



Indigenized Energy Progress and Accomplishments (2023)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This year Indigenized Energy successfully transitioned to the stand-alone entity under the fiscal oversight of Mission Edge, maintaining an uninterrupted payroll system for Native employees. The organization added two dedicated Native communications professionals and formed an advisory board with over 50% Native representation. In addition, there's a bolstered commitment to grant writing, doubling our contractual obligations.

This year has seen robust fundraising efforts. Key achievements include substantial grant renewals from the Pazala Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, Builders Initiative, Crown Family Philanthropies, and Honnold Foundation. Special mention to the film "On Sacred Ground", has been instrumental in donor outreach. Moreover, there was significant progress in the Yield Giving Initiative and the initiation of diverse donor engagement strategies.

A strategic plan was developed with a focus on transition strategies from IEI to Indigenized Energy. 90% of strategic milestones achieved through Q3, 2023. Revised plans for Q2, 2024, have been drafted. Following this plan, our team pioneered partnerships and programs, like collaborations with Menominee tribe, Red Cloud Renewable, and Freedom Forever. These initiatives are tailored towards job creation and skill development in the solar industry. Additionally, a workshop was conducted for multiple tribes focused on energy planning using our emerging "Energy Transformation Playbook".

Indigenized Energy championed energy sovereignty with comprehensive visioning, utility feasibility studies, and microgrid design projects. Significant progress was made with the Northern Cheyenne, Menominee and MHA Nations.

Significant effort went into securing federal funding for tribes. Forming a coalition to pursue the \$200M EPA Solar for All program, multiple DOE proposals including two Tribal colleges, and being included on USDA and EPA proposals championed by others were among the highlights. Grants and matching funds from organizations like the BIA, NDN Collective, and Grid Alternatives were procured.

Key initiatives include a unique revenue capture program for solar projects, strategic re-designing for Northern Cheyenne's DOE project, and establishing ties with Protogen to incubate Indigenous Power and Light. Notably, a 40kW living lab solar system was built at the College of Menominee Nation in conjunction with multiple successful community engagement and training events that were well-attended.

In summary, Indigenized Energy's multifaceted approach has forged significant advancements in both internal and external arenas. The blend of organizational development, fundraising, strategic planning,



capacity building, energy planning, and project financing solidifies Indigenized Energy's position as a leader in indigenous energy transformation and development.

The following outline includes specific internal and external accomplishments between Fall 2022 and September 2023.

INTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Organizational Development and Capacity Building

- Launched Indigenized Energy as a stand-alone organization with new fiscal Sponsor, Mission Edge
- On-boarded all Native employees from our former organization with no interruption to pay.
- Hired two new Native employees to focus on communications internally and externally.
- Formed a new advisory board that now meets quarterly and has over 50% Native membership.
- Doubled our contractual agreement with our grant writing firm to support federal grant pursuits.

Fundraising

- Awarded third renewal of funds from Pazala Foundation for \$250K
- Awarded renewed funding from MacArthur Foundation for \$250K/year for 3 years
- Organized two screenings of “On Sacred Ground” with Q&A in North Carolina and Denver, CO.
- Held two fundraising events in CA that leveraged “On Sacred Ground” film as a way to launch our donor network.
- Awarded continued funding from Builders Initiative of \$250K
- Awarded continued funding from Crown Family of \$140K
- Awarded \$150K commitment from Honnold Foundation for Buffalo Microgrid initiative.
- Made it to 2nd round of Yield Giving Initiative for \$1M and peer reviewed 5 other applications
- Held an immersive donor experience event on the Northern Cheyenne reservation.
- Launched communications and fundraising initiatives across individual donors, foundations, and corporate partners

Strategic Planning

- Developed short-term strategic plan with an focus on the transition from IEI to Indigenized Energy
- Accomplished 90% of strategic milestone objectives through Q3, 2023
- Began an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats and included this in the revised strategic plan.
- Revised strategic plan objectives through Q2, 2024 (Attached).

EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

Capacity Building

- Advised Menominee tribe in the hiring of a Renewable Energy Manager, and supported this individual in the design and implementation of multiple outreach and strategic initiatives.
- Supported participation of four tribal members in an immersive solar installation and training program in partnership with Red Cloud Renewable, leading to the employment of three of those individuals in various positions in the solar industry.
- Launched partnership with Freedom Forever to provide jobs and training for tribal members seeking employment in the solar industry, including placement and start-up of 1st participant as a solar installer.
- Conducted an Energy Planning Workshop for multiple tribes in Wisconsin that featured our “Energy Transformation Playbook” as a guide for tribes to develop goals and direction for their pursuit of energy sovereignty.
- Maintained regular weekly meetings with Menominee Tribe renewable energy manager to provide support in the management of multiple energy initiatives and also to help grow his capacity to pursue the tribe’s energy vision.

Energy Planning and Visioning for Tribes

- Developed plan for investment of \$1M in ARPA funding into a multi-faceted strategic plan for renewable energy development for the Menominee Tribe. This plan was reviewed and approved by the Menominee Tribal Council and is now in progress.
- Launched two comprehensive energy visioning and utility feasibility studies for the MHA Nation and Menominee nation. These projects will assess existing energy systems and facilitate the development of long-term energy transformation plans by the respective leadership councils of the tribes.
- Launched two microgrid conceptual design projects for multi-building microgrid projects that will enable massive energy savings and emergency power for critical facilities on the MHA and Menominee Nation, leading to federal proposals for the DOE Grid Resiliency program.
- Secured funding from Energy Foundation to conduct research and development leading to a “Tribal Energy Transformation Playbook”. Initial efforts include the formation of a task force of experienced technical experts with experience supporting tribal energy projects, the development of an initial framework for the playbook, and initiation of interviews with tribal leaders of recent energy projects to collect information about successful strategies for energy transformation.

Federal Funding and Matching Funds for Tribes

- Assembling a coalition of tribes in ND, SD, MT, and WY to pursue \$200M from EPA Solar for All program that will support solar and energy upgrades on thousands of homes in some of the most economically disadvantaged communities in the US.
- Submitted \$3.9 M DOE proposal to support a “Living Lab” of solar, energy efficiency, and energy storage at United Tribes Technical College.
- Submitted \$3.2 M DOE proposal to support a “Living Lab” of solar, energy efficiency, and energy storage at the College of Menominee Nation
- Provided \$75K of in-kind support for the White River Community Solar project on the Northern Cheyenne reservation that will include pilot projects for residential, tribal building, and utility scale projects.
- Launched energy planning effort with a \$100K grant from the BIA Tribal Energy Development Capacity program (TEDC) that will create detailed energy master plans and utility feasibility studies for the Menominee Nation.
- Secured \$325K in cash matching funds for the DOE White River Community Solar project from the NDN Collective (\$200K) and Grid Alternatives Tribal Solar Accelerator program (\$125K).

Project Development and Financing

- Designed a revenue capture program for residential solar projects (adopted by Northern Cheyenne) that effectively uses PPA agreements to share savings from federal funded solar projects and create revolving funds for tribes to manage and grow renewable energy assets.
- Secured \$150K from Honnold Foundation to support the development of a microgrid that will power the Northern Cheyenne Buffalo pasture and help grow the program and all the benefits it provides to the community.
- Supported Northern Cheyenne in the strategic re-design of their \$4M DOE project and the procurement of an EPC contractor enabling groundbreaking in Sept. 2023 and the launch of a residential solar program.
- Designing pilot programs with Christiansen Fund to demonstrate financing strategies that leverage federal funding to de-risk solar investments and also culture new IRA incentive funds that are newly available to tribes.
- Led the construction of a 40kW living lab solar system for the College of Menominee Nation Sustainable Development Institute including a series of embedded training and community engagement workshops that were participated in by over 30 tribal members and leaders.
- Formed strategic partnership with Protogen that will enable the incubation of a for-profit subsidiary of Indigenized Energy (Indigenous Power and Light) that will focus on the development, financing, and management of renewable energy assets for tribes and tribal utilities.



- Completed solar+storage demonstration project, including the 1st Tesla Powerwall installed in North Dakota) on the home of a veteran’s housing unit. This project will allow tribe to evaluate the economics and technologies that could be used at the homes of at-risk elders and tribal members.
- Designed training / on-boarding program that offers an apprenticeship learning experience for tribal members that are aligned with actual projects and job opportunities on future/pending projects.
- Developing proposal for DOE Loan Program Office that would support a microgrid on the MHA Nation and leverage 20% equity investment of the tribe, and also tap IRA incentives.

Strategic Partnerships

Protogen - Specialty technical service firm currently collaborating on technical and financial feasibility studies for solar and microgrids in three tribal communities.

Yale School of Environment - Internship program and strategic initiatives focused on strategies for supporting tribes in financial strategies that enable just energy transition.

Rocky Mountain Institute - Collaborating on EPA Solar for All strategies and the development of a program to help tribes build capacity to pursue energy transformation.

Kansas State University - Developing proposals to provide technical support for tribes in energy development and brownfield management.

Eland Electric - Partner in methods to bridge the gap between entry-level training opportunities for tribal members, professional development, and pathways to IBEW apprenticeship.

Jinko Solar - Strategic partner in sourcing solar modules and energy storage technologies for residential, commercial, and utility scale projects.