

**Tribal Energy Solutions to Climate Change Workshop
April 28-29, Billings, MT**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS:
TOPICS AND GUIDING QUESTIONS**

Note: Please pick a few questions under each breakout topic to discuss with the group.

1st breakout: Monday April 28

Topics Covered

Cultural Traditions to Solving Climate Change—

How can traditional knowledge be applied to solving the climate crisis? Traditional knowledge guiding renewable energy and protecting Tribal homelands

Conservation: Limiting the Impacts of Energy Development on Cultural and Environmental Resources. How can solutions be crafted to provide economic and environmental justice while preserving wildlife and habitat?

Questions:

1) How will your community and lands be affected by climate change?

Which social/environmental aspects will be most affected by climate change? ie; healthcare, environment, economy, jobs etc.?

2) How do you think your traditional practices be affected by climate change?

How do you think your tribe's historic experiences and practices (ie: adaptation) can contribute to the overall understanding of climate change?

3) What strategies, particularly energy strategies such as solar, wind, others are most realistic for your community to develop to limit climate change impacts on your cultural and natural resources? Which of these strategies provides economic and environmental justice while preserving valuable wildlife habitat?

4) How can your Tribe/community preserve its rich cultural history while protecting wildlife habitat and developing renewable energy technologies? How do you balance all three?

5) How can you get your tribal government and community to conserve energy on a local level?

Breakout Questions 2

- 6) What new or additional information do you need to address environmental, social, and economic changes (consequences?) now and in the future? What political challenges have, or can you foresee in the future?

2nd Breakout Monday April 28

Topics Covered

Renewable Energy: Planning and Developing Projects. Renewable energy options (wind, solar, biomass, geothermal) and the economic and environmental opportunities. Delivering benefits of energy development to tribal communities.

Interconnection, the Grid, and the Energy Water Nexus

Sustainable Building, Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Building “green” is an affordable option for energy efficiency and conservation, while generating job opportunities and economic development for tribes as well as non-tribal entities.

Questions

- 1) Which renewable energy option(s) is/are the most realistic based on your potential renewable resources and from an economic perspective?
- 2) What renewable energy options (solar, wind, biomass, geothermal etc.) provide the greatest environmental/economic opportunities and benefits for your community?
- 3) How would you create and recruit new renewable energy businesses that promote and are compatible with tribal culture and values?
- 4) How/ Can your Tribe build a sustainable economy around renewable energy?
- 5) What are ways to diversify your economy through renewable energy options?
- 6) How can you retain energy revenues within your Tribe and the surrounding community?
- 7) How can the economic and environmental benefits of renewable energy projects be transferred to your Tribal communities (conserving wildlife habitat/natural resources, creating jobs, income, and reducing energy prices, thus, lowering energy bills?)
- 8) How do you make sustainable economic development strategies community-based? Use examples such as members of the community (youth) buying and

Breakout Questions 3

selling Compact Fluorescent Light bulbs (CFL's) to raise money for the community?

On a smaller scale:

- 9) What are some innovative ways that you could reuse water (ie: gray water) in your community for gardening, etc.?
- 10) How can individual families help conserve energy in their households?
- 11) What economic opportunities can sustainable building, energy efficiency methods, and renewable energy bring to Tribes/non-tribal members?

Breakout Session #3 Tuesday, April 29

Topics Covered:

Funding: Attracting the Necessary Capital. The lifecycle of a renewable energy project. Most federal funding for conservation and environmental efforts flows to the states, leaving little for tribes. What are the options to change this dynamic? What are the private funding and other funding streams? What are the project elements needed to attract private capital? What private funds might be available?

Economic Incentives: Structuring the Deal

Bringing Renewable Energy Online in Indian Country

What tax and regulatory incentives exist to make renewable energy projects successful economically? How should renewable energy projects (wind, solar, biomass, geothermal) be structured to take advantage of these economic incentives? What role can tribal utilities play? What opportunities exist in the absence of a tribal utility? Green tags, Production Tax Credits, Cap and Trade, and HR 1954

Carbon Sequestration and Biomass

Transmission Capacity: Connecting to the Grid.

How can tribes secure needed transmission capacity? Opportunities and tools for planning, mapping, community involvement.

Questions

- 1) Do you have any questions about financing, economic incentives, transmission, or any other steps of the process? Which step(s) poses the largest obstacle (s)?
- 2) What scenario/scenarios of renewable energy projects most closely resemble your community's renewable energy situation?

Breakout Questions 4

- 3) Does your Tribe have the technical and economic capacity for renewable energy transmission off the reservation?
- 4) How will you make renewable energy a high priority in your community?
- 5) Would the electricity generated from renewable energy on your reservation be feasible for use in your community only, or could it also be transmitted to generate power for off-reservation use?
- 6) Would your tribe benefit from DOE/HUD and other agencies such as the Rural Utilities Service (USDA) re-evaluating programs to determine the extent tribal entities have been included in their funding/governmental programs?
- 7) How can your community work with Tribal colleges to investigate, educate the public, and become models and showcases for successful renewable energy efficiency projects?
- 8) What creative resources and ideas does your Tribe have to develop, publicize, and/or export renewable energy projects?
 - ie; fund-raisers, community involvement, tax exempt revenue bonds, gaming revenues, federal grant/loan guarantee programs
- 9) How would you use tribal sovereignty to build green power?
- 10) What kind of bargaining power do you have to attract electric power companies and independent power producers to compete to win long term contracts to serve it?
- 11) What options do you have available to off-reservation markets? Green tags, carbon credits etc.?
- 12) Does your community have the land and resources to develop forest and native plant-restoration projects dedicated to carbon sequestration?
- 13) How would forests planted for carbon sequestration credits benefit your community (environment, culture, wildlife, etc.)?
- 14) Can monies available from off-reservation energy resources be used to finance projects that disperse renewable energy to reservation families and the community?
- 15) What are the available opportunities to work with private renewable energy enterprise (such as NativeSUN) that help families afford PV systems?

Breakout Questions 5

- 16) If your tribe does not have local renewable energy resources, are there opportunities for you to invest in renewable energy projects in other communities?
- 17) Are mixed systems of renewable energy projects the most viable option for your community?