

Indigenized Energy

2024 Investment Prospectus

Indigenized Energy, established in 2017 in the wake of the North Dakota Access Pipeline (NoDAPL) protest, is a Native-led capacity-building organization. As a fiscally sponsored project of Mission Edge, we secure philanthropic investments to provide free support to tribes on their sacred path to energy sovereignty.

Our Work

Indigenized Energy works directly with Native tribes to pursue energy transformation with a focus on economic development. Our primary goal is to help tribes develop a long-term energy vision and transformation plan, and to walk beside them as they pursue energy sovereignty. **We utilize innovative education programs, direct mentoring, and renewable energy projects as strategic instruments for developing the capacity of tribal leaders and solar warriors.** The outcomes we are creating include the establishment of long term energy visions by tribes that are codified in resolutions; securing resources to help tribes pursue energy transformation projects including solar, wind, and microgrids; and the creation of career opportunities for tribal members.

The Opportunity

Federal policies like the Investment Tax Credit (ITC) have enabled renewable energy to gain a foothold in the US energy marketplace. These policies however, were not available to federally recognized tribes. Things have changed. **The Inflation Reduction Act has expanded the access and scale of Federal support for clean energy to Native Tribes** who can now participate in the critical financial transactions leading to ownership stake in energy projects and ultimately, energy sovereignty.

Our Unique Approach

Build Trust First: In response to generations of broken promises, we prioritize trust-building. Our 24-year track record of success demonstrates our commitment to delivering on promises and creating a foundation of trust within tribal communities.

Hire local: Recognizing the importance of an intimate understanding of local conditions, we prioritize hiring from within each community. This approach ensures our team members are deeply connected to the unique economic, social, and ecological systems in place.

Cultivate Long-Term Partnerships: We understand the challenges of organizations parachuting into communities with temporary solutions. Our commitment to deep and long-term partnerships means that tribal communities can rely on us for unwavering support on their journey towards energy sovereignty.

Our Impact

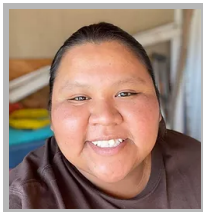
The effects of our work cannot be measured in megawatts. **We assess our impact based on the meaningful and enduring effects and life-changing experiences** that we create working side by side with tribal communities. Examples of our impacts and our inspiration for 2024 include:



Comprehensive Tribal Energy and Economic Transition Plans: Indigenized Energy and our technical partner, Protogen, have developed a comprehensive energy transformation plan for the Menominee Nation. This plan guides the tribe towards energy sovereignty through incremental projects, grid evolution, and the expertise needed in the development of clean energy asset management.



Innovative Workforce Development and Job Placement: Indigenized Energy created a unique on-the-job apprenticeship in the Northern Cheyenne community. With our support, 11 tribe members participated, with eight securing jobs with project partner Freedom Forever. Five of these Solar Warriors accepted long-term positions from Freedom Forever, and will become the foundation of the new solar workforce their community needs.



Energy Education and Literacy: Our team is leading an initiative at Chief Dull Knife College to establish an **Energy Education and Training Center** with funding from the Economic Development Administration. The center will house multiple energy education and training efforts that will equip tribal members with skills for emerging energy jobs and also act as a living laboratory for energy literacy.



Tribal-Led Energy Programs and Revolving Funds: Leveraging a grant from the The Department of Energy, Indigenized Energy helped the Northern Cheyenne in creating a residential solar program. This initiative makes solar energy accessible to tribal members in their homes, reducing energy bills and generating programmatic income for the long-term operation and maintenance of systems.



Pursuing Federal Funding: In partnership with the Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara (MHA) Nation, Indigenized Energy formed a coalition of 14 Plains tribes. Together, they submitted a \$245M proposal to the **EPA's Solar for All** program. If funded, this grant will support solar, energy storage, and electrification initiatives, paving the way for energy independence and sovereignty for each tribe.

2024 Strategic Focus - Capitalize on the IRA

Four initiatives designed to seize this critical moment

1. Grow our capacity to help tribes pursue energy sovereignty

In the past two years, our work has provided invaluable insights and experiences, leading to the development of a playbook for supporting tribes in energy initiatives. A key lesson has been the importance of a supportive approach that aligns with each tribe's unique needs, emphasizing empowerment over prescriptive assistance. We've learned that building trust and demonstrating value to tribes is a nuanced and time-intensive process, requiring a customized strategy. Our success has attracted an increasing number of tribes seeking our guidance. In response to this encouraging demand, we are gearing up to expand our capacity in 2024. This expansion is critical to meet the growing needs of tribes pursuing energy sovereignty. It will involve recruiting and training new project managers who are specifically equipped to address the evolving requirements of tribal communities. Moreover, we plan to establish a community of practice and a professional development program for energy leaders within these communities. This initiative aims to foster a network of knowledgeable and skilled individuals who can drive energy projects forward, ensuring long-term sustainability and success. Through these efforts, we are committed to empowering tribes to take control of their energy futures and achieve lasting impact.



Programs include: *Change Agents* and *Playbook* (below)

2. Expand support for clean energy job training and energy literacy

The economic impacts of renewable energy are not only substantial but also long-lasting, though they often manifest gradually within communities. In tribal communities, the jobs generated by clean energy projects can have immediate and transformative effects. Indigenized Energy focuses on creating innovative and accessible training opportunities, leading to sustained employment and fostering job pipeline partnerships. Investments in job transition programs and hands-on training are crucial in equipping tribal members with the skills necessary to secure energy jobs in their own communities. These green jobs not only provide a stable source of income but also contribute to the overall economic development of the area. They often offer higher wages compared to traditional energy sectors, leading to improved living standards and community well-being. Moreover, these roles play a significant part in fostering a sense of empowerment and self-sufficiency within tribal communities. By participating in the green energy sector, tribal members not only contribute to global sustainability efforts but also help in preserving their natural resources for future generations. In essence, the shift towards renewable energy and the accompanying job creation is a step towards economic resilience and environmental stewardship for tribal communities.



Programs include: *Solar Warriors* and *Native Energy Apprenticeship Programs* (below).

3. Pursue high-impact projects that will unleash IRA resources

A key lesson from our early successes is that certain types of activities consistently help tribes initiate and gain momentum in energy transformation. Projects with high visibility and impact are crucial, as they build experience and make the transformation process tangible for tribal leaders and community members. As tribes achieve success, our gained experience allows us to guide new tribes on starting their journey. Notable examples of impactful projects include installing solar-plus-storage systems in the homes of respected elders and those most vulnerable to frequent power outages. Additionally, designing and planning microgrids at resilience hubs provides a valuable resource for tribes, independent of their relationships with local utilities. Moving forward, we aim to continue securing funding through federal programs and philanthropy to finance demonstration projects. These projects are vital in assisting tribes to embark on a journey towards energy sovereignty in a powerful and lasting manner.



Programs include *Holistic Energy Assessments* and *Energy Transformation Planning* (below).

4. Demonstrate enduring impact of game-changing energy and economic transactions in native communities

While tribes have the opportunity to leverage federal incentives and become owners of resilient, renewably-fueled energy assets, navigating this process remains complex. The challenge isn't the availability of capital for these projects, but rather the lack of guidance and support for tribes in planning, managing, and ultimately owning renewable energy and microgrid assets. Tribes need guidance and confidence in financial transactions and lending, a significant global challenge. Additionally, they require support from energy attorneys dedicated to protecting their interests and capable of negotiating effectively with influential financial and energy development industry players, who often prioritize their own interests. There is a need for more efforts to demonstrate how tribes can participate and be supported in business transactions that will significantly alter their economic trajectory and have lasting impacts.



Programs include: *IRA-driven project development*; *Federal Tribal Loan Program Stewardship*; and the establishment of *Indigenous Power and Light* (below)

Program Design

Key initiatives that require investments ranging from \$100K to \$5M. Full proposals can be developed for specific partners, programs, and funding opportunities.

Native Energy Change Agents: In partnership with RMI (Rocky Mountain Institute) and TSAF (Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund), this initiative aims to build the capacity of tribal energy leaders and renewable energy managers. Funding supports training, fosters a community of practice, offers mentorship, and provides technical assistance, building sustainable value and permanent investments by tribes in energy transformation staff and activities. *Funding Requirements: \$150k-\$1M.*

Energy Transformation Playbook: Originally launched in 2022 with funding from the Energy Foundation, the playbook provides a framework for energy planning and strategies proven effective by other tribes. This resource assists tribes in charting and tracking their path toward energy sovereignty and connects them with the strategies and resources necessary for success. Additional funding is needed to refine and publish the playbook as an online resource for tribes. *Funding Requirements: \$200-500K.*

Solar Warriors: We partner with Red Cloud Renewable to cultivate solar warriors. The efforts include providing stipends to tribal members to participate in training, providing financial support for their participation in apprenticeship programs, stewarding their placement in enduring clean energy jobs, and helping with job transition expenses. *Funding Requirements: \$50-250K.*

Native Energy Apprenticeships: We are partnering with the Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy Programs and the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC) to cultivate apprenticeship programs that leverage and build capabilities at tribal colleges to promote energy job education training and placement. *Funding Requirements: \$50-250K.*

Holistic Energy Assessments: Before tribes can secure financing and federal grants, they need pre-engineering and financial analysis of projects. We offer comprehensive assessments encompassing grid analysis, energy consumption, and resilience needs for individual tribes. These assessments provide tribes with technical and financial insights, empowering them to make informed decisions that advance their journey toward energy sovereignty. *Funding Requirements: \$125-200K.*

Energy Transformation Plans: Indigenized Energy crafts comprehensive energy and economic plans tailored to the unique opportunities of each tribe. These plans offer options for tribal ownership, renewable energy integration, resilience enhancement, and the technical, financial, and legal analyses required for them to pursue energy sovereignty. *Funding Requirements: \$200K-1.5M.*

IRA-Driven Project Development: Leveraging federal funds to mitigate project risks, enabling investments, and maximizing IRS direct pay benefits for tribes. This approach leads to tribal ownership of energy assets and long-term economic benefits. *Funding Requirements: \$250K-5M.*

Federal Tribal Loan Program: DOE and USDA have loan programs that can help tribes pursue energy development in a way that leads to ownership and maximizes economic values. We work with tribes and federal loan program offers to promote and align conditions leading to loans. This requires technical analysis, financial analysis, and legal advice. *\$100-300K.*

For-Profit Subsidiary - *Indigenized Power and Light*: Benefit Corporation has been established to support tribes in risk management, and financial transactions leading to sustainable and regenerative energy programs. Funding is needed to completely capitalize this effort, leverage early clients, and demonstrate business viability. *Funding Requirements: \$250-500K.*