



No-Cost Services & Support for Tribal Clean Energy Development



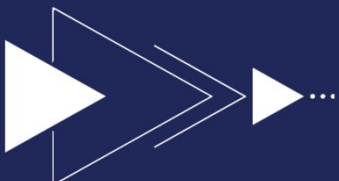


Who we are



The Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy (the Alliance)

(formerly known as Covenant Tribal Solar Initiative, Indigenized/Indigenous Energy Initiative)

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- **Indigenous-led 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.**
 - **Founded in 2016 by Chéri Smith (*Mi'kmaq* Descendant), a clean energy leader with over 25 years of renewables industry, policy, finance, education workforce experience.**
 - **Highly qualified in-house team of Indigenous and non-Indigenous clean energy subject matter experts: Engineering, Finance, Law, Installation, Operations & Maintenance, Education/Workforce, and more.**

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The slide features a dark blue background with intricate geometric patterns in the corners. The top-left and top-right corners are filled with overlapping triangles and polygons in shades of orange, yellow, green, and purple. The bottom-left corner contains a small, stylized orange sun icon with a central circle and four dots. The bottom-right corner also features a geometric pattern of triangles in orange, yellow, and green.

What we do

Three white chevrons of increasing size point to the right, followed by an ellipsis.

The mission of the Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy is to support the **self-determined efforts** of Native American tribes and Alaska Native Villages to **transition toward clean energy** systems – as a means to mitigate climate change, diminish poverty, and create thriving economies while protecting Mother Earth for future generations.

The slide features a dark blue background with decorative geometric patterns in the top corners. The top-left pattern consists of overlapping triangles in shades of orange, yellow, and purple. The top-right pattern is a more complex arrangement of triangles in orange, yellow, purple, and teal. The text is centered in the middle of the slide.

How we do it

Three nested right-pointing chevrons, with the innermost being solid white and the others being outlines, followed by an ellipsis.

The Alliance offers clean energy services to tribes through **four key pillars of support, built upon a strong and deep foundation** of Native American cultural values.

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**TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE &
PROJECT FINANCE**



**ENERGY POLICY
& GOVERNMENT
RELATIONS**



**INFORMATION
RESOURCES
& EVENTS**



**EDUCATION &
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**

TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT

To ensure that the Alliance embodies the experiences and perspectives of the Native American communities it serves, and that **our work is in line with Native values and lifeways**, we are guided by our head of tribal affairs who leads a team of Native tribal liaisons. To foster good relationships from the start, this culturally grounded team is first point of contact for tribes seeking assistance from the Alliance.



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & PROJECT FINANCE

The Alliance technical and project finance team is made up of Native and non-Native expert practitioners supports tribes with **capacity building** and **wrap-around services** for clean energy development, including:

- Energy Planning
- Grant Writing
- Project Financing
- Project Design & Engineering
- Project Development
- Facilitation of Tribal Control & Project Ownership
- Transmission & Interconnection
- Tribal Utility Formation

+ GAP

FUNDING...



TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE & PROJECT FINANCE

Alliance Preferred Provider Program

- First of its kind initiative which connects tribes and **facilitates respectful and reciprocal relationships** with energy service provider-allies in the **financial, legal, engineering, construction, and supporting industries**.
- Maximizes the chances that **tribes' best interests are protected** through all phases of clean energy planning and infrastructure development and **minimizes the chances that tribes will experience exploitation**.
- The Alliance facilitates **equitable financial and contractual agreements** between Preferred Providers and tribes.
- Over 200 organizations have been vetted and 80+ have achieved *Provisional* Preferred Provider status. The next step is **Qualified Preferred Provider** designation, once additional criteria are met.



ENERGY POLICY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

The Alliance is **advocating for equitable energy policy and utility practices** that benefit tribes... and all communities. The Alliance accomplishes this by:

- Serving as an energy **liaison between the federal government and tribal governments** to minimize overwhelm for tribes and maximize available federal resources.
- Maintaining **beneficial relationships** with federal and state regulators, **advising on equitable rulemaking** and **educating them about the unique abilities and needs of tribal communities**, to eliminate or minimize the barriers tribes face in bringing the tangible benefits of clean energy, including electric bill savings, resilience, access to jobs, and reduced pollution, to their communities.
- Partnering with **academic and research institutions** to **identify and eliminate the hurdles and disparities** that impede a just transition to clean energy, while working to build the capacity of tribal communities to **address the inherent problems and bring about much-needed change in regulated utility markets**.



EDUCATION & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy is **dedicated to supporting tribal communities** while addressing skills gaps and workforce opportunities through the cultivation, training, and support of Native Americans and Alaska Natives. Programs include:

- The Alliance **Tribal Energy Leaders Fellowship** (TELF) program at Arizona State University.
- **Renewable energy and climate resilience training for tribal governments and tribal members**, to acquaint them with the variety of clean energy technologies available to them.
- Vocational and professional **training for tribal members** to prepare for well-paying jobs building clean energy projects in their own communities, delivered in partnership with highly-qualified partners.
- Native **cultural diversity training for organizations** and individuals seeking to engage with tribes through the Alliance: *Pathways to Trust: a Learning Journey Towards Equitable Tribal Partnerships*



EVENTS & INFORMATION RESOURCES

Connecting tribal leaders with information and resources, subject matter experts, vetted resource providers, and each other in well-timed events focused on current technology and federal policy while upholding traditional values. Events include:

- The first-ever **Tribal Energy Equity Summit** was held May in 2023 and we just held our third annual in May 2025.
- The first ever **Tribal Clean Energy Technology Symposium at RE+**. Held annually at North America's longest-running and largest clean energy convention. First annual was September 2023, 3rd annual in September 8 2025. Plus, tribal tracks at the 9 regional RE+ events.
- The first-ever **Tribal Clean Energy Finance Forum**
- **Clean Energy Webinar Series**, launched in January 2024, focuses on tribal clean energy considerations such as Clean Energy Project Financing, Tribal Utility Formation, Independent Power Producer Model, Transmission & Interconnection, and more.





**A bold commitment
to a just transition.**



INDIGENOUS POWER & LIGHT FUND for Energy Sovereignty

- \$100M catalytic pool of philanthropic funding spearheaded by the Alliance with Founding Partners - MacArthur Foundation, the Hewlett Foundation, the Lemelson Foundation, Invest in Our Future Fund. \$35M committed, thus far.
- Unlocks billions of dollars in federal funding.
- Supports tribes in asserting their sovereignty and achieving maximum ownership of clean energy projects on their lands.
- Vital bridge between Native American tribes and the energy freedom they rightfully deserve.



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The Fund's MAIN OBJECTIVE

Facilitate extensive pre-development work, transitioning projects from conceptual stages to well-defined initiatives poised for development.

The Fund also will support essential activities, including:

- Tribal engagement, education, consensus-building and trust-building
- Support for tribal goal setting and aligning goals to project scope
- Structuring of myriad financial transactions required for project development
- Facilitation of engagement with federal granting/lending agencies
- Capacity-building, including tribal leadership and vocational training
- Long-term workforce development and planning



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Our Guiding Principle

Etuaptmumk

The Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy was founded on a guiding principle of the Mi'kmaq that is defined by one word: Etuaptmumk.

Translated to English, Etuaptmumk means “Two-Eyed Seeing” – the willingness to see from one eye the strengths of Indigenous wisdom and knowledge and, from the other eye, the strengths of Western knowledge and technology. This is a concept that our founder’s Mi’kmaq ancestors have applied to daily life since first contact with European settlers, recognizing that if they were to have successful and beneficial relationships with settlers, rather than conflict, they must espouse an attitude of cooperation and respect for different perspectives – both for their own survival and to protect Mother Earth.

Our organization embodies this way of thinking in the way we are a team of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people united in our beliefs, our desire to support the self-determination and sovereignty of Native Americans, and our collective understanding that traditional Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing have a profound and long-established understanding of the value of collaboration and appreciation of differences. We believe that cooperation, communication, and collaboration between Native and non-Native people is essential for a just transition – and for the very survival of Indigenous Peoples...and all people.





Wela'lioq Thank You!



Connect with us!

tribes@tribalcleanenergy.org
providers@tribalcleanenergy.org



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