



TRIBAL PRIORITIES FOR SOLVING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

The Congressional Action Plan for a Clean Energy Economy and a Healthy, Resilient, and Just America



Photo Credit: Blue Lake Rancheria

PROMOTE TRIBAL ECONOMIC TRANSITION TO CLEAN ENERGY THROUGH INNOVATION, TRANSFORMING INDUSTRY, AND REDUCING BARRIERS

Many Tribal communities across the U.S. lack access to reliable, affordable energy. In Alaska Native Villages and on many reservations, energy prices are far above the national average. Also, some households in Indigenous communities do not have access to energy infrastructure. Finally, catastrophic events, such as wildfire, heat waves, and flooding, have resulted in regional electricity outages due to reliance on centralized power generation infrastructure.

Despite these challenges, the national transition to a clean energy economy potentially offers economic opportunities to Tribal communities. Opportunities include high-paying jobs and career pathways for youth.



Photo Credit: Blue Lake Rancheria

Congress must consider the Tribal priorities of strengthening social-economic resilience and expanding Tribal leadership in the economic transition to clean energy. These priorities are based on the principles of Tribal sovereignty and the Government-to-Government relationship. To fully engage Indigenous Peoples in strategies to reach net-zero carbon emissions, these Tribal priorities need to be integrated into the development and implementation of clean energy policies.

TRIBAL PRIORITIES THAT CONGRESS SHOULD CONSIDER:

> Innovation and Deployment

- ***A comprehensive, long-term grant program structure*** that spans all four stages of technological innovation (research, development, demonstration, and deployment). A long-term, comprehensive grant structure would improve on the deficiencies of a one-time grant structure and promote success in clean energy projects.
- ***Support the clean energy transition through education programs in Indigenous communities:*** Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math education, apprenticeships, internships, training opportunities, childhood education, and assistance to Tribal colleges and universities.
- ***Develop a tiered grant system*** that builds upon the principle of Government-to-Government relationships: develop an application selection pool specifically for under-resourced Tribes as compared to those with more resources.
- ***Develop a Tribal clean energy revolving loan program:*** a revolving loan fund of ~\$10 billion for clean energy investments, with a simple application, and low interest rate. The program could be modeled on the California Energy Commission's Energy Conservation Assistance Act.

> Transform Industry

- ***Resolve legacy issues,*** such as compensation to uranium workers and their families. As the U.S. transitions away from oil and gas, proactively address the needs of Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities that have an economic basis in these industries.
- ***Consult with Tribes,*** engaging Tribes early in the policy development process, and with adequate time for Tribal leadership to properly review, discuss, and respond to the requested action.
- ***Workforce development:*** employ Tribal members in projects that reduce carbon emissions through carbon capture and storage and other decarbonization technologies.
- ***Manufacturing investment:*** promote zero-emissions vehicles and clean energy manufacturing processes and infrastructure.

> Break Down Barriers

- ***Transform incentives*** away from carbon energy sources toward carbon-neutral sources.
- ***Overhaul the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act:*** The current integrated portfolio and procurement processes for non-wires solutions of Investor Owned Utility districts are not consistent with free and open markets.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[ATNI Tribal Review of the Congressional Action Plan](#)