

Tribal Energy Program

September 28, 2009

Welcome to this edition of the Tribal Energy Program (TEP) Newsletter. This newsletter provides information on DOE's Tribal Energy Program, funding opportunities through our program and other federal agencies, training opportunities, upcoming events, and other tribal-energy-related information.

Below is a summary of what you'll find in this issue. Click on each heading to go to that section of the newsletter.

[Funding Opportunities](#)

- DOE to Fund \$454 Million for Retrofit Ramp-Ups in Energy – Funding Opportunity Posting Pending

[Training](#)

October 2009 – December 2009: Workshops and On-line Training

- Solar Energy International (SEI) Offers Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Homes Workshops and On-Line Training

October 2009 – February 2010

- Native American Energy Auditor Level II 18-Week Training Course (October 5, 2009-February 26, 2010, United Tribes Technical College)

[Upcoming Events](#)

October 2009

- Law Seminars International (LSI): Solar and Wind Energy Development in Arizona (October 8-9, 2009, Phoenix, AZ)
- National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) 66th Annual Convention and Trade Show (October 11-16, 2009, Palm Springs, California)
- State of the Art in Wind Siting: a Seminar (October 20-21, 2009; near Washington, DC)
- Alaska Federation of Natives (October 22 – 24, 2009, Anchorage at the Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center)
- Solar Power International (October 25-27, 2009, Anaheim, CA)
- Native American Land Conservancy presents "Desertlands/Sacred Lands" (October 30-31, 2009, University of California, Riverside)

November 2009

- CERTS: Indian Energy Solutions 2009 Conference and American Spirit Award Dinner (November 3-5, 2009, Tulsa, OK)

- 15th Annual Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management, November 16-20, 2009 Anchorage, Alaska
- Financing Geothermal Projects Workshop Geothermal Finance & Investment Summit (November 16-17, 2009, Portland, OR)
- DOE's Tribal Energy Program Review (November 16-19, 2009, Denver, CO)

December 2009

- Law Seminars Internationals (LSI): Annual Energy in Alaska Conference (December 7 & 8, 2009 Anchorage Civic & Convention Dena'ina Center in Anchorage, AK)

February 2010

- Harvesting Clean Energy 10 Conference (Save the Dates - February 7-9, 2010, Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick, WA)

June 2010

- 2010 National Tribal Science Forum (June 6-10, 2010, Traverse City, Michigan)

Other Items of Interest

- 1) Argonne National Laboratory Issues Wind Energy Design Challenge – Competitive Designs Due October 31, 2009
- 2) Department of Energy Announces Start of Western Area Power Administration Recovery Act Project - New transmission line to help move renewable energy resources to market
- 3) The Navajo Green Jobs Victory and the State of U.S. Green Jobs Policy (September 29, 2009 at 10 a.m. Pacific / 1 p.m. Eastern)
- 4) Treasury, Governor Richardson Announce \$1 Billion in Recovery Act Bond Authority for Tribal Communities - Tribal Economic Development Bonds Awarded to More than 50 Tribes Nationally
- 5) Energy Solutions Database and Tools & Resources Offered by Energyexperts.org
- 6) FY2009 Rural Housing and Economic Development (RHED) Awards
- 7) Changes to Wind Energy Tax Credit Safe Harbor Rev. Proc.
- 8) Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces \$4 Million in Economic Development Funding for Native American Communities, Rural Transportation Improvements

Funding Opportunities

- **DOE to Fund \$454 Million for Retrofit Ramp-Ups in Energy: Funding Opportunity Posting Pending**

U.S. Secretary of Energy Steven Chu announced a new \$450 million program designed to catalyze a nationwide energy upgrade that experts estimate could save \$100 million annually in utility bills for households and businesses. The Recovery Act's "Retrofit Ramp-Up" program will pioneer innovative models for rolling out energy efficiency to hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses in a variety of communities. Much like past roll-outs for cable TV or the Internet, the Department of Energy (DOE) intends to create models that, when undertaken nationally, will

save consumers billions of dollars on their utility bills and make the huge savings of energy efficiency available to everyone.

For more see <http://www.eecbg.energy.gov/>.

This competitive portion of the [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant \(EECBG\) Program](#) will target community-scale retrofit projects that make significant, long-term impacts on energy use and can serve as national role models for grassroots energy efficiency efforts. Public comment on this newly funded program under the Recovery Act. Public comment ends on **September 28, 2009**. Read the [DOE Progress Alert](#) for more information.

This information was provided courtesy of EERE's Progress Alerts. [Subscribe](#) today.

Training

October 2009 – February 2010

- **United Tribes Technical College—Native American Energy Auditor Level II, 18-Week Training Course**

The Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED) and the United Association of Journeymen and Apprentices of the Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of the United States and Canada have partnered with the United Tribes Technical College to provide training to Native Americans in energy auditing. The course will be held October 5, 2009 - February 26, 2010.

For more information, see the [program brochure](#).

This information was provided courtesy of the Tribal Energy and Environmental Information Clearinghouse (TEECI). [Subscribe](#) to the TEEIC News e-mail.

October 2009 – December 2009: Workshops and On-line Training

- **Solar Energy International Offers Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and Sustainable Homes Workshops and Online Training**

Solar Energy International's (SEIA) Renewable Energy Education Program (REEP) offers a full spectrum of [online courses](#) and [hands-on workshops](#) in locations around the world. Learn how to design, build and maintain renewable energy systems and energy-efficient, sustainable homes.

Online Courses

[View](#) all Online Courses. Please register early. These courses WILL fill.

PV Design

October 5 - November 15

Building for the Future

October 12 – November

Advanced PV

November 2 – December 13

Workshop Schedule

October 2009

- Oct 10-10: RE101 Introduction to Renewable Energy, Guemes Island, WA
- Oct 12-17: PV100 Photovoltaic Design & Installation, Guemes Island, WA
- Oct 19-24: PV202 Advanced PV: Design Criteria and NEC Compliance, Guemes Island, WA

- Oct 21-25: PV102 Grid-Tied PV Systems, Anaheim, CA
- Oct 26-31: AT101 Electric Vehicle Conversion, Guemes Island, WA
- Oct 26-30: PV102 Grid-Tied PV Systems, Bend, OR

December 2009

- Dec 7-11: PV102 Grid-Tied PV Systems, Raleigh, NC

For more, see <http://www.solarenergy.org/workshop-schedule>.

Information courtesy of SEIA.

Upcoming Events

October 2009

- **October 8-9: Phoenix, AZ—Law Seminars International (LSI) Solar and Wind Energy Development in Arizona**

This conference on solar and wind development in Arizona is for attorneys, industry executives, agency officials, and consultants. It brings together federal and state policy makers, developers, transmission companies, attorneys, and financial players to discuss the opportunities and challenges for solar and wind energy development in Arizona.

[Register](#) to hear about:

- State and Regional Policy Drivers for Renewables Development
- Stimulus and private sector funding
- Water quantity and quality for solar projects
- Impact of ESA and wildlife issues on solar and wind energy development
- New legislation on transmission and siting authority
- The Smart Grid Movement
- Factors that influence site selection
- Special Siting and Permitting Issues for Projects on Public and Tribal Lands
- Incentives governments are offering in Arizona

Presented by Law Seminars International. [Register online](#) or call 800-854-8009. Also available by live Webcast!

View the [program agenda](#).

- **October 11-16: Palm Springs, California—[National Congress of American Indians \(NCAI\) 66th Annual Convention and Trade Show](#)**

NCAI encourages all tribal leaders and members of NCAI to participate in the elections at the Annual Session in Palm Springs. NCAI has a very important mission: to work in unity with Indian tribes for the protection of tribal sovereignty and treaty rights and to promote the welfare of Indian people.

- **October 20-21: Washington, D.C.—[State of the Art in Wind Siting: A Seminar](#)**

Given the current U.S. policy climate supporting the doubling of renewable energy generation within three years, the current record-breaking development of wind is only expected to increase. Heightened development will amplify attention to how facilities are sited. This meeting will feature research on the most recent methodological and technological advances for assessing and mitigating visual impact, radar interference, acoustic impacts, climatological

considerations, and property values.

Location: The seminar will be held in or near Washington, DC. A confirmed location will be announced in the coming days.

Registration Fees:

- o General Attendees - \$200
- o Government, Non-profit, and Academic Representatives - \$115.

A limited number of scholarships are available for speakers and key participants. For more information, please contact [Taylor Kennedy](#).

Your meeting registration fee pays for meeting materials, and meals and refreshments during the course of the meeting. You will also receive a CD copy of the meeting proceedings, including a summary of the meeting, copies of all approved presentations, and more.

This information provided courtesy of Taylor Kennedy, RESOLVE. Thanks, Taylor.

- **October 22-24: Anchorage, Alaska, Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center—[Alaska Federation of Natives](#)**

Northern Dreams – Our Historic Journey Continues

The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska. Its membership includes 178 villages (both federally-recognized tribes and village corporations), 13 regional Native corporations and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums that contract and run federal and state programs. William L. Iggiagruk Hensley and Elizabeth Hensley will be the keynote speakers. Make sure to check out the AFN Convention screening of *For the Rights of All: Ending Jim Crow in Alaska!*

- **October 25-27: Anaheim, CA—Solar Power International**

The largest solar conference and expo in the United States with 750 exhibitors and over 20,000 attendees.

For more, see www.solarpowerinternational.com

- North America's largest business to business solar industry event
- 900+ exhibitors and an exhibit hall that includes all solar technologies: PV, CSP, solar hot water, solar heating and cooling and solar pool heating
- 25,000 + Attendees: sellers, buyers and stakeholders including manufacturers, integrators, installers, utilities, investors, builders, architects, large energy users and policymakers
- 200+ Speakers, 65+ education sessions, two CEO panels and two keynotes
- Education tracks on finance, policy, markets, technology, crosscutting and implementation/execution

Information courtesy of Solar Energy International (SEIA)

- **October 30-31: University of California, Riverside—Native American Land Conservancy (NALC) presents “Desertlands/Sacred Lands”**

This event will promote the appreciation of local desert landscapes, including their natural and cultural heritage sites, areas, and resources.

The event is free and open to the public. Topics will include Natural History of

Local Desert landscapes; Indigenous Historical and Contemporary Uses of Local Desert Lands; Local, State, Federal, and Tribal Perspectives on Conserving Desert lands; and Recreational Uses of Desert Lands.

Speakers include representatives from the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, Native American Land Conservancy, The Trust for Public Land, CVAG, The Living Desert, 29 Palms Marine Corps, Off-road Vehicle Business Association, Anza-Borrego Foundation, and more.

To RSVP or for more information please visit the [NALC Web site](#) or call 619-825-9101.

This information provided courtesy of Trisha Frank, NALC Conference Coordinator. Thanks, Trisha

November 2009

- **November 3-5: Tulsa, Oklahoma—The Council of Energy Resource Tribes (CERT): Indian Energy Solutions 2009 Conference and American Spirit Award Dinner. Hosted by The Osage Nation at the Tulsa Marriott Southern Hills, Tulsa, Oklahoma.**

The annual Indian Energy Solutions (IES) conference brings together Tribal leaders, industry experts, and government representatives to explore and understand current trends in energy development and how they may address the needs of Tribal communities. It is also an opportunity to discuss how Tribes, industry, and government can work together on finding solutions to the broader energy need in the United States.

The American Spirit Award Dinner, a prestigious black tie gala, hosted by Indian leaders to raise money for Indian education. The American Spirit Award is presented to a Tribal or Industry leader in recognition of achievements demonstrating the courage, conviction and capability characteristic of the spirit upon which this great nation was built. The recipient of the 2009 American Spirit Award is the Southern Ute Indian Tribe.

This information provided courtesy of CERT. Thank you.

- **November 7-8: Anchorage, Alaska, Anchorage Civic & Convention Dena'ina Center—Law Seminars: Annual Energy in Alaska Conference**

This year, an exceptional faculty addresses new questions for the growing and changing domestic demand for energy in and from Alaska. Will the Alaska portion of the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System or some variation of that system envisioned by the United States and Canada finally be able to be built? Will carbon regulation or trading impact the value of Alaskan natural gas or impact the cost of purchasing energy in Alaska? This is a big year for new legislation including the smart grid, funding in the stimulus bill, climate change and carbon limits. Alaska has its first wind project, and there are new developments in getting Alaska's natural resources to market including natural gas, LNG and natural gas storage. Sign up soon for this important update on energy in Alaska.

Presented by Law Seminars International, attorneys, industry executives and governmental and customer representatives involved with energy issues will learn about:

- New federal energy legislation's impact on state policies
- EPA policy initiatives
- New developments impacting Alaska's energy future

- Update on stimulus funding
- Integration of state and federal energy and environmental policies
- Funding for smart grid technology
- Alaska's first wind project
- Project development and financing
- Getting resources to market

[Register online](#) or call 800-854-8009.

- **November 16-20: Anchorage, Alaska—15th Annual Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management**

The main purpose of this conference is to provide an opportunity for tribal organizations to build capacity so that they can formulate solutions to the environmental challenges faced in rural Alaskan communities. A secondary goal of Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (ATCEM) is for tribal members to meet and build relationships with state and federal environmental agencies and with one another. Most importantly, the conference serves as a way to provide an atmosphere of appreciation to all the Tribal environmental staff that dedicate their time to improving the wellness of our communities.

Learn more about:

- Solid Waste Management
- Freon Removal
- Funding Opportunities
- Hazwoper
- Backhauling
- Brownfield's Tribal Response Programs
- Air Quality in Alaska
- Community Success Stories

Conference highlights will include an ATCEM Appreciation Luncheon on November 17, daily native cultural performances, door prizes - includes a 2 night stay at the Hilton, 2 roundtrip tickets on Frontier Flying, and many more.

New this year: To help with our efforts to be more environmentally friendly, we are encouraging online registration. Every online registration name will be entered into a drawing for a Wal-Martt \$100.00 gift card. If you need assistance with registering online, please call Visions Meeting & Event Management at 907-786-1030.

[Register](#) and get more information.

This information provided courtesy of Bertha Prince, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Thanks, Betha.

- **November 16-17: Portland, OR—Financing Geothermal Projects Workshop Geothermal Finance & Investment**

The Benson Hotel
309 SW Broadway, Portland, OR 97205

Meet the Investors, Power Purchasers, Technology Experts, Legal Teams, Project Developers and Others Who Will Make Geothermal Deals Happen

Geothermal energy is poised to meet the rapidly growing demand for renewable, zero-carbon power. There is enormous potential for growth in this sleeping giant and experts see it as the next big renewable play.

Discover:

- Who is looking for deals
- What terms are available
- The opportunities for partners and investors
- The impact of new technology on project development

The third annual Geothermal Finance & Investment Summit will bring together today's leading project developers, investors, lenders, contractors and other players to share their perspectives on the market for geothermal finance and investment and to make deals happen.

The Summit is designed to provide an outstanding opportunity to meet and network with active market players and to accurately gauge the current pulse of the industry.

Don't Miss the Pre-Summit Workshop: "Financing Geothermal Projects"—this in-depth, full day workshop provides a comprehensive tutorial by active market participants on how to structure your project and allocate risk to maximize success.

View [tuition details](#) and more [event information](#).

- **November 16-19: Denver, CO—DOE's Tribal Energy Program Review**

This annual program review is intended as a forum for tribes to meet and learn from other tribes' pursuing energy sufficiency through renewable energy or energy efficiency, and share in their successes. Recognizing the increasing interest of tribes in energy efficiency and renewable energy and the benefit of tribes learning from tribes, we are opening up this meeting to Indian Country as a whole. This is a unique forum where you can get an excellent overview of the wide range of renewable energy and energy efficiency projects under way in Indian Country.

An agenda, once posted, will be available [online](#). No registration fee is being charged, but advance registration is required to ensure adequate seating and availability of food. Lunch will be provided on the three full days of the review (Tuesday through Thursday, November 17-19).

To register, please complete the registration form ([MS Word 37 KB](#)) and return it by e-mail to tribal@go.doe.gov or fax to 303-275-4788.

Travel and per diem are the individual's responsibility.

Hotel Information:

Doubletree Hotel Denver
3203 Quebec Street
Denver, CO 80207
303-321-3333
[Hotel Web site](#)

There is limited availability of rooms. **Book rooms by October 16, 2009.** Discounted rooms are available to meeting participants for \$109.00 per night (plus tax) for single or double occupancy. To make reservations at this reduced rate, call Doubletree reservations (800-222-8733) or the hotel directly (303-321-3333), and say you want the group rate for the Tribal Energy Program Review.

The deadline to make reservations at the group rate is **October 16, 2009**. After that date we are unable to guarantee the rate or room availability.

February 2010

- **February 7-9: Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick, WA—Harvesting Clean Energy 10 Conference (Save the Dates)**

The Harvesting Clean Energy Conference is the Northwest's premiere gathering to advance rural economic development through clean energy production. Clean energy offers practical, profitable opportunities for our farmers, ranchers, rural utilities and towns, tribes, and regional economy.

The conference charts the future of rural clean energy in the Northwest. Discussions focus on the steps to successful project development, including financing, to cut costs on the farm and produce power or feedstocks for market. Technologies covered include wind power, biofuels, biopower, geothermal, solar, and energy efficiency.

Harvesting Clean Energy is designed for Northwest farmers and agriculture leaders, tribes, rural utilities and economic development officials, lenders, elected officials and public agencies, as well as energy developers and consultants.

- Hear from leading experts and practitioners about the steps to successful clean energy projects that can help you cut costs on the farm and produce power or feedstocks for market, including energy efficiency, biofuels, biopower, geothermal, solar, and wind power.
- Learn how your farm or ranch, local government or community partnership, tribe or rural utility can tap into opportunities for energy efficiency and renewable energy, while creating local jobs and economic benefits.
- Find valuable technical and financial resources, and meet potential partners.

Additional information and updates will be posted [online](#).

This information provided courtesy of WSU Conference Management.

June 2010

- **June 6-10: Traverse City, MI—2010 National Tribal Science Forum**

This national forum is being sponsored by the National EPA-Tribal Science Council and hosted by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. It will be held at the Grand Traverse Resort and Spa in Traverse City, Michigan, from June 6-10, 2010.

The theme is "Mother Earth: Indigenous Knowledge and Science to Promote Positive Change." The forum is designed for representatives of Tribal communities, including elders, leaders, faculty, staff and students working on environmental issues.

Please feel free to pass along this information to those who may be interested in participating in the forum.

Visit the forum [Web site](#) for up-to-date information including agenda, plenary sessions, keynote speakers, and registration beginning January 2010.

This information provided courtesy of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
Thank you.

Other Items of Interest

1) Argonne National Laboratory Issues Wind Energy Design Challenge – Competitive Designs Due October 31, 2009

Argonne National Laboratory, in partnership with the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Education and the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development, is requesting designs for small wind turbine systems that will harness wind energy, store it mechanically or electrically and then use the stored energy to power an array of LEDs.

The ten design teams that submit the best proposals will receive \$1,300 each to construct their machine (five high schools and five colleges). When the machines have been constructed, each team will collect performance data and submit that, along with a detailed report and a video of their machine in operation, to Argonne National Laboratory.

The best college level machine and the best high school level machine will be selected and the teams (up to four team members and one faculty for each team) will have an opportunity to meet with DOI Senior Officials and have projects prominently displayed in Washington DC. The challenge is open to all Tribal Colleges and tribal and Bureau of Indian Education high schools.

The top 10 designs selected will be notified by November 20, 2009. Winners will be announced by February 28, 2010 and an award presentation will occur in Washington D.C. in April 2010.

Competitive designs must be submitted to the address below by **October 31, 2009**.

Argonne National Laboratory
ATTN: [Deon Ettinger](#)
Division of Educational Programs
9700 South Cass Avenue
Argonne, Illinois 60439

This information provided courtesy of the Tribal Energy and Environmental Information Clearinghouse (TEECI). [Subscribe](#) to the TEEIC News e-mail service.

2) Department of Energy Announces Start of Western Area Power Administration Recovery Act Project - New transmission line to help move renewable energy resources to market

September 16, 2009

Washington, DC - With the goal of bringing new jobs and green power to the West, Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced today a large-scale transmission project to be financed using funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Western Area Power Administration will use borrowing authority under the Recovery Act to help build the \$213 million Montana-Alberta Tie Limited (MATL) transmission project between Great Falls, Montana, and Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada. Almost two-thirds of the 214-mile transmission line will be located on U.S. soil, creating American jobs and allowing for the continued expansion of renewable energy production.

"By integrating renewable energy sources onto the electrical grid now, we are

helping to shape America's future economy, powered by clean, secure and affordable energy," said Secretary Chu. "This project will help put Americans to work and build the transmission networks needed to bring renewable energy to consumers across the West."

Project construction will be completed by a Montana contractor and is expected to create dozens of jobs. Hundreds of additional jobs are expected for workers to build wind farms near Cut Bank, Montana, and across the region. Once energized, as early as 2010, the 230-kilovolt transmission project will be capable of delivering 300-600 megawatts of clean, renewable wind energy - enough to power 150,000 to 300,000 homes.

The MATL project will be funded through a public-private partnership between the Western Area Power Administration and Tonbridge Power Inc. with up to \$161 million of the total project costs funded through Western's Recovery Act borrowing authority.

Construction is anticipated to begin by fall 2009 following the signing of agreements between Western and Tonbridge Power.

3) The Navajo Green Jobs Victory and the State of U.S. Green Jobs Policy (September 29, 2009, 10 a.m. Pacific / 1 p.m. Eastern)

Join us for a [discussion](#) of the historic Navajo Green Jobs legislation, recently passed by the Navajo Nation council, in the context of green jobs legislative advocacy presently underway at the federal level. What is the state of green jobs policy development in the United States, locally and nationally? What can the Navajo Green Jobs Coalitions successes teach advocates about cross-applicable strategies for community-based legislative advocacy? Learn about Women's Earth Alliance (WEA) Sacred Earth Advocacy Network, and how you can join the network of pro bono legal and policy advocates to support this powerful movement.

Featured speakers will include:

- Wahleah Johns, Executive Director of the [Black Mesa Water Coalition](#) and leader, [Navajo Green Jobs Coalition](#)
- Elena Foshay, MA, MSW, Research Associate at the [Apollo Alliance](#)
- The call will be moderated by Caitlin Sislin, Esq., Advocacy Director for [WEA's Women and Land Initiative](#)

Please [RSVP](#) to receive call-in information.

Information courtesy of WEA. Thank you.

4) Treasury, Governor Richardson Announce \$1 Billion in Recovery Act Bond Authority for Tribal Communities - Tribal Economic Development Bonds Awarded to More than 50 Tribes Nationally

September 15, 2009

As part of the Obama Administration's efforts to highlight the local impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (Recovery Act), Treasury Deputy Secretary Neal Wolin and New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson today announced \$1 billion in stimulus bond authority for 58 tribes across the country. Deputy Secretary Wolin and Governor Richardson visited the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center and met with local tribal leaders to discuss how Tribal Economic Development Bonds (Tribal

Bonds) will be used to create jobs, complete projects, and bring much needed economic revitalization to Indian Country.

View a full copy of the [news release](#). View the list of tribes and pueblos receiving Recovery Act bond authority as a result of this first round of Tribal Bond applications ([PDF 205 KB](#)).

5) Energy Solutions Database and Tools & Resources Offered by Energyexperts.org

[Energyexperts.org](#) includes a selection of objective and timely information on energy efficiency in all building types for building owners, operators and occupants. This site also delivers information on technologies and best practices for programs and businesses that work to design or retrofit buildings. It includes information on:

- [Energy Solutions Database](#): contains thousands of links to objective and timely resources selected by energy experts
- Calculators & Tools
- Training, Education and Employment
- Events Calendar
- Power Line e-News Energy Events Calendar Add a New Event

Additionally, Energy Experts partners have developed tools:

- Air Conditioning Cost Calculator
- Heating Cost Calculator
- Pumping System Efficiency Calculator

This Events Calendar lists trainings, workshops, classes, Webinars, and other events that have scheduled dates.

A monthly electronic newsletter is also available that highlights news and information relevant to utility and energy stakeholders. It includes updates on the Energy Experts Website, energy events, innovative utility programs (from the Utility Options Database) and energy questions and answers (from the Energy Solutions Database).

6) FY2009 Rural Housing and Economic Development (RHED) Awards

The Rural Housing and Economic Development (RHED) Program provides for capacity building at the state and local level for rural housing and economic development and to support innovative housing and economic development activities in rural areas.

FY2009 RHED awards made to Tribal Initiatives in the E/WONAP service area total \$25,030,465:

Alaska

- Chilkoot Indian Association - \$238,000
- Ketchikan Indian Community - \$300,000
- Organized Village of Kasaan - \$300,000

Alabama

- Collaborative Solutions, Inc. - \$300,000
- Hale Empowerment & Revitalization Organization, Inc. - \$300,000
- Health Services Center, Inc. - \$300,000

Arizona

- Bik'eh Hozho Community Development Corporation - \$298,900

Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc. - \$300,000
Elfrida Citizens Alliance, Inc. - \$300,000
Hopi Tribe - \$299,000
International Sonoran Desert Alliance - \$300,000
Moenkopi Developers Corporation, Inc. - \$257,280
Nogales Community Development Corporation - \$300,000
Pascua Yaqui Tribe - \$300,000
The Primavera Foundation, Inc. - \$300,000

California

Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria - \$300,000
Big Pine Paiute Tribe - \$300,000
Bishop Paiute Tribe - \$299,640
Community Assistance Network - \$300,000
Fresno West Coalition for Economic Development - \$300,000
Hoopa Valley Housing Authority - \$300,000
Quechan Tribally Designated Housing Authority - \$300,000
Self-Help Enterprises - \$300,000
Walking Shield, Inc. - \$300,000
Yurok Tribe - \$300,000

Florida

DeSoto County Homeless Coalition - \$300,000
Florida Non-Profit Services, Inc. - \$300,000

Illinois

YouthBuild McLean County (YBMC, Inc.) - \$300,000

Kentucky

Beattyville Housing and Development Corporation, Inc. - \$150,000
Housing Development Alliance, Inc. - \$300,000
KCEOC Community Action Partnership - \$300,000
Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation - \$300,000
Kentucky River Foothills Development Council, Inc. - \$300,000
Partnership Housing, Inc - \$300,000
WestCare Kentucky, Inc. - \$300,000
Young Adult Development in Action, Inc. dba YouthBuild Hazard - \$300,000

Louisiana

Macon Ridge Community Development Corporation - \$300,000
Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana - \$242,000

Massachusetts

NHA Properties, Inc. - \$300,000

Maryland

Global Community Investment Strategies, Inc. - \$300,000

Maine

Four Directions Development Corporation - \$298,234

Michigan

Chippewa-Luce-Mackinac Community Action Human Resource Authority, Inc. - \$300,000
Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians - \$293,933
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community - \$300,000
Little River Band of Ottawa Indians - \$238,349
Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians - \$300,000

Minnesota

Bois Forte Band of Chippewa - \$298,073
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa - \$170,000

Mississippi

County Housing, Education & Community Services, Inc. - \$300,000
Esther Stewart Buford Foundation - \$180,000

Montana

Blackfeet Tribe - \$300,000
Northern Cheyenne Tribal Housing Authority - \$200,000

Richland Affordable Housing - \$300,000

North Carolina

North Carolina Housing Finance Agency - \$300,000

North Dakota

Coalition of Indian Housing Authorities in North Dakota - \$300,000

Nebraska

High Plains Community Development Corp., Inc. - \$254,855

Ho-Chunk Community Development Corporation - \$298,754

New Mexico

Community Area Resource Enterprise - \$300,000

Mescalero Apache Housing Authority - \$300,000

New Mexico Mortgage Finance Authority - \$300,000

Ohkay Owingeh Housing Authority - \$300,000

Oklahoma

Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Organization - \$300,000

Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma - \$296,496

Muscogee (Creek) Nation - \$300,000

Oregon

Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians - \$190,000

South Carolina

Allendale County Alive, Inc. - \$300,000

Catawba Indian Nation - \$273,609

South Dakota

First Nations Oweesta Corporation - \$1,000,000

Mazaska Owecaso Otipi Financial, Inc. - \$160,000

Sicangu Wicoti Awayankapi Corporation - \$300,000

The Lakota Fund, Inc. - \$300,000

Tennessee

Buffalo Valley, Inc. - \$300,000

Douglas-Cherokee Economic Authority, Inc. - \$214,038

West Tennessee Legal Service, Inc. - \$300,000

Texas

Motivation Education & Training, Inc. - \$300,000

Neighborhood Housing Services of Dimmit County, Inc. - \$300,000

Proyecto Azteca, Inc. - \$300,000

Upper Rio Grande Workforce Development Board - \$300,000

Washington

Lummi Indian Nation - \$279,304

Makah Tribe - \$300,000

Quinault Indian Nation - \$300,000

Spokane Tribe of Indians - \$300,000

Wisconsin

Lau Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin - \$300,000

Neighborhood Housing Services of Richland Center* - \$300,000

(*includes Ho-chunk Housing and Community Development Agency)

West Virginia

Southern Appalachian Labor School - \$300,000

Information courtesy of Brian Gillen, ONAP. Thanks Brian.

7) Changes to Wind Energy Tax Credit Safe Harbor Rev. Proc.

The Internal Revenue Service released Announcement 2009-69 (the Announcement) yesterday, which includes changes to Revenue Procedure 2007-65 (the Revenue Procedure) which created safe harbor tax guidelines for allocating wind energy production tax credits in partnerships. Generally, the Announcement expands the rights of developers and owners to enter into agreements for the purchase of the

wind energy property owned by the partnership to permit a purchase price determined prior to exercise if the parties reasonably believe that the price will not be less than the fair market value of the energy property at the time the right may be exercised. The Revenue Procedure previously prohibited any contractual right to purchase the property or an interest in the project partnership at a price less than fair market value determined at the time of exercise.

The Announcement also clarifies how the passive activity limitations apply to credits generated by wind energy facilities. The Announcement provides that taxpayers such as individuals that are subject to the passive activity loss and credit limitation rules under Code Section 469 may utilize passive activity credits from qualified wind facilities to the extent of their tax liability allocable to passive activities, whether from qualified wind facilities or other sources.

Finally, the Announcement clarifies that the Revenue Procedure only provides safe harbor requirements. The Revenue Procedure had indicated that the Service would closely scrutinize a project company and its investors if the partnership agreement did not satisfy each requirement of the Revenue Procedure. The Announcement replaces that "close scrutiny" language with general language that returns claiming wind energy production tax credits are subject to examination by the Service.

For more information download the PDF. ([PDF 11 KB](#)).

Information courtesy of Tracey A. LeBeau, Senior Managing Director, Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal LLP. Thank you, Tracey.

8) Agriculture Secretary Vilsack Announces \$4 Million in Economic Development Funding for Native American Communities, Rural Transportation Improvements

September 24, 2009 –

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced that the USDA has selected 23 recipients to receive more than \$4 million in grants to spur economic development in Native American communities. As part of this announcement, the Community Transportation Association of America has also been selected to receive \$750,000 in grants to help organizations in four states and the U.S. Virgin Islands that are working to improve local passenger transportation systems in rural and Native American communities. Altogether, projects will be funded in 16 states and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

[Read](#) the complete announcement.