

DOE OFFICE OF INDIAN ENERGY

# DOE Indian Energy Program Overview

Wahleah Johns, Director



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
Indian Energy

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# Wahleah Johns

## Director, Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs, Washington DC

Wahleah Johns is the Director for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs. She is responsible for upholding and advancing the Office of Indian Energy's (IE's) mission to maximize the development and deployment of energy solutions for the benefit of American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Johns is a member of the Navajo (Dine) tribe and comes from northeastern Arizona. Her background is in renewable energy and community organizing, having co-founded Native Renewables, a nonprofit that builds renewable energy tribal capacity while addressing energy access. Her work with the Black Mesa Water Coalition and Navajo Green Economy Coalition has led to groundbreaking legislative victories for groundwater protection, green jobs, and environmental justice. In 2019, she was awarded the Nathan Cummings Foundation Fellowship.



Johns is deeply honored to work with the Office of Indian Energy to help Native communities lead the way in the transition to clean energy.

# Office of Indian Energy

The DOE Office of Indian Energy is charged by Congress under the **Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self Determination Act of 2005** (Title V of the Energy Policy Act of 2005) to “provide, direct, foster, coordinate, and implement energy planning, education, management, conservation, and delivery programs that –

- (1) **promote Indian tribal energy development, efficiency, and use;**
- (2) **reduce or stabilize energy costs;**
- (3) **enhance and strengthen Indian tribal energy and economic infrastructure** relating to natural resource development and electrification; and
- (4) **bring electrical power and service to Indian land and the homes** of tribal members located on Indian lands or acquired, constructed, or improved (in whole or in part) with Federal funds.”



Clockwise from top right: **Seneca Nation’s** (NY) 1.5-MW wind turbine, **Fort Yukon’s** (AK) combined heat and powerhouse, **Coeur d’Alene Tribe’s** (ID) Benewah Market energy efficiency project, **Sokaogon Chippewa Community** (WI) Housing Project, and **Chippewa Cree Tribe’s** (MT) residential solar.”

# IE Deployment Program



## Financial Assistance

We facilitate tribal energy project development through financial assistance (competitively awarded grants).



## Technical Assistance

We provide federally recognized Indian tribes, including Alaska Native villages, regional and village corporations, tribal energy resource development organizations, and other tribal groups and communities, with technical assistance to advance tribal energy and infrastructure projects at no charge.

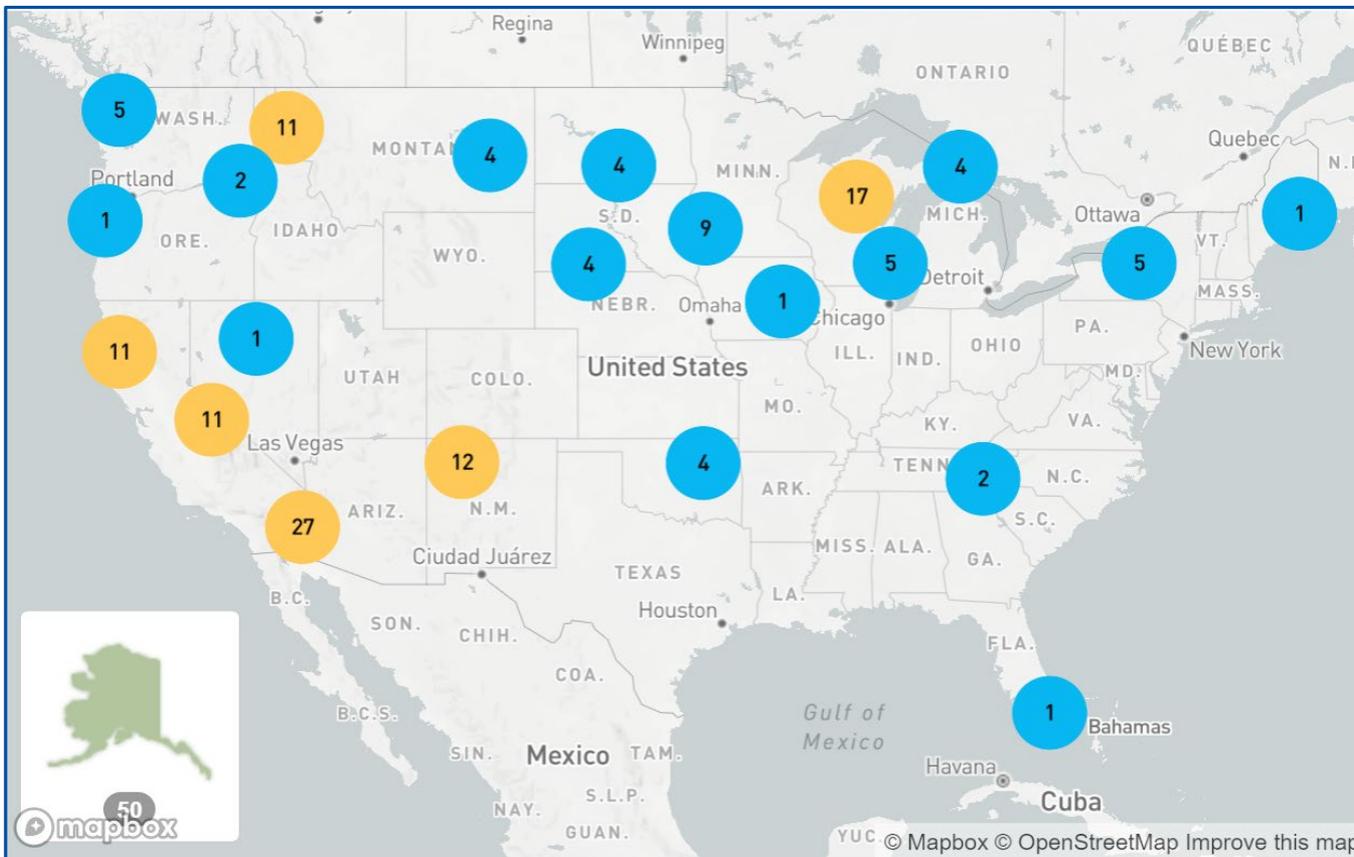


## Education and Capacity Building

Thorough regional workshops, webinars, and college student internships, we support tribal efforts to build internal capacity to develop energy projects and navigate energy markets.



# Invested over \$100 million in more than 190 tribal energy projects valued at over \$180 million (2010-2020)



**Invested nearly \$75 million in more than 90 tribal energy hardware installation projects valued at over \$140 million (2010-2020)**

## Tangible Results

- **More than 40 MW** of New Generation Installed
- **More than 7 MWh** of Battery Storage Installed
- **Over \$12.6 Million** Saved Every Year
- **Over \$275 Million** Saved Over System Lifetimes
- **\$3.68 Saved** for Every DOE Dollar Invested
- **Over 8,000** Tribal Buildings Affected



# Tribal Energy Successes



Clockwise from top right: Ute Mountain Ute Tribe's (CO) 1-MW solar system (2020); San Xavier (AZ) solar installation at their Education building (2021); Winnebago Tribe's (NE) solar installation (2015); Igiugig Village's (AK) 35-kW RivGen system (2019) and energy storage microgrid.

# IE Outreach and Communication

- **Listening Sessions**
  - **IE/LPO Funding & Financing Listening Session, May 2021**
    - 586 registered; 369 attendees
  - **IE Energy Access & Reliability Listening Session (Congressional Report), November 2021**
    - ~200 attendees; 52% tribal representatives
- **Monthly Webinars**
  - Provide foundational information, resources, and case studies
    - Statistics: 1,300+ attendees in FY 2021 (~150 per webinar)
- **Email Newsletters**
  - Highlight funding, upcoming events, and tribal energy related news
    - Statistics: 24,700+ subscribers



# Assisting Tribes in Achieving Their Energy Visions



Clockwise from top right: **Nunamiut people** of Anaktuvuk Pass (AK); **Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes** (MT); **Picuris Pueblo** (NM); **Tonto Apache Tribe** (AZ); **Chaninik Wind Group** (AK); **Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes** (MT); and in the center, **Pueblo of Laguna** (NM).

# IE Goal and Priorities

**Goal:** Empower the 574 American Indian and Alaska Native nations to lead the transition to 100% clean energy

## Priorities:

- 1) Build Office of Indian Energy Capacity
- 2) Nation-to-Nation Trust
- 3) Energy Access & Transition
- 4) Capacity Building
- 5) Increased Funding
- 6) 7 Generation Planning
- 7) Lifting Up Successful Projects



# IE Executive Summary

## ➤ Priorities

- Universal energy access for Indian Country
- 100% renewable Tribal Colleges and Universities (TC&Us)
- Transition Indian Country to clean energy

## ➤ Strategic Objectives

- Rapidly ramp up electrification of tribal homes each year
- Transition 37 TC&Us to clean energy over 5 years
- Deploy several MW of new generation and resiliency infrastructure each year

## ➤ FY 2022 Request (\$122M)

- Energy Access & Transition: \$68.7 million
- Clean Energy TC&Us: \$30.9 million
- Deployment Program (Core): \$16.9 million
- Program Direction: \$5.5 million



Clockwise from top right: Hughes Village (AK) 150-kW solar system (2018); Menominee Tribal Enterprise (WI) biomass combined heat and power system (2016); Tolowa Dee-ni' Nations (OR) Fish Hatchery 114-kW solar project (2020); Seneca Nation's (NY) 1.5-MW turbine (2017).



**Thank You!**  
**Questions?**