the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community and Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians.
- MI PSC integrated some of MTERA's recommendations on Tribal consultation within Integrated Resource Planning.
- MTERA continues with regular and ongoing discussion to engage with MI PSC through their Tribal Liaison.

## MTERA TEMPLATE COMMENT LETTER

**NOTE: MTERA recommends that you begin your comment letter with introductory remarks regarding the signatory's position within the Tribe. The more individualized the letter, the greater its potential impact. Feel free to add your own arguments or specific stories that will make this educational for the MI PSC.**

**Be sure to replace the highlighted text with your own text.**

**The comment deadline is October 31, 2025. Your comment letter can be submitted electronically to [LARA-MPSC-Edockets@michigan.gov](mailto:LARA-MPSC-Edockets@michigan.gov)**

**RE: Case No. U-21867 — Comments on Draft IRP/MIRPP/Clean Energy Plan Filing Requirements**

October 31, 2025

Michigan Public Service Commission

P.O. Box 30221

Lansing, MI 48909

Email: [LARA-MPSC-Edockets@michigan.gov](mailto:LARA-MPSC-Edockets@michigan.gov)

To the Commission:

On behalf of the [Tribe name], we submit the following comments on the draft Michigan Integrated Resource Planning Parameters (MIRPP) and Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) filing requirements in Case No. U-21867.

# Upper Sioux Community's Complaint to the MN PUC

- The Upper Sioux Community (USC) is a Federally Recognized Tribe in MN serviced by several utilities including Minnesota Valley (MV), a rural electric co-op not regulated by the MN PUC.
- USC filed a complaint after MV threatened to shut off power due to an interconnection dispute.
- When the PUC took USC's complaint into a public docket, MTERA communicated regularly with USC staff, other MN Tribes and NOG partners to determine the best path forward.



Phone: 715.979.9161  
Email: [executive.director@mtera.org](mailto:executive.director@mtera.org)  
Website: [www.mtera.org](http://www.mtera.org)

June 9, 2025

Will Seuffert  
Executive Secretary  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

**Re: Docket Number E123/C-25-219. In the Matter of a Formal Complaint by the Upper Sioux Community Against Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light & Power Assn.**

Submitted via email to: [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us)

Dear Mr. Seuffert,

Bozho' (Hello) and greetings from the Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association (MTERA). MTERA is an Inter-Tribal Consortia and a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that serves the 35 Tribes in the Midwest, including the 11 Tribal Nations within Minnesota. MTERA's current bylaws have structured the organization so that Tribes are the decision makers and help guide the organization's strategic approach to collective action on clean energy objectives and goals.

Although MTERA always seeks to represent consensus perspectives on any given issue, it is important to note that not all MTERA Member Tribes agree upon the views expressed by MTERA. Further, it is important to understand that interactions with MTERA do not substitute for Nation-to-Nation consultation, which can only be achieved through direct communications between the federal government and Tribal Nations.

While the Commission posed several questions in its Amended Request for Comments, I write to offer MTERA's response to the following question:

*Should the Commission investigate the Formal Complaint by the Upper Sioux Community Against Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light and Power Association?*

The simple answer is yes. MTERA supports the Upper Sioux Community's Formal Complaint to help address the additional topics related to what is clearly a public interest issue: that is, whether a rural electric cooperative can unilaterally threaten to shut off power to a federally

# Upper Sioux Community's Complaint to the MN PUC

- After initial public comments were submitted, USC leadership indicated to MTERA they did not want further legal/technical help, so MTERA respected their sovereignty and did not intervene.
- The MN PUC ruled to refer the complaint to the MN Attorney General for possible prosecution and the complaint will soon be heard by an administrative law judge.
- Several MN Tribes and NGO's intervened to track progress assuming it could set a state-wide precedent.

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Native News

Melissa Olson · July 28, 2025 2:45 PM

## PUC will investigate Upper Sioux Community's complaint against electric cooperative



# Tribal Advocacy Council on Energy

## **Tribal Advocacy Council on Energy (TACE)**

- The MN Tribal Advocacy Council on Energy (TACE) was put forward by MN Tribal Leadership in Consultation with the Minnesota Department of Commerce in 2019.
- Comprised of MN Federally & State Recognized Tribes.
- Dept. of Commerce Tribal Liaison worked with Tribal Nations in submitting legislation to the MN Legislature that gave Commerce permission to provide administrative and development support to establish TACE.
- The Legislature passed the bill and provided \$300,000 in funding to support start-up efforts for TACE.



# THE TRIBAL ENERGY COALITION IN WISCONSIN

## Tribal Energy Coalition in Wisconsin (TECWI)

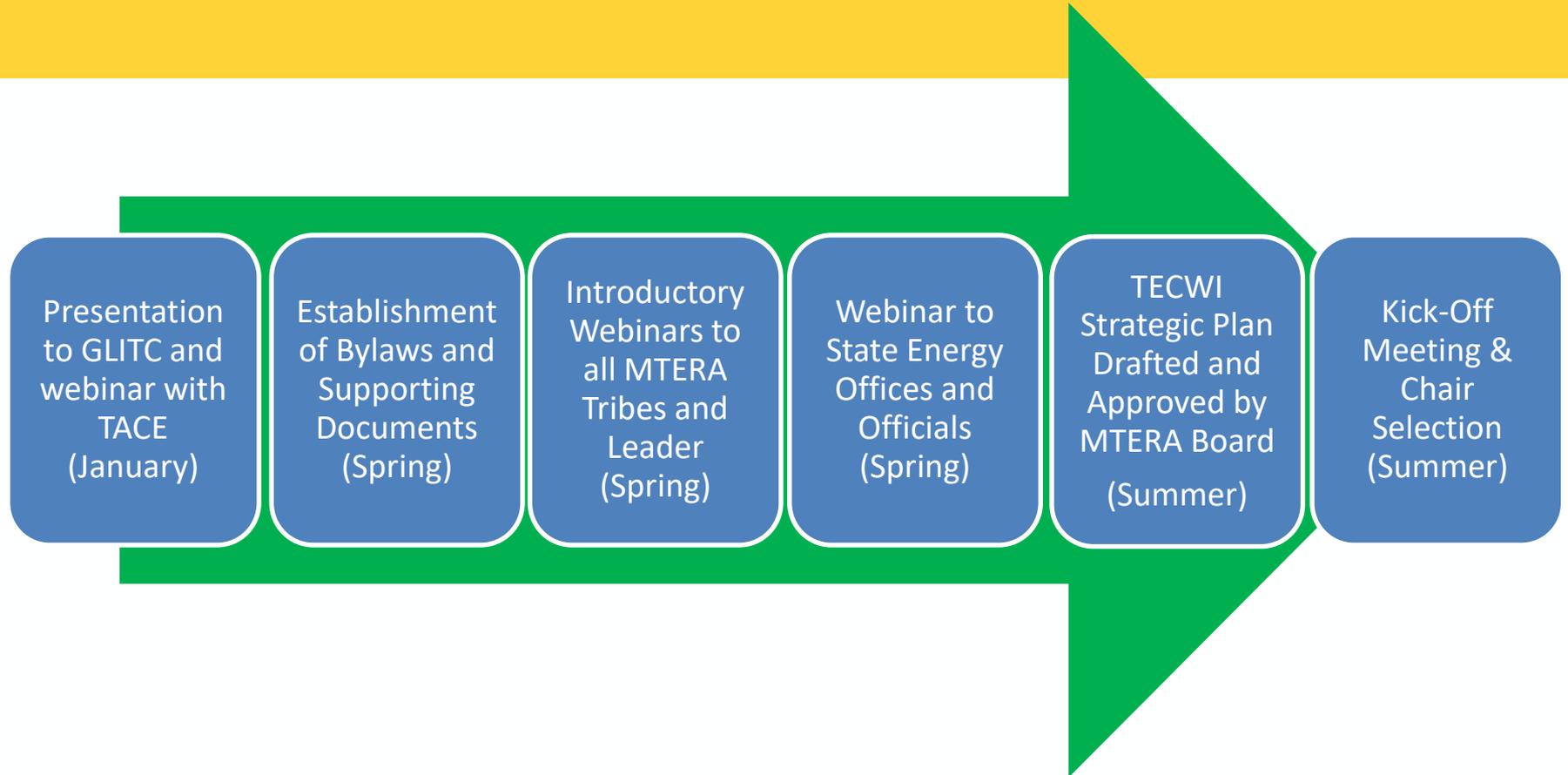
TECWI will bring together all 11 Tribes within the state of Wisconsin for collective action with state, local and federal partners to improve Tribal energy sovereignty, projects, and programs on Tribal lands through meaningful consultation, effective collaboration, partnerships, policies, and legislation.

### TECWI Goals and Objectives

1. Assess & Evaluate Common Tribal Energy Issues and TECWI goals.
2. Develop Statewide Energy Policy and/or Legislation.
3. Create Awareness & Educate on Tribal Energy Issues and TECWI Goals.
4. Identify & Promote Successful Best Practices for WI Tribes.
5. MTERA presented TECWI to the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council of Wisconsin (GLITC) with full support to move forward.



# TECWI TIMELINE



# Conclusions

- Tribes are not just another public stakeholder group. Tribes are sovereign nations that hold a unique status in the United States.
- Tribal governments are building their own regulatory programs and structures.
- Treaties obligate that states shall consult with Tribes on a government-to-government basis.
- Tribes and States are co-sovereigns so be sure to approach those hard conversations with that basic respect!
- MTERA and Tribal partners are there to help to make sure Tribal engagements are more meaningful. Tribal Coalitions will help advance Tribal priorities, but States and Tribes must engage to make it happen.
- This is about relationship building, not just checking a box to get a project off the ground. A state should adopt a whole-of-government and long-term approach to working with Tribes.

# Recommendations

- States can help share best practices, resources, training and other collaborative actions with each other.
- Make the effort to build your own Tribal literacy: Read the treaties, learn the history, go to a powwow, language and calendar of their traditions, learn their governmental structure. What are the Ojibwe Grandfather Teachings?
- Everyone is learning how to do this better. Leaders can model a safe space and culture to build literacy and consistent improvement. Share best practices from other states/agencies and organize staff to provide ongoing inter-agency support.
- Don't be afraid to engage by asking for help. Perhaps the Tribe has a training program or a trainer you can access. Ask the Tribe for their communication cadence/preference.

# Recommendations

- Develop collaborative programs/policies/grants for/with Tribes on mutually shared priorities.
  - Carve out Tribal set asides within state-wide granting programs.
  - Reduce administrative burdens for grants. For example, sharing template documents Tribes can use.
  - Consider new and/or outside-the-box solutions for tough issues that offer Tribes and states a similar starting point to learn together. For example:
    - Develop policies related to Tribal Benefit Agreements for siting projects that can address specific impacts identified by Tribes.
    - Develop policies/procedures to produce EJ Impact Assessments that can measure and mitigate the unique Tribal impacts that need to be addressed within siting conflicts.
    - Collaborate on Workforce development trainings with Tribes and diverse partners including universities, Tribal colleges, non-profits, IOU and Cooperative utilities.
    - Make space for Tribes as they develop their own regulatory structures, such as Tribal utility commissions and utility authorities.
    - Anticipate how to work with Tribes within the state's regulatory framework in a way that respects Tribal Sovereignty.

# Recommendations

- **Include an effective ongoing liaison role** at the executive and agency levels that maintains govt-to-govt consultation with all Tribes within the state.
- **Set a cadence for ongoing consultation.** Be sure to coordinate the consultations with a Tribe based on their own feedback and capacity.
- Example include:
  - **Tribal Liaison:** Agency-level and/or state-wide role/s with links to Agency Director/Governor
  - **Advisory Council:** Elected Tribal leaders and/or staff sit on council/committee/board established by state or Tribes that provides communications between Tribally-Elected leaders and Governor and/or Legislature.
  - **Tribal Advisor:** Often an executive officer within the Governor's office.
- **Direct utilities to establish formal communications with Tribes** within their service areas and in Integrated Resource Planning.

# Recommendations

- **Establish respect for Tribes by building a community of practice for state employees to improve day-to-day work with Tribes.**
  - Help existing work groups make space for Tribes
  - Create an inter-agency group to share best practices
  - Establish policies and procedures that implement Tribal consultation early and often
  - Coordinate Tribal consultation at all levels of government: Executive, agency, office and team levels.
- **Include a mandatory training for all state staff/leaders coordinated with Tribes.**
  - Include an advanced course to the basic training that covers more complex topics with multiple and ongoing trainings, webinars and guest speakers.
  - Provide an understanding of applicable treaties, federal and state laws that relate to Tribes. For example:
    - National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
    - Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)
    - MN Statute 10.65 (Government-to-Government Relationship with Tribal Governments)
    - In the Midwest, Treaties from 1795, 1807, 1825, 1829, 1837, 1842, and 1855

**VISIT [MTERA.ORG](https://www.mtera.org)  
OR  
CONTACT  
[ANDY.BESSLER@MTERA.ORG](mailto:ANDY.BESSLER@MTERA.ORG)  
TO CONTINUE THIS CONVERSATION.**

**MIIGWECH! (THANK YOU!)**



**MTERA**

Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association, Inc.

# Government to Government Best Practices

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Claudio Clini

# Claudio Clini (*Kanaka Māoli*)



Policy Analyst  
Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy



**ALLIANCE**  
FOR TRIBAL CLEAN ENERGY



# Government-to-Government Best Practices

Claudio Clini (Kanaka Maoli), Policy Analyst  
Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy



# Who we are

The Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 2016 by Chéri Smith (*Mi'kmaq Descendant*), a clean energy veteran with more than 25 years of experience leading both public and private renewable energy development, policy, finance, workforce, and education initiatives.

Our highly qualified in-house team includes Indigenous and non-Indigenous subject matter experts in engineering, finance, law, installation, operations and maintenance, workforce development, and more.



# What we do

The mission of the Alliance is to support the self-determined efforts of Native American Tribes and Alaska Native Villages to transition toward clean energy systems – as a means to mitigate climate change, diminish poverty, and create thriving economies while protecting Mother Earth for future generations.

# Alliance Four Key Pillars



**TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE &  
PROJECT FINANCE**



**ENERGY POLICY  
& GOVERNMENT  
RELATIONS**



**INFORMATION  
RESOURCES  
& EVENTS**



**EDUCATION &  
WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT**

# How we do it

Starting with our Tribal Engagement team, the Alliance offers no-cost clean energy services to Tribes through four key pillars of support, built upon a strong and deep foundation of Native American cultural values.



# G2G Engagement

What are the common and necessary aspects of successful government-to-government interactions

# ▶ RECAP FROM YESTERDAY

- Tribal sovereignty is recognized by:
  - The U.S. Constitution
  - Treaties
  - Federal law (which also establishes the baseline for state authority over Tribes)
  - Supreme Court precedent
- Tribes are exempt from state law unless Congress says otherwise.



# ▶ RECAP FROM YESTERDAY

Many states now use:

- Executive orders
- Legislation
- Formal consultation policies

These agreements:

- Acknowledge Tribal sovereignty
- Affirm government-to-government relations
- Establish procedures for engagement



# EXAMPLE: WASHINGTON'S CENTENNIAL ACCORD

## Centennial Accord between the Federally Recognized Indian Tribes in Washington State and the State of Washington—1989

### I. Preamble and Guiding Principles

This Accord dated August 4, 1989, is executed between the federally recognized Indian tribes of Washington signatory to this Accord and the State of Washington, through its governor, in order to better achieve mutual goals through an improved relationship between their sovereign governments. This Accord provides a framework for that government-to-government relationship and implementation procedures to assure execution of that relationship.

Each Party to this Accord respects the sovereignty of the other. The respective sovereignty of the state and each federally recognized tribe provide paramount authority for that party to exist and to govern. The parties share in their relationship particular respect for the values and culture represented by tribal governments. Further, the parties share a desire for a complete Accord between the State of Washington and the federally recognized tribes in Washington reflecting a full government-to-government relationship and will work with all elements of state and tribal governments to achieve such an accord.

### II. Parties

There are twenty-six federally recognized Indian tribes in the state of Washington. Each sovereign tribe has an independent relationship with each other and the state. This Accord, provides the framework for that relationship between the state of Washington, through its governor, and the signatory tribes.

The parties recognize that the state of Washington is governed in part by independent state officials. Therefore, although, this Accord has been initiated by the signatory tribes and the governor, it welcomes the participation of, inclusion in and execution by chief representatives of all elements of state government so that the government-to-government relationship described herein is completely and broadly implemented between the state and the tribes.

### III. Purposes and Objectives

This Accord illustrates the commitment by the parties to implementation of the government-to-government relationship, a relationship reaffirmed as state policy by gubernatorial proclamation January 3, 1989. This relationship respects the sovereign status of the parties, enhances and improves communications between them, and facilitates the resolution of issues.

This Accord is intended to build confidence among the parties in the government-to-government relationship by outlining the process for implementing the policy. Not only is this process intended to implement the relationship, but also it is intended to institutionalize it within the organizations represented by the parties. The parties will continue to strive for complete institutionalization of the government-to-government relationship by seeking an accord among all the tribes and all elements of state government.

This Accord also commits the parties to the initial tasks that will translate the government-to-government relationship into more-efficient, improved and beneficial services to Indian and non-Indian people. This Accord encourages and provides the foundation and framework for specific agreements among the parties outlining specific tasks to address or resolve specific issues.

The parties recognize that implementation of this Accord will require a comprehensive educational effort to promote understanding of the government-to-government relationship within their own governmental organizations and with the public.

### IV. Implementation Process and Responsibilities

While this Accord addresses the relationship between the parties, its ultimate purpose is to improve the services delivered to people by the parties. Immediately and periodically, the parties shall establish goals for improved services and identify the obstacles to the achievement of those goals. At an annual meeting, the parties will develop joint strategies and specific agreements to outline tasks, overcome obstacles and achieve specific goals.

The parties recognize that a key principle of their relationship is a requirement that individuals working to resolve issues of mutual concern are accountable to act in a manner consistent with this Accord.

The state of Washington is organized into a variety of large but separate departments under its governor, other independently elected officials and a variety of boards and commissions. Each tribe, on the other hand, is a unique government organization with different management and decision-making structures.

The chief of staff of the governor of the state of Washington is accountable to the governor for implementation of this Accord. State agency directors are accountable to the governor through the chief of staff for the related activities of their agencies. Each director will initiate a procedure within his/her agency by which the government-to-government policy will be implemented. Among other things, these procedures will require persons responsible for dealing with issues of mutual concern to respect the government-to-government relationship within which the issue must be addressed. Each agency will establish a documented plan of accountability and may establish more detailed implementation procedures in subsequent agreements between tribes and the particular agency.

The parties recognize that their relationship will successfully address issues of mutual concern when communication is clear, direct and between persons responsible for addressing the concern.

The parties recognize that in state government, accountability is best achieved when this responsibility rests solely within each state agency. Therefore, it is the objective of the state that each particular agency be directly accountable for implementation of the government-to-government relationship in dealing with issues of concern to the parties. Each agency will facilitate this objective by identifying individuals directly responsible for issues of mutual concern.

Each tribe also recognizes that a system of accountability within its organization is critical to successful implementation of the relationship. Therefore, tribal officials will direct their staff to communicate within the spirit of this Accord with the particular agency which, under the organization of state government, has the authority and responsibility to deal with the particular issue of concern to the tribe.

In order to accomplish these objectives, each tribe must ensure that its current tribal organization, decision-making process and relevant tribal personnel is known to each state agency with which the tribe is addressing an issue of mutual concern. Further, each tribe may establish a more detailed organizational structure, decision-making process, system of accountability, and other procedures for implementing the government-to-government relationship in subsequent agreements with various state agencies. Finally, each tribe will establish a documented system of accountability.

As a component of the system of accountability within state and tribal governments, the parties will review and evaluate at the annual meeting the implementation of the government-to-government relationship. A management report will be issued summarizing this evaluation and will include joint strategies and specific agreements to outline tasks, overcome obstacles, and achieve specific goals.

The chief of staff also will use his/her organizational discretion to help implement the government-to-government relationship. The office of Indian Affairs will assist the chief of staff in implementing the government-to-government relationship by providing state agency directors information with which to educate employees and constituent groups as defined in the accountability plan about the requirement of the government-to-government relationship. The Office of Indian Affairs shall also perform other duties as defined by the chief of staff.

### V. Sovereignty and Disclaimers

Each of the parties respects the sovereignty of each other party. In executing this Accord, no party waives any rights, including treaty rights, immunities, including sovereign immunities, or jurisdiction. Neither does this Accord diminish any rights or protections afforded other Indian persons or entities under state or federal law. Through this Accord parties strengthen their collective ability to successfully resolve issues of mutual concern.

While the relationship described by this Accord provides increased ability to solve problems, it likely will not result in a resolution of all issues. Therefore, inherent in their relationship is the right of each of the parties to elevate an issue of importance to any decision-making authority of another party, including, where appropriate, that party's executive office.

Signatory parties have executed this Accord on the date of August 4, 1989, and agreed to be duly bound by it commitments.

# EXAMPLE: WASHINGTON'S CENTENNIAL ACCORD

## Recognized:

- Sovereignty of the state and Tribes.
- Government-to-government relationship.

## Implemented:

- Annual meetings, mandatory goal setting, and requirements for state agencies to implement a government-to-government policy.
- Reports on the efficacy of the efforts.

Signed by all 26\* WA Tribes in 1989.



What led to this?



What stands out?



# EXAMPLE: WASHINGTON'S CENTENNIAL ACCORD

## Education:

- One of the accord's stated aims was for Tribal Nations to educate state officials on the structure and history of the Tribal government.
- Why was this crucial to the improvement of State-Tribal relations and collaborations?



# EXAMPLE: WASHINGTON'S MILLENNIUM AGREEMENT

## **Institutionalizing the Government-to-Government Relationship in Preparation for the New Millennium--1999**

The work of the 1999 Tribal and State Leaders' Summit will be the foundation upon which our children will build. A stronger foundation for tribal/state relations is needed to enable us to work together to preserve and protect our natural resources and to provide economic vitality, educational opportunities, social services and law enforcement that allow the governments to protect, serve and enhance their communities.

The undersigned leaders of American Indian Nations and the State of Washington, being united in Leavenworth, WA on November 1, 2 and 3, 1999 in the spirit of understanding and mutual respect of the 1989 Centennial Accord and the government-to-government relationship established in that Accord, and desiring to strengthen our relationships and our cooperation on issues of mutual concern, commit to the following:

- Strengthening our commitment to government-to-government relationships and working to increase the understanding of tribes' legal and political status as governments;
- Continuing cooperation in the future by developing enduring channels of communication and institutionalizing government-to-government processes that will promote timely and effective resolution of issues of mutual concern;
- Developing a consultation process, protocols and action plans that will move us forward on the Centennial Accord's promise that, "The parties will continue to strive for complete institutionalization of the government-to-government relationship by seeking an accord among all the tribes and all elements of state government."
- Enhancing communication and coordination through the Governor's commitment to strengthen his Office of Indian Affairs and the member tribes' commitment to strengthen the Association of Washington Tribes;
- Encouraging the Washington Legislature to establish a structure to address issues of mutual concern to the state and tribes;
- Educating the citizens of our state, particularly the youth who are our future leaders, about tribal history, culture, treaty rights, contemporary tribal and state government institutions and relations and the contribution of Indian Nations to the State of Washington to move us forward on the Centennial Accord's promise that, "The parties recognize that implementation of this Accord will require a comprehensive educational effort to promote understanding of the government-to-government relationship within their own governmental organizations and with the public.";
- Working in collaboration to engender mutual understanding and respect and to fight discrimination and racial prejudice; and,
- Striving to coordinate and cooperate as we seek to enhance economic and infrastructure opportunities, protect natural resources and provide the educational opportunities and social and community services that meet the needs of all our citizens.

We affirm these principles and resolve to move forward into the new millennium with positive and constructive tribal/state relations.



# EXAMPLE: WASHINGTON'S MILLENIUM AGREEMENT

Signed in 1999, ten years after the Centennial Accord.

## Reaffirmed:

- The recognitions of sovereignty and jurisdictional authority as described in the Centennial Accord.

## Identified the Need For:

- More frequent government-to-government communication.
- Codified Tribal Consultation guidelines.
- Educating the public on Tribal sovereignty.



## EXAMPLE: WASHINGTON'S MILLENIUM AGREEMENT

“[Parties commit to] educating the citizens of our state ... about tribal history, culture, treaty rights, contemporary tribal and state government institutions and relations and the contribution of Indian Nations to the State of Washington”



# Executive Order 25-10

A New Foundation For Washington State's  
Governmental Relations With Sovereign Tribal Nations



# FERC Order No. 2023





# Our Guiding Principle: *Etuaptmumk*

The Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy was founded on a guiding principle of the Mi'kmaq that is defined by one word: **Etuaptmumk**.

Translated to English, Etuaptmumk means **“Two-Eyed Seeing”** – the willingness to see from one eye the strengths of Indigenous wisdom and knowledge and, from the other eye, the strengths of Western knowledge and technology. This is a concept that our founder's Mi'kmaw ancestors have applied to daily life since first contact with European settlers, recognizing that if they were to have successful and beneficial relationships with settlers, rather than conflict, they must espouse an attitude of cooperation and respect for different perspectives – both for their own survival and to protect Mother Earth.

Our organization embodies this way of thinking in the way we are a team of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people united in our beliefs, our desire to support the self-determination and sovereignty of Native Americans, and our collective understanding that traditional Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing have a profound and long-established understanding of the value of collaboration and appreciation of differences. We believe that cooperation, communication, and collaboration between Native and non-Native people is essential for a just transition – and for the very survival of Indigenous Peoples ... and all people.



# Wela'lioq! (Thank You!)



Connect with us!

[policy@tribalcleanenergy.org](mailto:policy@tribalcleanenergy.org)



@tribalcleanenergy



@tribalcleanenergy



AllianceforTribalCleanEnergy



tribalcleanenergy.org

# Case Studies and Discussion

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# Addressing Regulatory Challenges to Tribal Solar Deployment

## Native Land

### Traditional Values of Native Peoples

Native land is a sacred trust, a gift from the Creator, and a source of life and sustenance. It is the foundation of our identity and our way of life. We have a deep respect for the land and its resources, and we strive to protect them for future generations.

#### Goals

• Increase the number of solar projects on Native land.

#### Challenges

• Limited access to land and resources.



#### Summary

The challenges of solar deployment on Native land are complex and multifaceted. They range from land access and resource availability to cultural and traditional values. Addressing these challenges requires a collaborative effort between tribal leaders, government agencies, and the private sector. By working together, we can ensure that solar energy is deployed in a way that respects and honors the land and its people.



- Best practices (Stowbridge 2024)
  - Empower advocates
  - Create an interorganizational team
  - Look for recurring opportunities for collaboration
  - Assert and respect sovereignty
  - Honor the connections between people and the land
  - Be persistent

## Tribal-State Collaboration on Sustainability and Solar Development

A Case Study of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe



By Eugene Stowbridge  
Sustainability Coordinator,  
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe



<https://www.cesa.org/resource-library/resource/tribal-state-collaboration-solar-development-case-study/>

# Next Steps and Resources for Tribes

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# NLR's State, Local, & Tribal (SLT) Government Program

Supporting Energy Solutions Across Multiple Communities

States >



Local Governments  
and  
Communities >



Tribes >



Islands and  
Territories >



# Project website

- [State-Tribal Energy Collaboration website](#)
  - Recorded webinars
    - Energizing Together: Building State and Tribal Collaboration
    - State-Tribal Collaboration on Energy: Examples from Western States
  - Workshop materials
  - Fact sheets
    - State-Tribal Energy Collaboration 101
    - Tribal Right to Create Laws
    - State Role in Legal Framework
    - How Tribal Entities Govern Business and Commerce
    - Types of Tribal Land
    - Tribal Utility Programs

# Resources

- Curating additional external resources. For example:
  - [Pathways to Trust: A Learning Journey Towards Equitable Tribal Partnerships](#), Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy
    - Training program focused on legal and political literacy, historical awareness, cultural competency, and partnership skills
    - Preferred Provider Program
      - Each applicant is reviewed by technical experts using a rigorous evaluation framework and must complete Pathways to Trust: A Learning Journey Towards Equitable Tribal Partnerships<sup>SM</sup>, the Alliance's cultural awareness curriculum developed by Indigenous faculty. Providers are then designated as:
      - Preferred Providers — Companies new to Tribal work that meet Alliance standards and complete required training
      - Provisional Providers — Companies with verified, successful, culturally respectful experience collaborating with Tribal Nations

# Upcoming Webinar

## **State-Tribal Collaboration on Energy: Government-to-Government Best Practices**

Feb. 24, 11 a.m.–12:30 p.m. MT

On behalf of the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Policy, NLR is hosting a webinar focused on state-Tribal collaboration through government-to-government policies. This webinar will feature presentations by Tribal Energy Consultant Pilar Thomas, Minnesota Public Utility Commissioner Katie Sieben, Minnesota Public Utility Commission Tribal Liaison Angie McKinley, and California Public Utilities Commissioner Darcie Houck. Join us to learn more about best practices for government-to-government relations and hear from states implementing Tribal consultation policies.

# Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs

- Technical Assistance
  - To provide a tangible product or specific deliverable designed to help move a project forward
  - To support Tribes' self-determination and energy sovereignty through assistance to identify and support bankable structures for energy projects through legal technical assistance
  - To assist Tribes in strengthening their “in-house” capacity to independently lead, advise, and implement such structures in the future.
- [Office of Indian Energy Newsletter](#)

# Acknowledgements

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- Pilar Thomas, lawyer and member of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe of Arizona
- Margie Schiff, Energy Attorney
- Kevin Blaser, Eagle Rapids Asset Management and Vice President of Business Development for Colusa Indian Energy
- Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy
- Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association
- Tribal Energy Alternatives (part of Grid Energy Alternatives)
- Baker Tilly
- Heather Rhoads, eFormative Options
- NASEO
- NARUC



# Thank you!

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