



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Fossil Energy and
Carbon Management



REPORT

WESTERN TRIBAL CARBON MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FORUM

**April 30 – May 2, 2024
Jackson Hole, Wyoming**

BACKGROUND – FOSSIL ENERGY & CARBON MANAGEMENT TRIBAL WORKING GROUP

The Federal Government has a treaty and trust responsibility to protect Tribal sovereignty and to revitalize Tribal communities, including through economic and energy development.

Following up on that commitment, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) provides more than \$13 billion in funding to directly support Tribal communities and makes Tribes eligible to apply for or request billions in additional discretionary, formula, and other funding. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) directs \$720 million in climate resilience and energy funding to the Tribes, as well as provides hundreds of billions in tax credits for which clean energy and industrial projects on Tribal lands and in Tribal communities are eligible. Additional funding is also available explicitly for energy communities, and Tribes are also eligible to access \$280 billion in funding opportunities through the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors (CHIPS) and Science Act.

However, sufficient outreach and coordination are needed to ensure Tribal access to these funding and incentive opportunities. A Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) Tribal Working Group is being established to provide this outreach and coordination.

The purpose of the Tribal Working Group is two-fold:

1. To empower the Tribes with fossil energy and carbon management resources to gain full access to the available funding and incentive opportunities.
2. To accelerate the Tribes' pivot towards clean energy while developing their vast energy and carbon management potential.

To achieve these goals, the Working Group will provide input, local knowledge, and expertise, and advise the Federal Government on the best ways to assist Tribes' decarbonization efforts, as well as the utilization of their natural resources.

THE TRIBAL CARBON MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FORUM

The Tribal Carbon Management Strategies Forum, organized by the United States Energy Association (USEA) with the funding provided by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), is a regular venue for DOE's Office of Fossil Energy & Carbon Management's dialogue with tribes on energy opportunities, options, and collaboration.

The event, taking place on April 30 through May 2, 2024, at the Spring Creek Ranch in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, was the 4th Forum in the series. The previous meetings took place in Las Vegas, Nevada in September 2022; in Moab, Utah in March 2023; and in Santa Fe, New Mexico in October 2023.

Forum participants included DOE officials, representatives of energy companies (BioAccelergy, Enchant Energy Corporation, Kanata Clean Power and Kanata America, Inc.), and academic institutions (Arizona State University and New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology). Native American Tribes and tribal-affiliated companies and organizations included representatives of the Hammawi Band of the Pit River Tribe of California, Black Mesa United (Navajo Nation), Grey LLC (Navajo Nation), Diné College (Navajo Nation), Navajo Nation Oil and Gas Company, Navajo Transitional Energy Company, LLC, Big Navajo Energy, Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, Hopi Tribal Council, Crow Tribe, and Southern Ute Department of Energy.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

The Forum focused on collaboration between tribal leadership and DOE. The event kicked off on April 30 with an introduction of delegates and discussions on the group's structure and key issues.

On May 1, the dialogue included a keynote from Mr. Brad Crabtree, Assistant Secretary of DOE-FECM, and reviews key takeaways from previous meetings. DOE representatives provided updates on policies, federal programs, and community engagement initiatives throughout the day.

The final day, May 2, focused on open discussions and reflections from tribal representatives, concluding with goals and deliverables for future meetings.

Below are the key considerations and potential actions discussed during the Forum for enhancing future programming, capacity building, and partnerships.

Key Considerations for Future Programming

1. **Timing & Notification:**

Adequate advance notice is crucial for Tribes to prepare, gather information, and plan contributions. Sufficient notification fosters better engagement and more meaningful discussions.

2. **Agenda & Procedures:**

A well-organized agenda, shared in advance, allows participants to suggest additional topics and secure necessary approvals. Stakeholders, including Tribes, should be actively involved in shaping the agenda to ensure it reflects their priorities and needs.

3. **Program Naming:**

Consider renaming the "Western" program to ensure inclusivity and avoid regional exclusivity. A name should symbolize involvement from all Tribes.

Capacity Building Opportunities:

1. **Workshops on Application Processes:**

Tribes would benefit from workshops on proposal writing and navigating grant applications, with guidance from the Department of Energy (DOE) and success stories from other Tribes.

2. **Energy Policy Development:**

Specific workshops on energy policy development can support Tribes in creating their own policies. These sessions should include templates and grant-writing support to assist in energy-related initiatives.

Organizational Structure:

1. **DOE and Tribal Leadership:**

The Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) will continue to support the working group, but Tribal leaders will play a key role in shaping the leadership structure. Co-Chairs could represent both the DOE and Tribal leadership.

2. **Future Meetings & Site Visits:**

Future meetings could be held in Washington, D.C., with a potential appearance by the President, demonstrating federal commitment to Tribal energy. Tribes with energy projects could also host site visits to showcase their successes, offering valuable cross-learning opportunities.

3. **Rotating Locations:**

Planning for the next meeting in Alaska reflects the commitment to involve diverse Tribes and regions, highlighting different energy challenges and opportunities across Tribal lands.

Partnership & Engagement:

1. **DOE's Office of Indian Energy:**

The DOE's Indian Energy Office will continue fostering partnerships and supporting Tribal energy projects, having previously facilitated key Memorandums of Understanding with several Tribes.

2. **Virtual Status Meetings:**

Virtual meetings, such as the one planned for June, will help maintain ongoing communication and transparency, providing regular status updates.

3. **Tribal Council Approval:**

Future initiatives must seek approval from Tribal Councils early on to ensure alignment with broader Tribal goals and secure buy-in.

Issues for DOE Consideration:

1. **DOE Legacy Cooperative Agreement:**

Expanding agreements with DOE Legacy Management could involve Tribes in shaping policies and decision-making processes from the outset.

2. **Formation of Tribal Energy Offices:**

Tribes should be encouraged to create energy offices to manage projects. DOE could offer funding and capacity-building support for these initiatives.

3. **Inclusion of Tribal Veterans:**

Programs should include Tribal veterans, recognizing their potential contribution to energy initiatives, with tailored support for their involvement.

4. **Unified DOE Communication:**

Ensuring consistent messaging across all DOE offices will build trust and clarity for Tribes navigating federal programs.

5. **Simplifying Application Processes:**

Streamlining application procedures and providing legal or technical negotiation assistance will make participation easier and more equitable for Tribes.

6. **Funding Extensions and Studies:**

Extending funding timelines and allocating resources for feasibility studies and policy research will support Tribal energy projects and long-term planning.

The Forum reinforced the importance of inclusive, well-planned programming and robust partnerships, highlighting opportunities for capacity building and streamlined processes to empower Tribal carbon management and energy initiatives.

FORUM AGENDA

Tuesday, April 30 – FECM Tribal Working Group Meeting

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| 11:30 am – 12:00 pm | Registration |
| 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm | <i>Working Lunch</i> |
| 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm | Working Group Kick-off and first session <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction of Designated Delegates• Discussion of Organization/Structure• Election of Leadership• Discussion of Key Issues |

Wednesday, May 1 – Tribal Leadership Dialogue with the U. S. Department of Energy

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| 8:00 am – 9:00 am | Registration |
| 9:00 am – 9:20 am | Welcome from USEA and DOE & History of the Event <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mike Moore, United States Energy Association (USEA)• Joe Giove, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy & Carbon Management (DOE-FECM) |
| 9:20 am – 9:40 am | Keynote: Brad Crabtree, Assistant Secretary, DOE-FECM |
| 9:40 am – 10:45 am | Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitator: Derrick Watchman, Sagebrush Hill |
| 10:45 am – 11:00 am | <i>Coffee Break</i> |
| 11:00 am – 12:00 pm | Key Takeaways from Fall Santa Fe Meeting and Review of the Tribal Working Group <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion Lead: Brad Crabtree, DOE- FECM• Update from FECM Working Group Leader |
| 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm | <i>Lunch</i> |
| 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm | Updates from DOE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Federal FOA and Policy Updates” – Matt Dannenberg, DOE, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs (CI)• “Domestic Engagement and Carbon Management” – Mary-Ellen Kwong, DOE-FECM• Brian Anderson, DOE, Interagency Working Group (IWG)• “FE-30 Updates: Undocumented Orphan Wells (UOWP) and Methane Emissions Reduction Program (MERP)” – Cyrus Kian, DOE |
| 2:30 pm – 2:45 pm | <i>Coffee Break</i> |
| 2:45 pm – 4:30 pm | Updates from DOE (Continued) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jessica Eagle-BlueStone, Geothermal Rising• “Overview of the DOE Office of Community Engagement” – Peter Olivares, DOE, Office of Community Engagement (OCE) |

- “Update on FECM Tribal Liaison Fellows” – Gabriel Hernandez, DOE-FECM

4:30 pm – 5:00 pm Summary of Day and Open Discussion

Thursday, May 2 – Tribal Leadership Dialogue with the U. S. Department of Energy (cont.)

9:00 am – 10:30 am Open Discussion and Q&A
 Discussion Lead: Brad Crabtree, DOE- FECM

- Summarize key things that were discussed during the first two days
- Invite Tribal Representatives to provide their reflections and input

10:45 am Goals and Deliverables for next meeting/Wrap-up

- Discussion Lead: Brad Crabtree, DOE- FECM

11:00 am – 12:00 pm *Adjourn*

FORUM REGISTRATION LIST

First Name	Last Name	Title	Organization
Frank	Whiteclay	Chairman	Crow tribe
Mac	Wodicker	Electrical Engineer	Arizona State University - Lab for Energy And Power Solution
Cyrus	Kian	Sr. Program Manager	DOE
CJ	Stewart	Energy Director	Crow Tribe
Gabriel	Hernández	Special Advisor	DOE-FECM
Jessica	Eagle-Bluestone	Tribal Community Engagement Manager	Geothermal Rising
Tim	Nolan	Manager Engineering	NTEC
Darrin	Old Coyote	Consultant	Old Coyote Consulting
Micah	Gartenberg	Camelina Project Manager	BioAccelergy
Arash	Moalemi	Deputy General Manager	Navajo Tribal Utility Authority
John	Brown	Stakeholder Engagement Specialist	DOE Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations
Rose	Grey	Technical Assistant	Grey LLC
Jeremy	Friesen	President	Kanata America, Inc.
Peter	Olivares	Fellow	Department of Energy
Doyle	Anderson	President & CEO	FIELDS-Facilitators of Innov Ed, Ldrshp Dev & Sustainability
Robert	Van Engelenhoven	Vice President, Operations & Development	Enchant Energy Corp.
Doreen	Leavitt	Director of Natural Resources/Council Secretary	Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope
Brenda	Jesus	Council Delegate	Navajo Nation Council
Dory	Peters	President	Big Navajo Energy
Steven	Grey	President/Owner	Grey LLC
Matthew	Dannenberg	Tribal Liason	Department of Energy
CARL	ETSITTY	Black Mesa United Secretary	Black Mesa United
Carlyle	Begay	Federal/State Government Affairs	Navajo Nation
Bo	Lewis	VP of Finance	Diné College
Jason	Demers	Director, Strategic Development	Navajo Transitional Energy Company/NTEC Helium
William	McCabe	Vice President	Navajo Nation Oil and Gas Company
Andrew	Wetherell	Energy Manager	Southern Ute Department of Energy
MIKE	DAVIS	CEO	BlackHawk Energy Corporation - Jicarilla Apache Energy
Dale	Sinquah	Hopi Tribal Councilman Water Energy Committee	Hopi Tribal Council
Todd	Osmera	Director	Jicarilla Apache Oil & Gas Administration
Myron	Lizer	Owner	Prestige with Partners LLC
Kevin	Heck	Indigenous relations	Kanata Clean Power
Coconino	Fowler	Supervisor	Coconino County
Brad	Crabtree	Assistant Secretary for Fossil Energy and Carbon	US Department of Energy
Joseph	Giove	Director of Business Operations (FECM-20)	US DOE