

National Tribal Leadership Climate Change Summit

Virtual Session #2: Breakout Sessions

Each panelist led a breakout group on their area of expertise to answer questions, talk about ways to move from resiliency planning to action, and to identify priorities and key messages for the Biden Administration and Congress. Each breakout group included one of the Speakers, a facilitator, a notetaker and a Tribal Youth Observer. If you are interested in viewing the videos from the breakout groups, visit: <http://atntribes.org/climatechange/ts/>. Following are distilled notes from each of the five breakout groups, as well as some of the resources shared by participants in the different groups.

- Breakout Group 1 Coastal Resilience
- Breakout Group 2: Cultural Resilience and Infrastructure
- Breakout Group 3: Clean Energy and Jobs
- Breakout Group 4: Food Security
- Breakout Group 5: Water Availability

Breakout Group 1: Coastal Resilience

- Speaker: Dr. Kelsey Leonard, KelseyLeonard@shinnecock.org
- Facilitator: Casey Thornbrugh, CThornbrugh@USETINC.ORG
- Notetaker: Eliza Ghitis, eghitis@nwifc.org
- Tribal Youth Observer: Chimaway Lopez, vchlopez@ucdavis.edu

What are the primary needs Tribes have in addressing this issue?

- For Regional Ocean Partnerships, currently states disperse all funds, so a set-aside is needed for tribal nations to have their own regional partnerships or on a national basis, Tribes have a different way of relating to the ocean.
- One need is consistent available funding, and funding that is not a single year which makes planning and capacity building very difficult - specifically thinking of BIA TRP grants. Ocean and coastal resilience in our region are tied completely to the Aleut culture, dance, arts, and foods to keep body and soul healthy and thriving.
- Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) for any federal actions that impinge upon tribal rights, "resources" and waters; sufficient funding to move beyond adaptation assessment to adequate funding for infrastructure, land acquisition, etc.
- Models of different levels of sea-level rise for coastal tribes would make a great graphic for presenting to Congress (esp. at higher projected levels).

What are the key messages about this issue that should be shared with the new Administration?

- Resources! To adapt and manage appropriately. The issues we face in our ocean are globally caused but regionally experienced. We are forced to adapt while also trying to get the message out that world carbon inputs are harming coastal communities right now! OA, Hypoxia, Sea-Level rise happening right now on the WA coast.

- Access and inclusion as non-federally recognized Native Nations to have safe access to paddling, harvesting, and gathering.
- BIA Tribal Resilience Program funding for ocean planning and ocean protection needs to be consistent and stable.
- Ocean Based Climate Solutions: Marine Protected Areas, Goals for 30 x 30, Blue Carbon all should be indigenous-led, which is supported by all the research that shows that 80% of global biodiversity is found in tribal lands and waters. Indigenous peoples are looking to be leaders, not only co-managers.
- Ensure that solutions are available for tribes impacted by sea level rise and climate-induced migration to re-locate to lands with cultural patrimony and not lose land status, currently there is not a legislative pathway to do that.
- For Magnuson-Stevens Act--tribal representatives on all fishery management councils; training for all council members on tribal treaty rights and access; tribal fishing data consistency so that tribes will receive funding allocations, such as in the CARES Act fisheries relief.

Tribal Youth Observer: There are many dire issues among our coastal indigenous communities, such as people in danger of losing their homes due to sea level rise. As long as the oceans are sick, communities will be too. Healing is happening.

Coastal and Ocean Resiliency Resources

Resource	Weblink	Notes
Coastal Resilience Project	https://coastalresilience.org/	Coastal Resilience is a program led by The Nature Conservancy to examine nature's role in reducing coastal flood risk. The program consists of an approach, a web mapping tool, and a network of practitioners around the world supporting hazard mitigation and climate adaptation planning.
Washington Coastal Hazards Resilience Network	https://wacoastalnetwork.com/	The Washington Coastal Hazards Resilience Network (CHRN) membership includes over 70 members and 150 listserv subscribers who are coastal hazards and climate change practitioners from federal, local and state government agencies, tribes, academic institutions, consulting firms and nonprofit organizations. The CHRN is co-managed by the Washington State Department of Ecology and Washington Sea Grant. This network seeks to improve regional coordination and collaboration in efforts that address the impacts of coastal hazards and climate change while increasing the resilience of Washington's shorelines.
Ocean Conservancy: Confronting Climate Change	https://oceanconservancy.org/climate/	Ocean Conservancy envisions a healthy future for our ocean and the communities that rely on it, free from greenhouse gas pollution and resilient to the climate impacts we can no longer avoid. To help achieve this vision, we create sustainable ocean-based climate solutions, work with all levels of government to implement these solutions and help build demand for climate action. We are bringing the power of the ocean to the global fight against climate change.
NOAA Sea level Rise Viewer	Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flooding Impacts (noaa.gov)	Use this web mapping tool to visualize community-level impacts from coastal flooding or sea level rise (up to 10 feet above average high tides). Photo simulations of how future flooding might impact local landmarks are also provided, as well as data related to water depth, connectivity, flood frequency, socio-economic vulnerability, wetland loss and migration, and mapping confidence.
Mid-Atlantic Ocean Data Portal	https://portal.midatlanticocean.org/	

Northeast Ocean Data Portal	https://www.northeastoceandata.org/	
Tribal Ocean Bills Feedback Survey	https://forms.office.com/	
Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act	https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/8632/text	
Tribal Coastal Resiliency Act	https://kilmer.house.gov/news/press-releases/	
Magnuson-Stevens Act	https://huffman.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/	
West Coast Ocean Alliance	westcoastoceanalliance.org	
Western Landowners Alliance	https://westernlandowners.org/were-in-this-together/	
Regional Ocean Partnership	https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2166/text	

Breakout Group 2: Infrastructure and Cultural Resilience

Infrastructure and Cultural Resilience Team

- Speaker: Mike Williams, mwilliams19522004@yahoo.com
- Facilitator: Sam Schimmel, SamSchim@Stanford.Edu
- Notetaker: John Mankowski, john@mankowskienvirnmental.com
- Tribal Youth Observer: Alexis Wagner, aaw2396@uw.edu

What are the primary needs Tribes have in addressing this issue?

- Infrastructure protection. Many tribal community buildings are in flood plains and experience repeated damage. Need funds to protect and/relocate out of flood plains.
- In AK, over 50 communities need to be moved or they will be underwater. It costs over 200-300 million \$ to move a community.
- Anxiety and uncertainty have affected many people. Increased river erosion and impacts to communities are major concern.
- This is an opportunity to implement changes to create “green villages” with upgraded water, clean energy, and insulation.
- Native communities are seeking ways to maintain traditional ways of life and medicines while adapting and adjusting to community impacts from climate-related events. They are seeking ways to live without threat of endangerment for the safety of themselves and future generations.
- What is needed in many communities is a master plan for relocation. Too often events are responded to in reaction to a large event, and solutions only patch things together temporarily. Capacity and expertise to do comprehensive planning is needed.
- Changing ocean conditions in the Bering Sea and impacts from trawlers is likely impacting Yukon River fish returns, which has tremendous effects on Indigenous community culture and livelihoods.
- Community infrastructure and communities themselves (the human side). Primary is funding to assess these impacts and take action to increase community resilience.

- Some communities are looking at increasing access to non-polluting transportation methods; as a rural tribal community this is difficult and requires large investment in bicycle, pedestrian, and horse transportation networks
- Montana tribes used to trade with NW tribes for salmon, with declining salmon runs and concerns over the nuclear disaster (Fukushima Daiichi) in Japan, this culturally important trade practice is now threatened.
- The distance from economic centers for rural tribes is a problem, and Covid-19 has highlighted the need for access to broadband internet to ensure tribal people have access to electronic educational and economic opportunities.
- In the SW United States, too many political leaders (and some tribes) are not well informed or aware of the impacts of climate change. We need help educating our communities.
- The Tribal voices in Alaska need to be elevated and they need to know what ALL of the resources they can access to increase resilience. It's all about building wealth in communities too by having tribal people working on climate adaptation - both in blue collar jobs and in developing academic programs for Indigenous Peoples.

What are the key messages about this issue that should be shared with the new Administration?

- Tribes need full engagement and consultation. Hopefully Sec of Interior Deb Haaland will help fix this.
- Voices of non-federally recognized tribes need to be heard too and receive federal assistance.
- New administration needs to provide funding to document risks for all tribes, especially those with limited personnel. We need resources for tribes that do not have the capacity to hire a person to oversee climate resilience issues
- NCAI is doing a lot of messaging, but how can people get into a pipeline of information?
- Will the new administration form a group such as this to address climate issues on tribal nations to keep everyone informed?
- The Denali Commission has developed a report for Alaskan communities and the [needs assessment](#) completed by a committee is a good first step towards identifying the problems and potential solutions.

Has any progress towards infrastructure and cultural resilience been made in your communities?

- We need more time to discuss how communities are planning for the emotional, grief and mental health impacts on members. Especially those facing relocation.

Infrastructure and Cultural Resilience Resources

Resource	Weblink	Notes
BIA Tribal Resilience Program	https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots/tribal-resilience-program	The BIA Tribal Resilience Program (TRP) provides resources spanning across Indian Country, to federally-recognized Tribal Nations and Alaska Native Villages in order to build resilience through leadership engagement, delivery of data and tools, training and tribal capacity building.

BIA Tribal Resilience Map	https://biamaps.doi.gov/tribalresilience/	The BIA Tribal Resilience Map identifies tribal entities who have received funds through the BIA Tribal Resiliency Program (TRP). This map also identifies the TRP regions of the United States.
LEO Network	https://www.leonetnetwork.org/	The LEO Network was created in 2009 by the Alaska Native Health Consortium (ANTHC) as a forum for communities, scientists, news networks, and arctic peoples to log climate related events. The network hosts a map on which users can post pictures and stories about the impacts of climate change. Posts range from accounts of coastal erosion to mass bird and sea animal die offs.
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, Center for Environmentally Threatened Communities Monthly Newsletter	https://anthc.org/center-for-environmentally-threatened-communities/	The Center for Environmentally Threatened Communities at the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium works with rural communities across Alaska to provide financial and technical support to address impacts from erosion, flooding, and thawing permafrost. Our monthly newsletter is designed to increase awareness about the environmental threats facing Alaskan communities. Our most recent edition is about permafrost thaw impacts to infrastructure, health, and safety in six Alaska Native communities.

Breakout Group 3: Clean Energy and Green Jobs

- Speaker: Jana Ganion, jganion@bluelakerancheria-nns.gov
- Facilitator: Meredith Connolly, meredith.connolly@climatesolutions.org
- Notetaker: Chas Jones, cejones@usgs.gov
- Youth: Coral Avery, averyc@oregonstate.edu

What are the primary needs Tribes have in addressing this issue?

- More information on successful partnerships and collaborations.
- Understanding of the economic benefits for that community/region with renewable energy projects.
- Seek out various funding opportunities and equipment that can work for multiple groups. Long-term capacity building partnerships are often with universities and/or community colleges.
- Workforce and training are necessary.
- Renewable energy is becoming increasingly relevant. In addition, there are many other sectors that will also benefit from a transition to clean energy and green jobs. The opportunities in the sector are exciting for the BIPOC community. There's a lot of sensitivity in the issue.

Questions:

- Can HVAC upgrades for COVID increase energy efficiency? Yes, it can be an opportunity to upgrade for both. Here's one example from Oregon of the major energy efficiency savings from an HVAC upgrade by the Siletz tribe at Chinook Winds Casino Energy efficient HVAC technology shaved appx \$50,000 from annual energy costs and \$100,000 from labor costs; energy-efficient lighting garnered \$49,000 in estimated annual energy savings. <https://blog.energytrust.org/chinook-winds-casino-resort-wins-big-energy-savings/>
- Why did you see it as more beneficial to put micro-grids in yourself instead of partnering with local county energy supplier to have them put in battery banks and diversify the energy supply? Lack of access to the electrical grid. There are benefits of intermittent renewables paired with battery storage. In the Blue Lake region, it makes sense to have island grids. It makes financial sense. In a

distributed manner, electricity can be created on site (solar) and power hospitals, police, clinics, etc. In other situations, microgrid loops are nested within a resilient segment of the grid, which is different than massive region wide electrical grid. But Tribes often have capacity issues.

- How can we ensure students receive the instruction required to prepare them for jobs in alternative energy while they are still in public schools?
- Within the social justice world, there's a push for decarbonized energy systems. Moving away from fossil fuels puts more pressure on Columbia river hydro systems, which has big impacts on tribes and culture. Barriers include federal partners that have intentional relationships with the environment and overcoming the lack of inclusion of BIPOC. Anti-racist work needs to be a part of the conversation and the work. The California utility commission has been actively addressing inclusivity, equity issues.
- How can we start to replicate Blue Lake Rancheria's microgrid system in all of our communities so we can localize energy and become energy resilient?
- What are the prospects for significant federal investment in clean energy and jobs that might be opportunities for tribal communities? How might these investments work?

Resources	Weblink	Notes
Tribal Energy Projects Database - Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs	https://www.energy.gov/indianenergy/maps/tribal-energy-projects-database	The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy supports a variety of energy-related projects on tribal lands. Through these projects, tribes and Alaska Native villages have built the institutional capacity to manage their energy needs, assessed the feasibility of energy efficiency and renewable energy installations, and demonstrated the viability of installing renewable energy systems on tribal lands. Filter the map and table below by state, technology, or project category, or search for a tribe.
USDE Developing Clean Energy Projects on Tribal Lands Data and Resources for Tribes	https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy13osti/57748.pdf	
Success story: Chinook Winds Casino Resort, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	https://blog.energytrust.org/chinook-winds-casino-resort-wins-big-energy-savings/	Energy efficient HVAC technology shaved appx \$50,000 from annual energy costs and \$100,000 from labor costs; energy-efficient lighting garnered \$49,000 in estimated annual energy savings.
Success story: Coquille Indian Tribe Community Center, Coos Bay	https://www.energytrust.org/success-stories/coquille-indian-tribe-community-center-coos-bay/	Solar system generate 5,700 kwh per year, saves \$400 per year. Also installed solar water heater, efficiency, lighting upgrades.
Success story: Tamástslikt Cultural Institute, Umatilla Tribe	https://www.reneworegon.org/cassandra-franklin-story	50 kw wind turbine offsets 20% of electrical use at cultural museum; appx. \$480,000 in energy savings over 30 years. Solar carport offsets 56% of electrical use, and Tribal member trained as welder installed it.
Spark Northwest	https://sparknorthwest.org/	
Chinook Winds Casino Resort wins big energy savings	https://blog.energytrust.org/chinook-winds-casino-resort-wins-big-energy-savings/	

Breakout Group 4: Food Security

- Speaker: Jennifer Webster, jwebste1@oneidanation.org
- Facilitators: Don Sampson, don@seventhgenerationllc.com
- Notetaker: Clarita Lefthand-Begay, clarita@uw.edu
- Tribal Youth Observers: Lindsey Pasena, lindseypasena@icloud.com, Nizhoni Jude nizhonijude3@gmail.com, Keyen Singer, k-singer@outlook.com

What are the primary needs Tribes have in addressing this issue?

- Leadership needs to support these efforts so that others will follow. This is what we are put here to do--teach/educate.
- What are the primary needs when trying to reconnect to traditional foods? National tribal policies could include education programs to help support tribal food sovereignty and having the resources and tools to produce, process, distribute and educate their community. This will improve food access, food security and nutrition and related health disparities that challenge native nations. It's important for members to have food security to have enough food to lead an active healthy life this could be done by restoring traditional foods and practices which in turn strengthen cultural identity and the relationship with mother earth.

What are the key messages about this issue that should be shared with the new Administration?

- Establish relationships. Demonstrate good models and leadership
- Promote self-determination and self-sustainability so we can provide for the next 7 generations. Take this message to the next Administration. We are doing everything we can to keep our Sovereignty.

Questions:

- Have more people become more interested in Food Security (FS)? Are they turning back to traditional medicines? Yes. People trying to eat healthy and looking for food medicines. Getting back to traditional ways.
- Are there recommendations for urban NDNs who want to connect to traditional foods and land?
- How have traditional hunting and gathering been incorporated in related activities.
- What are the climate change impacts on the environment from farming meet? Do Tribes consider the Carbon footprint?

Resources	Weblink	Notes
Tribal Food Sovereignty Advancement Initiative - National Congress of American Indians	https://www.ncai.org/initiatives/partnerships-initiatives/food-sovereignty	NCAI Tribal Food Sovereignty Advancement Initiative (TFSAI) supports the development and strengthening of tribal nations' efforts to build and protect the Indigenous food systems that have long sustained their citizens, communities, and cultures.

Breakout Group 5: Water Availability

- Speaker: Daryl Vigil, janwaterguy@gmail.com
- Facilitator: Nikki Cooley, Nikki.Cooley@nau.edu
- Notetaker: Kathy Lynn, kathy@uoregon.edu
- Tribal Youth observer: Nicole Kuhn, nskuhn03@gmail.com

What are the primary needs Tribes have in addressing this issue?

- Universal access to clean water
- These issues with water availability are very important. How much have water supplies changed during the recent decades, and how will Tribes that are engaged communicate their need to have water if demand is so much larger than supply?
- Resources and information on how to acquire water resources?
- How and where can elders/ Tribal nations get more active to voice our concerns for the incoming administration.
- Reverse the damage the Trump Admin did to environmental laws and regulations.
- Discussion about how to bridge what we are learning and speaking of here with our educational programs and institutions in a way that successfully engages and educates our children and communities?

What are the key messages about this issue that should be shared with the new Administration?

- Focused recommendations on policy and infrastructure
- The need for Tribal Self-determination
- Recognizing Tribal Water Rights. There was discussion about a long-standing moratorium on recognizing water rights. The link to officially lift the moratorium is below. This has given states the ability to ignore tribal water rights. There is a need to lift the moratorium and legally validate tribal water codes. There was a discussion about the Yurok Tribe and rights of nature for the Klamath river
- Create a focus/mission statement for this work is to communicate, collaborate and educate.
- Tribal engagement, experiences with water availability, infrastructure, capacity to address these issues. Build strength together.
- Need to develop self-determination and tribal water codes
- Focus on sovereign-to-sovereign interactions.
- Create space in conferences and dedicated youth forums
- Facilitate formal institutions for tribal leadership and education
- Build capacity for water availability
- Water is Life

Water Availability Resources

Resource	Weblink	Notes
Climate Change Impacts on the water resources of American Indian and	https://www.critfc.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/01/Cozzetto-et.al._ClimaticChange_Paper1.pdf	This paper provides an overview of climate change impacts on tribal water resources and the subsequent cascading effects on the livelihoods and cultures of

Alaska Natives in the U.S.		American Indians and Alaska Natives living on tribal lands in the U.S. A hazards and vulnerability framework for understanding these impacts is first presented followed by context on the framework components, including climate, hydrologic, and ecosystem changes (i.e. hazards) and tribe-specific vulnerability factors (socioeconomic, political, infrastructural, environmental, spiritual and cultural), which when combined with hazards lead to impacts.
Ten Tribes Partnership	https://tentribespartnership.org	Website provides information on the Ten Tribes Partnership which is a coalition of Upper and Lower Basin Tribes that have come together to claim their seat at the table and raise their voices in the management of the Colorado River as water challenges persist. Formed in 1992, the goal of the Ten Tribes Partnership is to increase the influence of tribes in Colorado River management and provide support for the protection and use of tribal water resources.
Colorado River Basin Ten Tribes Partnership Study	https://tentribespartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/WaterStudy.pdf	Study report.
Protecting Traditional Water Resources: Legal Options for Preserving Tribal Non-Consumptive Water Use:	https://scholarship.law.umt.edu/plrlr/vol37/iss1/3/	
Indian water law seminar	https://turtletalk.blog/2020/12/02/winter-2021-uw-indian-law-symposium/	
Tribal water codes	https://www.ncai.org/resources/resolutions/requesting-the-department-of-interior-to-lift-the-morton-moratorium-on-approval-of-tribal-water-ordinances-codes-or-resolutions	
1975 Morton Moratorium	https://law.stanford.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/anderson_article.pdf	
ATNI's Changing Currents Initiative has a Tribal Water Summit for Tribal Youth	https://www.changingcurrents.net/youth-summit	
Tribal Climate Health Consortium Resources Clearinghouse	http://tribalclimatehealth.org/resources-clearinghouse/	