



**INDIGENIZED**  
**ENERGY**

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***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

## **MHA Nation Partners with Indigenized Energy to Install First Tesla Powerwall in North Dakota**

New Town, ND, September 18, 2023 — The Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation (MHA Nation), in partnership with Indigenized Energy, is proud to announce the successful installation of the first Tesla Powerwall in the state of North Dakota. This groundbreaking project serves as a pilot to evaluate the costs and benefits of integrating solar energy systems and backup batteries in homes of Elders and at-risk tribal members.

The pilot project serves as an assessment tool for the costs and benefits associated with integrating solar installations and backup batteries in homes. A key focus has been on ensuring that Elders and tribal members who are most vulnerable have access to reliable power, especially considering the frequent power outages faced by the community.

One of the standout achievements of this initiative is that the installation was led by a Native-run contracting business, Native Brothers Services, led by Daylon Fox of the MHA tribe. Fox shared his journey that began at a workshop organized by the Indigenized Energy team on the Standing Rock reservation. Expressing his pride, Fox says, "This is a big moment. I'm proud. I look forward to helping bring this crucial technology to Native communities where it's most needed."

Cody Two Bears, Executive Director of Indigenized Energy adds, "In our journey working with various tribes, one constant theme is the emphasis on protecting our Elders from power outages. Now, we're assisting multiple tribes in planning programs to install solar systems and backup batteries in homes of the most vulnerable."

The project engineering and construction was also managed by LightSpring Solar, a Bismark based design-build solar installation firm that has also collaborated with Indigenized Energy on other projects.

Tesla, the global leader in sustainable energy solutions, has also been instrumental in this project. "Tesla was an important partner. They sent Eddie Tamayo, a Powerwall installation expert, who not only supported the project but also provided training." said Daniel East.

Fred Fox, a councilman for the MHA Nations reflecting on the larger implications of the project, stated, “This is an important project for us. We need to gain experience with these technologies so that we can be confident about deploying them at a larger scale. We hope this project also sets an example for other tribes who are considering these kinds of strategies.”

“Another thing that is important for tribes to learn about is the importance of including batteries with solar installations,” added Two Bears. “Energy storage can provide back-up power when the grid goes down, but it can also help enable renewable energy by smoothing out power and helping the grid. Batteries are like shock absorbers for solar.”

This project is part of a larger effort in which the MHA Nation has engaged Indigenized Energy to explore ways that renewable energy development and grid resilience improvements can be adopted by tribes.

As a part of this larger effort, Indigenized Energy and the MHA Nation are forming a coalition of tribes to pursue federal funding from programs like the EPA Solar for All program that is intended to bring solar and energy storage to the hundreds if not thousands of homes in the Northern Plains states.

For more information contact

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Indigenized Energy is a Native-led capacity-building organization that works directly with tribes to pursue energy transformation with a focus on economic development. Founded in 2017 by Cody Two Bears (Standing Rock Sioux) in the wake of the North Dakota Access Pipeline protest, our primary goal is to help tribes develop a long-term energy vision and to walk beside them on the sacred journey towards 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 plans 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.

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Daylon Fox (MHA Nation) proudly and Cody Two Bears (Standing Rock Sioux) present the installation of the first Tesla Powerwall in North Dakota as part of a solar+battery storage demonstration project in White Shield, ND