The Promise of Energy Sovereignty

Indigenized Energy

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How Indigenized Energy supports tribes pursue energy sovereignty

- Engage with tribal leadership
- Draft resolutions to pursue energy planning
- Facilitate planning process including land use, cultural considerations, and energy assets
- Perform Tribal Utility feasibility studies
- Pursue Federal funds / gain IRA benefits
- Support tribes with large solar and development to generate revenue

Sacred Journey



Community Engagement / Energy Literacy



Job Creation

Programs not Projects

Technical and Financial Planning





Tribal Energy Transformation Playbook

Purpose:

To organize the process of long-term energy master planning for Tribal leaders,

In a way that is aligned with the wisdom of the Medicine Wheel and is informed by lessons from tribes,

So that leaders of indigenous communities can build confidence and resolve to pursue energy sovereignty and energy professionals can be better-equipped to support tribes along the path.



Energy Master Planning Guiding framework: The Medicine Wheel

Elegant organizational framework shared across indigenous communities around the world





Energy Master Planning





Energy Master Planning Phase 1: Vision



Vision

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Create Vision

- Identify champions
- Resolution to pursue renewable energy and energy sovereignty
- Assess current energy system
- Map culturally acceptable zones for energy development
- Create a strategic direction

Energy Master Planning Phase 2: Learning



- Complete pilot projects to gain experience
- Start creating solar revenue
- Create favorable conditions for large generation revenue
- Create detailed plans for utility
- Begin formation of utility business capabilities

Energy Master Planning Phase 3 - Healing



- Build energy management systems
- Connect energy generation systems in new grid
- Establish critical backup systems
- Acquire workforce / services
- Gain recognition of tribal utility
- Terminate / negotiate relationships with utilities

Energy Master Planning Phase 4: Wisdom



- Operate tribal utility
- Implement energy management strategies
- Refine systems for efficiency
 and revenue growth
- Increase system resiliency
- Grow capabilities to reduce reliance on external services





Learning

Phase 2

Invest in feasibility study

Form strategic partnerships

Generate program revenue

Vision

Phase 1

Pass resolution

Create Energy Manager Position Complete Pilot Projects

Healing *Phase 3*

Transform grid Grow workforce TUC established



Wisdom *Phase 4*

Continuously improve efficiency

Enhance resilience

Adapt and evolve

Milestones on the Path to Energy Sovereignty

Patterns

Leadership: Tribes need a champion who reports to leadership and is empowered to move a plan forward

Place to Start - Residential solar / energy storage at homes of elders

Define reality - map existing conditions, infrastructure, and resources with investments in right experts

Revenue planning - Start creating favorable conditions for developers

Lessons Learned

Energy Sovereignty is a direction to go, not a destination Small steps matter - they create hope Requires investment People Engagement High quality technical and financial analysis Requires enduring presence in community and constant capacity

building

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Pathways to Energy Sovereignty











Form a leadership team including tribal council and others to lead the planning process

Benefits:

- Helps make progress on plan and identify key decisions
- Draft resolutions for the tribe to pass setting priorities and direction
- Can include outside consultants to help due analysis and provide answers to questions and information for decisions

Pass a resolution to form an Energy Council and create leadership position (Renewable Energy Manager).

- 1. Shows commitment of tribe to process
- 2. Ensures tribal leadership takes responsibility for making decisions
- 3. Ensures there are champions to drive energy planning process forward

Pursue funding that can be used to support energy planning.

- 1. Support the time of Renewable Energy Manager
- 2. Pay for detailed analysis of the existing energy systems, loads, and resiliency
- Develop schematic designs for energy projects that can be used to pursue funding from federal programs or financial institutions

Pass a Resolution to build solar at existing tribal buildings

- 1. Tribe saves 25%-50% on purchased electricity
- 2. Projects create work for new solar workforce
- 3. Funds spent on solar power go to upkeep of systems and building more . . .
- 4. Funds diverted from Utility support long-term best interests of tribe
- 5. Dramatic reduction of fossil fuel use by the tribe.

Broadly deploy residential solar in at-risk home sites

Benefits:

- Saves resident money and even make money for them in the future
- Can offer resilience
- Create jobs
- Demonstrate revenue creation
- Gain experience

Add solar and back-up power to tribal-owned buildings through tribal funds or power purchase agreements (PPA)

Benefits:

- Save money
- Create jobs
- Demonstrate revenue creation
- Gain experience

Invest in the technical assistance needed to design and launch tribal energy authority / utility

Benefits:

- Brings expertise that might not be available in your community
- Benefit from experiences of firms that have helped tribes

How to get started Time sensitive first steps

1. invest / pursue funds for energy planning



How Power Purchase Agreements (PPA) work

- 1. Tribe agrees to buy solar energy
- 2. Solar systems built at no cost to tribe
- 3. Revenue from solar production used to maintain system and pay back investor
- 4. Balance of revenue returned to tribe