



Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations

Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas Selected and Awarded ...

# Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas Selected and Awarded Projects



 *Sunset in front of the village of Angoon*

## Awarded Projects

- [Alaskan Tribal Energy Sovereignty](#)
- [Chignik Hydroelectric Dam and Water Source Project](#)
- [Clean Energy in the Northwest Arctic](#)
- [Community Scale Rural Bioenergy Facilities](#)
- [Energizing Rural Hopi and Navajo with Solar Powered Battery-Based Systems](#)
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- [Mashkiiziibii Minigrid](#)
- [Microgrids for Community Affordability, Resilience, and Energy Decarbonization \(CARED\)](#)
- [Old Harbor Hydroelectric Project](#)
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- [Thayer Creek Hydroelectric Project](#)
- [Yakama Tribal Solar Canal & Hydro Project](#)
- [Whole-Home Heat Pump Solutions for Mobile/Manufactured Homes Project](#)

## **Alaskan Tribal Energy Sovereignty**

**PROJECT FACT SHEET →**

**COMMUNITY BENEFITS  
COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →**



 **Community members in front of the 120 kW solar array in Hughes, Alaska**

**Federal Cost Share:** Up to \$26.06 million

**Recipient:** Tanana Chiefs Conference

**Location:** Nulato, Huslia, Minto, Kaltag, Grayling, Anvik, Shageluk, Holy Cross, Alaska

### **Project Impacts**

- Improve microgrid reliability and resilience for eight remote Alaskan communities that are inaccessible by road and only seasonably accessible by boat or small airplane
- Increase Tribal Energy Sovereignty and Security by reducing the amount of electricity produced with imported diesel thereby lowering energy costs and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
- Develop Alaska's largest tribally owned and operated Independent Power Producer

**Project Summary:** This project aims to deploy high-penetration solar PV and battery storage systems into existing microgrids in eight remote tribal communities currently relying on diesel for 100% of their electrical production. All

eight tribal communities are inaccessible by road and have limited seasonal accessibility by airplane, which leads to electricity costs that are more than four times higher than the national average. In collaboration with the Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, the project team plans to modernize grid infrastructure, provide job training to tribal communities, and develop Alaska's largest tribally owned and operated Independent Power Producer. The project strives to offset the region's diesel consumption by 40%, which would lower energy costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

As part of its Community Benefits Plan, this project aims to improve grid reliability, enhance air quality, and decrease community energy burdens. The project team plans to implement a range of open communication channels to establish collaboration and engagement through social media, a project website, radio announcements for meetings, and flyers posted on community bulletin boards.

For more information, email [Alaska\\_ERA2970@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Alaska_ERA2970@hq.doe.gov).

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## Chignik Hydroelectric Dam and Water Source Project

**PROJECT FACT SHEET →**

# COMMUNITY BENEFITS COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →



 *Seine boats in Chignik harbor*

**Location:** Chignik Bay, Alaska

**Federal Cost Share:** Up to \$7.2 million

**Recipient:** Lake and Peninsula Borough

**Project Impacts:**



- Replace 100% of the microgrid's diesel consumption with renewable energy and reduce energy burden
- Provide power for heating and electric vehicles, and support local economic development (tourism and fisheries) for the Chignik Tribal community
- Provide a new revenue stream with the Chignik Bay Tribal Council owning the hydroelectric facility and selling power to local utilities

**Project Summary:** This project plans to construct a new [run-of-the-river hydroelectric facility](#), replacing a 70+ year-old wooden dam in Chignik, AK. The project aims to improve energy and water security, as the current dam leaks frequently, also jeopardizing the community's only stable source of clean water. The proposed 2.1 MWh hydroelectric facility aims to replace 100% of the microgrid's diesel consumption. It also plans to provide excess power for heating, electric vehicle charging, and expansion of local economic activities like tourism and fish processing. The Chignik Bay Tribal Council would own the facility and plans to sell power to local utilities for 80% of the avoided cost of fuel, reducing total electricity rates by an estimated 7%.

As part of its community benefits commitments, this tribally owned project aims to improve community energy resilience, lower utility bills, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve local air and water quality, and spur local economic development. The project team anticipates creating up to 10 construction jobs and plans to coordinate with city officials and tribal leadership to maximize training and apprenticeships throughout the project. This project represents the culmination of a multi-year collaboration among community stakeholders, the project team, and the fishing industry, to help determine how lower electricity costs can increase local economic development and ensure local salmon streams are preserved.

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## Clean Energy in the Northwest Arctic

**PROJECT FACT SHEET →**

**COMMUNITY BENEFITS  
COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →**



 *Aerial view of Ambler, AK, a future project location*

**Federal Cost Share:** Up to \$54.8 million

**Recipient:** Northwest Arctic Borough

**Location:** Northwest Arctic Borough, AK

**Project Impacts:**

- Ensure reliable access to energy and heating for remote villages across the Northwest Arctic region
- Reduce energy burden for native communities by lowering the cost of energy, lessening the need for diesel fuel, and eliminating the need to build a new diesel power plant
- Enhance energy resilience by replacing an older transmission intertie between two remote native communities

**Project Summary:** This project aims to install more than 2.7 MW of solar photovoltaic (solar PV), more than 7.5 MWh of battery energy storage systems (BESS), and approximately 850 heat pumps across the 11 villages of the Northwest Arctic region. This project would replace a 10-mile overhead distribution tie-line between the villages of Kobuk and Shungnak, allowing for greater interconnection in this remote region.

The project intends to develop Memoranda of Agreement with 11 federally recognized Alaska Native Villages to own and maintain the facilities acting as independent power producers (IPP). Once operational, this project is expected to displace more than 350,000 gallons of diesel fuel annually and save the region nearly \$2 million in electricity and heating costs, while also demonstrating a new power-distribution technology for potential replication in other remote communities.

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# Community Scale Rural Bioenergy Facilities

[PROJECT FACT SHEET →](#)

[COMMUNITY BENEFITS  
COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →](#)



 Close up photo of forest feedstock that will be utilized at West Biofuels projects



**Federal Cost Share:** Up to \$30 million

**Recipient:** West Biofuels, LLC

**Location:** Burney, Mammoth Lakes, and Mariposa California

**Project Impacts:**

- Provide low carbon, reliable energy for three remote communities that face high risk of wildfires
- Reduce carbon emissions through the use of produced biochar that also can be sold in regional agricultural markets
- Provide an end use and local market for biomass from forest thinning campaigns that are key to preventing forest fires in this region

**Project Summary:** This project plans to deploy three community-scale forest biomass-to-energy power plants in California's Sierra Nevada mountains. Burney, Mammoth Lakes, and Mariposa, CA are small, remote communities threatened by wildfires and faced with frequent power outages due to extreme weather. The plants would transform forest waste or agricultural (plant) biomass waste into 100% renewable electricity and biochar for soil amendment. Each facility aims to produce 3 MW of reliable, renewable energy, utilizing 28,000-35,000 tons of dry forest waste per year of residuals from sustainable forest management programs. Once fully operational, the project is anticipated to sequester 11,939 tons of carbon equivalent emissions per year, while reducing the threat of wildfires in these three communities.

As part of the project's community benefits commitments, each site plans to create 15 new, permanent, good-paying jobs aimed at hiring from the local community and underrepresented groups. The project team also plans to hold town halls, public presentations, and one-on-one meetings with civic groups and community-based organizations to inform community members of project developments and seek input on project decisions. Additional commitments including collaborating with local governments, educational institutions, and community-based organizations to support community and labor engagement, including partnering with the Mariposa County Resource Conservation District,

Mariposa Biomass Project, and Whitebark Institute to document and present on forest resilience benefits from the project.

For more information, email [West\\_ERA2970@hq.doe.gov](mailto:West_ERA2970@hq.doe.gov).

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## **Energizing Rural Hopi and Navajo with Solar Powered Battery-Based Systems**

**PROJECT FACT SHEET →**

**COMMUNITY BENEFITS  
COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →**



 **A complete NRI off-grid solar unit with six modules and eight batteries installed on Navajo Nation**

**Federal Cost Share:** Up to \$8 million

**Recipient:** Native Renewables Inc.

**Locations:** Navajo and Hopi communities in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah

**Project Impacts:**

- Enhance energy resilience and increase electrification rates within the Navajo and Hopi communities, who have some of the best solar resources yet lack access to electricity
- Provide power to refrigerate food and medicine, improve safety with lighting, and increase internet accessibility
- Strengthen the local Indigenous solar workforce with the skills to become solar technicians

**Project Summary:** This project seeks to reduce energy burden and electrify 300 tribal homes by installing 2.5 kW off-grid solar photovoltaic (solar PV) and battery energy storage systems. Communities within the Navajo and Hopi Nations have some of the best solar resources in the country and yet thousands of tribal homes lack access to electricity. Connecting a rural Navajo and Hopi home to the electric grid can be costly and can take several years until the home is electrified. Consequently, many of these families currently rely on kerosene and propane lanterns and gasoline generators. These families can spend up to 50% of their income on energy expenses.

As part of its Community Benefits Plan, the lead applicant, Native Renewables Inc., plans to increase energy sovereignty across Navajo and Hopi Nations. Native Renewables Inc. plans to build upon their existing relationships with these communities and tribal leaders. They will also host training and education for participating households on solar electric energy systems and best practices to ensure the longevity of battery energy storage systems. Electrification could fulfill essential household needs, including powering lights, and refrigeration for food and medicine.

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# Fort Lupton Microgrid Project

**PROJECT FACT SHEET →**

**COMMUNITY BENEFITS  
COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →**



 Fort Lupton, CO

**Federal Cost Share:** Up to \$6.1 million

**Recipient:** United Power

**Location:** Fort Lupton, Colorado

**Project Impacts:**

- Increase the reliability of the municipal water treatment plant and replace the aging diesel generator
- Ensure there is reliable clean drinking water for a community that has historically had unreliable water supply and contaminated groundwater
- Create new jobs and provide contracting outreach to the community

**Project Summary:** This project plans to replace an aging diesel generator with a microgrid consisting of a 300 kW natural gas generator, 900 kW floating solar photovoltaic (solar PV) array, and a 1.7 MWh battery energy storage system sited on the community's water treatment plant reservoir, helping to increase the reliability of clean drinking water. The community's municipal water treatment plant relies on a backup diesel generator during periods of high demand and power outages. The aging generator has become unreliable, which halts operations at the water treatment plant and negatively impacts communities in this region of Colorado. Households in rural Colorado have faced historic challenges securing a reliable clean water supply, particularly in areas where groundwater is contaminated. United Power will work with Schneider Electric to design, build and operate the fully integrated microgrid, which would improve power resiliency at the water treatment plant, reduce water evaporation, and help the city deliver reliable water services.

It is anticipated that project construction could create six full-time equivalent jobs, and United Power would partner with local Aims Community College and the BUENO Center for Multicultural Education to create bilingual workforce development training opportunities and pre-apprenticeship programs. To make this unique project economically viable, United Power and the City of Fort Lupton plan to enter an innovative, 20-year agreement allowing United Power to own the microgrid while the City of Fort Lupton pays for microgrid upgrades. The project's potential benefits include improved energy resiliency, reduced evaporation from the water treatment plant reservoir, and reduced municipal spending. This project

could serve as a model for other microgrid partnerships between small, rural utilities and local public works departments, which can expand access to clean and resilient energy in rural communities nationwide.

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## Hopi Nation Community Solar Project

**PROJECT FACT SHEET →**

**COMMUNITY BENEFITS  
COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →**



 ***The Turquoise Trail municipal site***

**Location:** Hopi Nation, Arizona

**Federal Cost Share:** Up to \$9.1 million

**Recipient:** Arizona State University

### **Project Impacts**

- Provide 24/7 power for critical community services, IT, waste management, and health and human services
- Develop an agreement with the Hopi Tribe to adhere to project hiring practices set by the Hopi Tribal Employment Rights Office, explore partnerships with apprenticeship programs, and provide paid, on-the-job training
- Create employment opportunities with general construction, solar/microgrid construction, and microgrid management jobs
- Reduce the Hopi Reservation's diesel fuel consumption by replacing it with reliable clean energy



## Project Summary

This project, led by Arizona State University (ASU) and in collaboration with the Hopi Tribe and technology provider Box Energy, strives to deploy a hybrid microgrid consisting of a 1.25 MW solar photovoltaic (solar PV) array, battery storage systems, and refurbished backup diesel generators that will be optimized for 24/7 operation. Due to aging power infrastructure, building operations at the Turquoise Trail Municipal Complex on the Hopi Reservation have been limited to 12 hours per day, running just five days a week, and leaving residents vulnerable to emergencies and lacking critical services during off-hours. The complex is comprised of the Incident Command Center, IT Hub, Department of Health & Human Services, Social Services, and Solid Waste Department, and is powered by seven unreliable 130 kW diesel generators. The proposed hybrid microgrid aims to provide 24/7 power for these critical services. It could also serve as a model for tribes and rural communities facing similar energy constraints, which will foster economic growth through a continuous and reliable supply of cleaner energy.

As part of its community benefits commitments, project partners intend to explore collaborations with pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship readiness programs to foster job access for underrepresented workers. Box Power and ASU also aim to provide 80-120 hours of paid, on-the-job training for 8–12 construction workers and 2–3 long-term operations and maintenance workers, who will be hired from the community.

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## Mashkiiziibii Minigrid

**PROJECT FACT SHEET →**

**COMMUNITY BENEFITS  
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 **Energy Coordinator & Climate Change Specialist Jillian Wilde at Wastewater Treatment Plant microgrid**

**Federal Cost Share:** Up to \$14.1 million

**Recipient:** Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians

**Location:** Bad River Reservation, WI

**Project Impacts:**

- Provide increased energy resilience and reliability for a community that experiences power outages
- Move the Tribe closer to energy sovereignty
- Support the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians goal of net-zero carbon emissions with 100% renewable electricity by 2027

**Project Summary:** The Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians —also known as Mashkiiziibii—plans to build a 5 MW solar photovoltaic (solar PV) array and an 8 MWh battery energy storage system to connect with existing diesel and natural gas generation. This combination would form a hybrid minigrid that would power the reservation’s Odanah, Aspen Acres, Franks Field, and Birch Hill communities.

Located along the shores of Lake Superior, residents of the Bad River Reservation experience harsh winter weather, extreme storms, and flooding known to cause power outages. The implementation of a hybrid minigrid would increase the Tribe’s energy resilience and reliability, while moving them closer to energy sovereignty. This project aims to help the Mashkiiziibii reach its goal of carbon free emissions with 100% renewable electricity generation by 2027 and provide a model for replication in other tribes and rural communities.

As part of its Community Benefits Plan, the Bad River Band Tribe plans to partner with the University of Wisconsin-Madison to support a one-year Renewable Energy Certificate program, delivering participants into the clean energy workforce or a 4-year science and engineering degree. The Mashkiiziibii Minigrid project plans to work to meet with the community, create quality jobs, and offer workforce development opportunities.

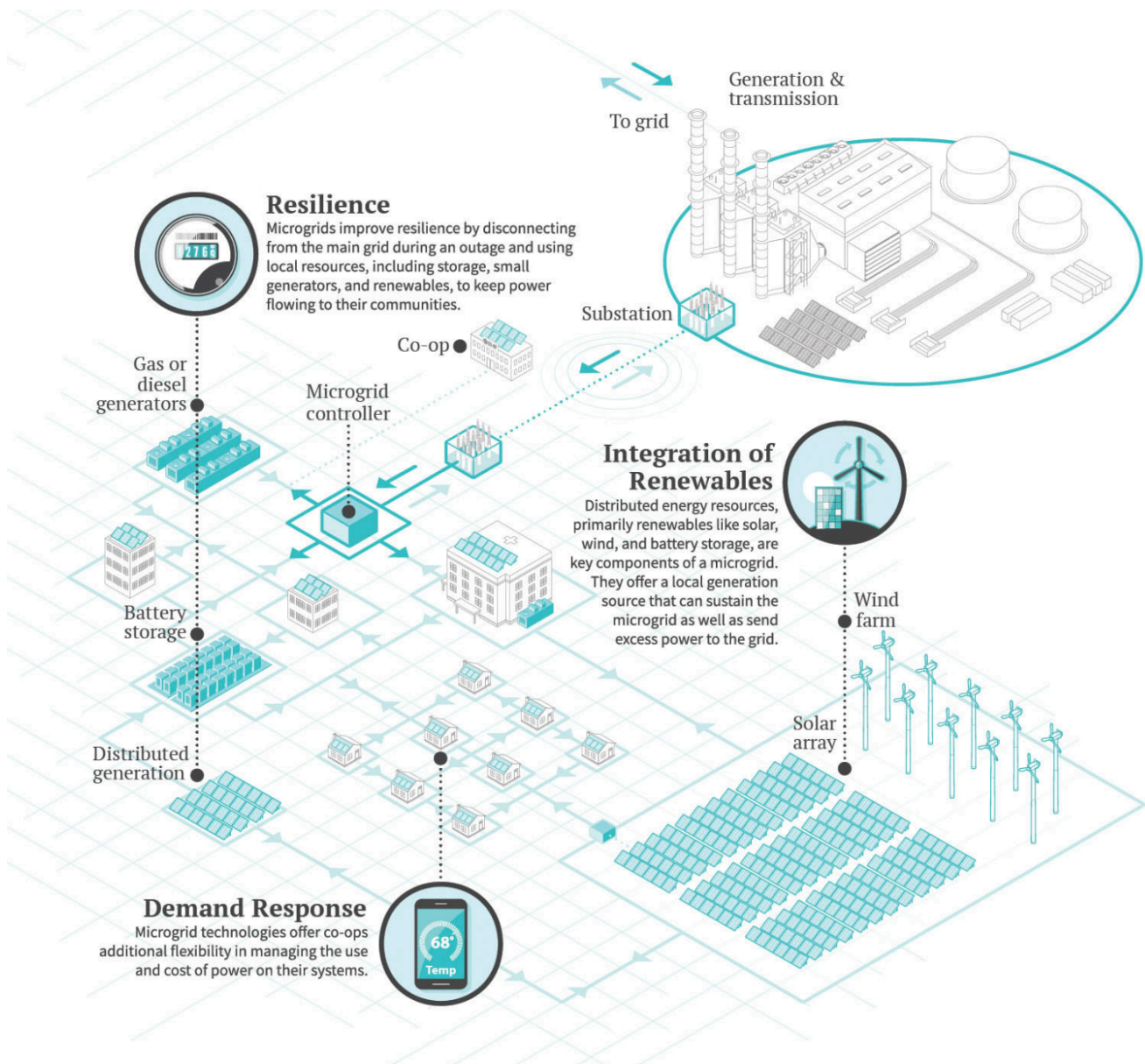
For more information, email [Midwest\\_ERA2970@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Midwest_ERA2970@hq.doe.gov).

# **Microgrids for Community Affordability, Resilience, and Energy Decarbonization (CARED)**

**PROJECT FACT SHEET →**

**COMMUNITY BENEFITS  
COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →**





 **A microgrid with a full suite of technologies**

**Federal Cost Share:** Up to \$45 million

**Recipient:** NRECA Research

**Locations:** 7 communities (Arivaca, AZ; Anza, CA; the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, MN; Missoula County, MT; Park County, MT; Alleghany County, NC; and Roane County, TN)

**Project Impacts:**

- Improve energy access and resilience while addressing current barriers to increasing capacity of community-level renewable energy projects
- Provide a forum for sharing best practices among local communities
- Create new jobs supporting local economies across seven communities

**Project Summary:** This project, led by National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Research, plans to create a consortium of rural electric cooperatives to deploy microgrids, including solar photovoltaic (solar PV), battery energy storage systems, and distribution upgrades, across seven rural communities in Arizona, California, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Rural and remote communities are particularly exposed to extreme weather-related events that threaten the resilience of their aging electric grid. To reduce the threat of these events, this project aims to create a national microgrid deployment effort to demonstrate region-specific microgrids that improve energy access, enhance energy resilience, and increase capacity for renewable energy deployments at a community level.

As part of its community benefits commitments, the project anticipates creating an estimated approximately 85 full-time and temporary jobs and providing opportunities for career advancement for existing employees. The project team will uphold the existing Collective Bargaining Agreement held by more than 70% of consortium members and pursue Community Benefits Agreements, Good Neighbor Agreements, or Workforce Agreements for members that do not have a union.

For more information, email [East\\_ERA2970@hq.doe.gov](mailto:East_ERA2970@hq.doe.gov).

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## Old Harbor Hydroelectric Project

**PROJECT FACT SHEET →**

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COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →**



 *View of Old Harbor, Alaska*

**Federal Cost Share:** Up to \$10 million

**Recipient:** Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor

**Location:** Old Harbor, Alaska

### **Project Impacts**

- Provide a year-round reliable energy source for a remote tribal village located 50 air miles from the nearest town
- Reduce energy burden and lower energy costs by directly subsidizing water, sewer, and electricity bills
- Demonstrate a tribal ownership business model that may be replicated in a multitude of similar villages within the region

**Project Summary:** This project plans to construct a run-of-the-river hydroelectric facility on Kodiak Island, Alaska capable of generating about 3,470 MWh of energy annually and offset diesel fuel use at the local power plant by 95%, enabling a year-round reliable energy source. Old Harbor is a remote Alutiiq Tribal village on Kodiak Island, Alaska, approximately 50 air miles from the nearest social services in the City of Kodiak. There are nearly 200 residents in Old Harbor and 83% are Native Alaskans. According to the Denali Commission, the majority of residents live below the federal poverty line.

As part of its Community Benefits Plan, the Alutiiq Tribe of Old Harbor and project partners aim to ensure stable sources of clean water and energy to help reduce the negative health impacts of using diesel fuel. The Tribe intends to have 100% of the proposed financial benefits go directly to Old Harbor residents as water, sewer, and electric bill subsidies, helping to reduce energy burdens of the community.

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# Resilience and Prosperity in Rural Northern Wisconsin

[PROJECT FACT SHEET →](#)

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 *Red Cliff Community Health Center, the location of a future microgrid*

**Federal Cost Share:** Up to \$9.7 million

**Recipient:** Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy

**Location:** 27 sites across Red Cliff Band tribal land and Bayfield County, Wisconsin

**Project Impacts:**

- Improve energy stability with backup power for 14 rural communities who frequently lose power due to extreme weather events
- Provide clean energy job opportunities for remote Wisconsin communities

**Project Summary:** This project seeks to increase regional energy reliability with the deployment of 27 microgrid systems across the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa's tribal land and Bayfield County in northern Wisconsin. In these remote towns along Lake Superior, residents face frequent power outages due to lake-enhanced extreme weather events. The Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy (OSCE) aims to help improve resiliency against power outages by deploying solar power, battery storage, smart controls enabling islanding, and electric vehicle charging stations. Once fully operational, the project is expected to reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by 1,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide—improving residents' capacity to ensure a healthy environment for generations to come.

As part of its community benefits commitments, OSCE plans to hold public meetings, deliver presentations, conduct community surveys, and offer free site tours to the public to create multiple avenues for meaningful two-way engagement. OSCE also plans to establish Community Advisory Boards to provide guidance on the project and ensure it aligns with the community's needs and priorities.

For more information, email [Midwest\\_ERA2970@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Midwest_ERA2970@hq.doe.gov).

## Thayer Creek Hydroelectric Project

**PROJECT FACT SHEET →**

**COMMUNITY BENEFITS  
COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →**



 **Angoon youth paddling a traditional red cedar dug out canoe**

**Federal Cost Share:** Up to \$26.9 million

**Recipient:** Kootznoowoo, Inc.

**Location:** Angoon, Alaska

### **Project Impacts**

- Provide electricity generation and an emergency power backup system to prevent frequent power outages
- Provide a clean energy source to replace the community's reliance on imported diesel and heating oil
- Reduce energy burdens across five different communities in southeast Alaska by lowering electricity rates
- Utilize local workforce and create both construction and maintenance jobs

**Project Summary:** Kootznoowoo, Inc. (KI) plans to construct an 850 kW, run-of-the-river hydroelectric project that has the potential to supply three times the community's current electricity needs, providing additional power for heating, fish processing, electric vehicle charging, and tourism. KI is the Alaska Native Village Corporation for the community of Angoon, the ancient home of the Tlingit Xóotsnoowe'di people with a population of nearly 350 residents. The Thayer Creek Hydroelectric Project would displace a combined 12.9 million gallons of diesel and heating fuel over the 50-year life of the project—reducing harmful emissions while improving air quality for hundreds of Alaskans.

As part of its Community Benefits Plan, the project aims to create 30 construction jobs over the project period and one full-time operation and maintenance position. Once fully operational, the project is expected to reduce energy costs and decrease the energy burden across five Alaskan communities.

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# **Yakama Tribal Solar Canal & Hydro Project**

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**COMMUNITY BENEFITS  
COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →**



 *Proposed location for the project at Wapato Irrigation District*

**Federal Cost Share:** Up to \$32 million

**Recipient:** Yakama Power is a fully owned entity of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

**Location:** Yakama Indian Reservation, WA

**Project Impacts:**

- Provide greater grid resilience, renewable energy supply, and service reliability for Yakama Nation while reducing energy burden in a tribal community
- Construct a micro-hydro system with solar energy generation
- Ensure project dollars are reinvested and continue to circulate within the tribal community by training and hiring local tribal members

**Project Summary:** Yakama Power plans to install solar photovoltaic (solar PV) and micro-hydropower on an irrigation system converted from open canals, demonstrating responsible siting of renewable energy generation using land that does not risk disturbing cultural and ecological resources. By deploying renewable power generation, Yakama Power intends to maintain low energy costs for members of the Yakama Nation.

As part of its community benefits plan, the project team plans to create 10 construction and three apprenticeship jobs, implement a system to ensure project funds and community benefits remain within the reservation, and engage with local schools, farmers, businesses, and non-Native utility customers to provide project updates and workforce development opportunities.

For more information, email [West\\_ERA2970@hq.doe.gov](mailto:West_ERA2970@hq.doe.gov).

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# **Whole-Home Heat Pump Solutions for Mobile/Manufactured Homes Project**

**PROJECT FACT SHEET →**

**COMMUNITY BENEFITS  
COMMITMENTS SUMMARY →**





 Heat pump outdoor unit



**Federal Cost Share:** Up to \$10 million

**Recipient:** The Efficiency Maine Trust

**Location:** Maine

**Project Impacts:**

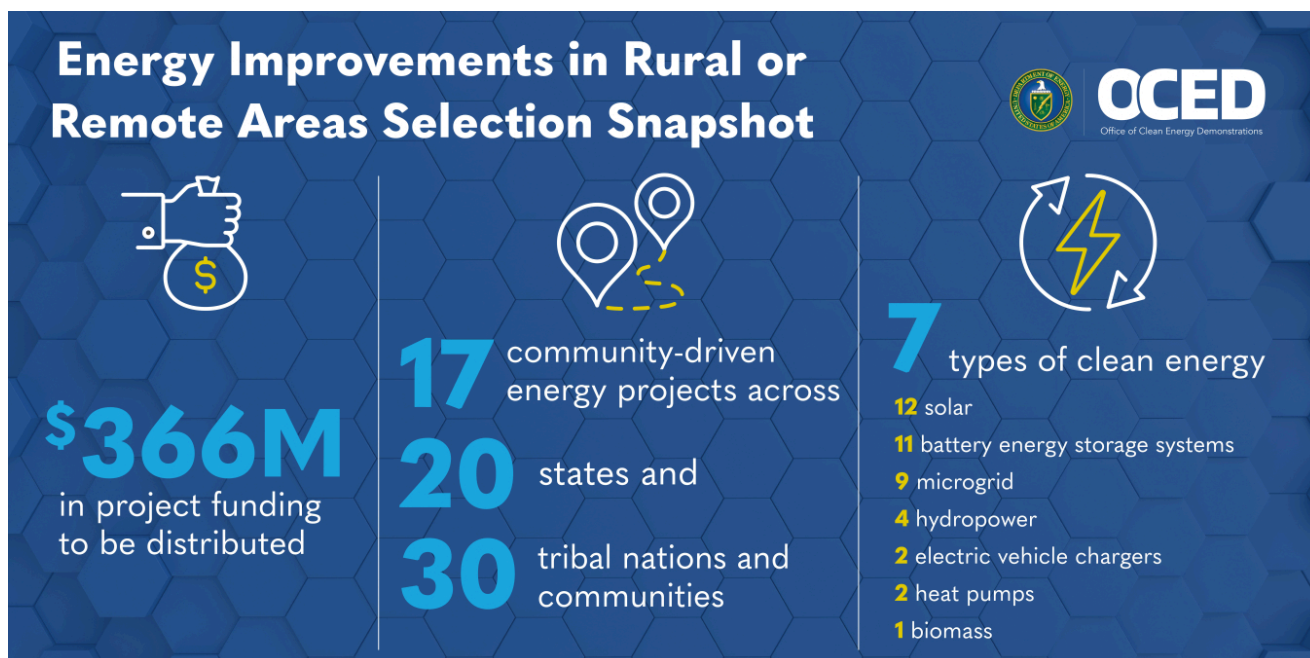
- Secure cleaner, less expensive, and more reliable energy for low-income communities in one of the most rural states in the nation
- Reduce household heating costs and provide central air conditioning to communities that have low accessibility to natural gas and are still reliant on delivered fuels
- Expand heating solution to reach harder-to-access rural manufactured and mobile homes

**Project Summary:** This project aims to decrease energy costs and increase reliability by installing approximately 675 whole-home, ducted heat pumps in manufactured and mobile homes in rural and remote Maine communities. Maine is one of the most rural states in the nation and lacks natural gas infrastructure. With the low availability of natural gas, Maine households rely on delivered fuels, exposing communities to elevated levels of criteria air pollutants. 71% of households in Maine heat their homes with delivered fuel compared to the U.S. average of 9%. Delivered fuels, particularly kerosene, experience significant price volatility and potential shortages, exacerbating household energy burdens across the state. To alleviate this burden, each heat pump conversion in this project is projected to reduce household heating costs by 40%, while also providing central air conditioning. This project aims to help meet Maine's ambitious heat pump goals, including 15,000 in low-income homes by 2025 and 115,000 homes with whole-home heat pump systems by 2030.

The Efficiency Maine Trust (EMT) plans to employ targeted strategies such as mailers, door to door visits, community events, and trade shows to support mobile and manufactured homeowners' participation in the project. Additionally, EMT aims to catalyze the local clean energy workforce by connecting workers with workforce training, certificate, and apprenticeship opportunities.

For more information, email [East\\_ERA2970@hq.doe.gov](mailto:East_ERA2970@hq.doe.gov).

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## Selections Under Award Negotiation

*DOE's selection of an application for award negotiations is not a commitment by DOE to issue an award or provide funding. DOE and each selectee will negotiate a cooperative agreement, and any DOE funding would be provided only after negotiations are complete and DOE's Contracting Officer executes the funding agreement. Before a funding agreement is executed, DOE may cancel award negotiations and rescind the selection for any reason.*

- [Advancing Energy Sovereignty for Taos Pueblo](#)
- [Montezuma Microgrid](#)
- [Solar + Storage Microgrids for Rural Community Health Centers](#)
- [FAQs](#)

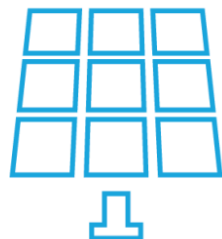
**Project Name: Advancing Energy  
Sovereignty for Taos Pueblo**

**Location:** Taos Pueblo, New Mexico

**Federal Cost Share:** \$10,000,000

**Selectee:** International Center for Appropriate and Sustainable Technology (ICAST)

**Technology:** Solar + Battery Storage System



Solar



Battery  
Storage

## Project Impacts

- Tribally owned project that will pass benefits directly to tribal members and diversify economy beyond tourism
- Lower energy costs and enhance energy resilience during brownouts for Taos Pueblo Tribal members
- Leverage local resources to provide apprenticeship opportunities and train local workforce

## Project Summary

This project seeks to install a 5 MW solar photovoltaic (PV) and 10 MWh battery storage system located on Taos Pueblo lands in New Mexico. The project strives to eliminate an estimated 279,210 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year over its 25-year lifespan and facilitate a 33% reduction in energy costs for 2,500 rural, Taos Pueblo Tribal members. Taos Pueblo, as owners of the project assets, will receive income over the project's generating life, which it anticipates passing on to Pueblo citizens through a direct credit of approximately \$700 per household annually. Taos Pueblo is the only living Native American community designated as both a [World Heritage Site](#) and a [National Historical Place](#), and the

Tribe ranks in the 94th percentile of energy-burdened communities, with 42% of households living below the state poverty line.

As part of its Community Benefits Plan, this project plans to partner with Santa Fe Community College to aid in local workforce training, as well as provide apprenticeship opportunities for Taos Pueblo community members. Additionally, the project's lead applicant, International Center for Appropriate and Sustainable Technology, and the City of Taos have solidified their partnership through a Good Neighbor Agreement, outlining measures to address potential impacts on the city and its residents through active engagement with city officials and community leaders.

For more information, email [West\\_ERA2970@hq.doe.gov](mailto:West_ERA2970@hq.doe.gov).

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## Project Name: Montezuma Microgrid

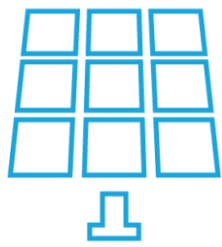
**Location:** Montezuma, Iowa

**Federal Cost Share:** \$9,480,000

**Selectee:** Iowa State University Electric Power Research Center

**Technology:** Solar PV + Battery Storage System Microgrid with Substation Improvements, Advanced Metering, and Electric Vehicle Chargers





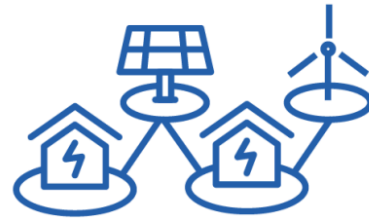
Solar



Battery  
Storage



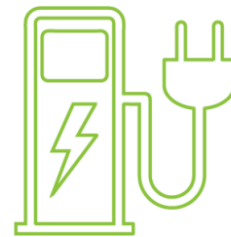
Substation  
Improvements



Microgrid



Advanced  
Metering



EV Charger

### Project Impacts

- Increase energy resilience and reliability for a rural community experiencing power losses due to extreme weather events and aging infrastructure
- Reduce reliance on fossil fuels by providing renewable power for residential homes, commercial buildings, and industries
- Provide education and training by creating a renewable microgrid curriculum for community colleges
- Support local workforce development initiatives through Meskwaki Nation training and apprenticeship programs

### Project Summary

This project plans to implement the first utility-scale microgrid in the state, providing energy resilience and reliability and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The City of Montezuma is a rural community with 1,460 residents that experiences extreme weather events, aging infrastructure, and a 53% reliance on fossil fuels. The project aims to deploy a 2.5 MW solar array and 1.5 MWh battery storage system microgrid with electric vehicle chargers and advanced metering to reduce reliance on aging infrastructure and back-up diesel generation. In partnership with Montezuma Municipal Light and Power, the town's community-owned utility, the project seeks to service 706 residential homes, 201 commercial buildings, and two industries.

As part of its Community Benefits Plan, the project will be owned by a community-owned utility and plans to provide workforce development opportunities and ensure meaningful community engagement in the City of Montezuma. More than 40 local community groups have endorsed the project through community partnership letters that range from labor unions; veteran, minority, and women-owned businesses; community colleges; and Iowa state and local governments. Additionally, the project seeks to develop a renewable microgrid curriculum for community colleges and the Meskwaki Nation to provide training and apprenticeship programs for the local workforce.

For more information, email [Midwest\\_ERA2970@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Midwest_ERA2970@hq.doe.gov).

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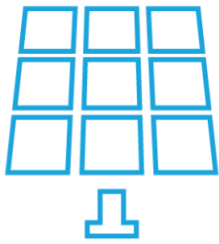
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## **Project Name: Solar + Storage Microgrids for Rural Community Health Centers**

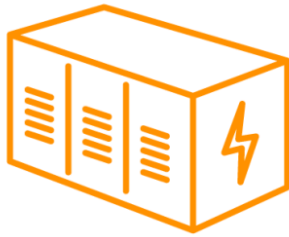
**Location:** Tunica, MS and 125-175 sites across the Southeast (AL, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN)

**Federal Cost Share:** \$57,010,000

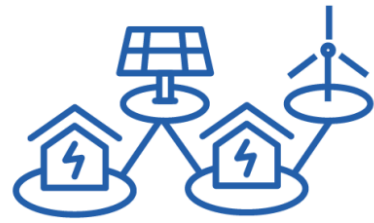
**Technology:** Solar PV and Battery Storage Systems



Solar



Battery  
Storage



Microgrid

### Project Impacts

- Provide microgrids to rural community health centers across the Southeast to decrease power outages
- Ensure electricity for critical life-saving equipment such as ventilators, dialysis, and refrigeration of insulin
- Reduce energy burden through reduced power bills and financial losses incurred from power outages
- Support community workforce by providing microgrid deployment training and local recruitment

### Project Summary

The [CHARGE Partnership](#), made up of the mission-aligned organizations the National Association of Community Health Centers, Capital Link, Collective Energy, and Clean Energy Group, plans to build energy resilience in Community Health Centers to improve access to reliable health care in low-income, rural communities across eight states in the southeast. The initial site for this project is in Tunica, Mississippi in partnership with Aaron E. Henry Community Health Center, which will incorporate additional community and workforce initiatives. The clean, resilient energy systems developed through this project will benefit up to 175 health center sites, ensuring energy reliability for critical medical equipment,

refrigeration of insulin and vaccines, and continuity of care during emergencies and power outages. Participating health centers could save up to \$45 million in energy costs, avoid millions in losses due to closures, decrease greenhouse gas emissions, and create a scalable, replicable model for remote health care providers, strengthening the resilience of vulnerable communities across the country.

As part of its Community Benefits Plan, project partners plan to work to ensure a robust clean energy workforce, create meaningful community engagement, and expand clean energy education initiatives. The project team has expressed its commitment to negotiating formal and enforceable workforce and community agreements which will include legally enforceable metrics, timelines, commitments to communities, wages and benefits, and workforce training opportunities. Additionally, the project team plans to host listening sessions with local community leaders and labor organizations to provide an opportunity for two-way engagement and community input.

For more information, email [East\\_ERA2970@hq.doe.gov](mailto:East_ERA2970@hq.doe.gov).

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## FAQs

### **Q. What is the Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas program?**

The [Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas](#) (ERA) program received \$1 billion from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to improve the resilience, reliability, and affordability of energy systems in communities across the country with 10,000 or fewer people.

The ERA program aims to fund community-driven energy projects that deliver measurable benefits to customers and build clean energy knowledge and capacity throughout rural America.



**Q. How does this project selection announcement relate to other ERA program funding announcements?**

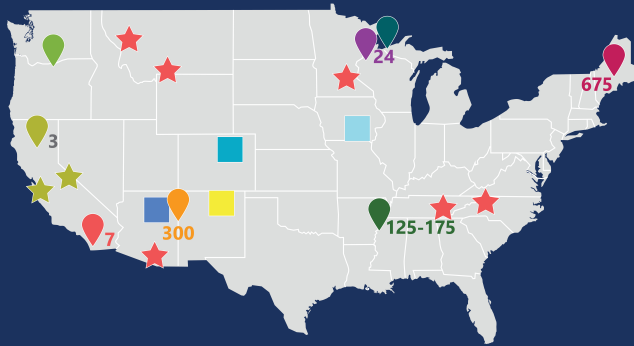
As of February 2024, DOE has announced three funding announcements as part of the \$1 billion ERA program and is collecting feedback and data from previous applicants, rural communities, and stakeholders to inform the development of future funding opportunities. To date, DOE has announced the following ERA funding opportunities:

- [Cooperative Agreement Funding Opportunity Announcement \(FOA\)](#): provides funding for projects that advance resilience and provide benefits to one or more rural or remote communities. DOE announced \$366 million for 17 projects selected for award negotiations in February 2024 under this FOA.
- [Energizing Rural Communities Prize](#): challenges individuals and organizations to develop partnership plans and innovative financing strategies to support efforts in rural or remote communities to improve their energy systems and advance clean energy demonstration projects. DOE announced 67 winners for the first phase of the prize in July 2023.
- [Grant Funding Opportunity Announcement](#): provides grant funding for small community-driven projects. As a direct response to feedback from rural and remote communities, OCED simplified the application process, removed the cost-share requirement, offered technical assistance, and reduced the financial reporting requirements to deliver for rural America and eliminate barriers preventing access to federal funding.

**Q. Where are the projects selected located?**

The 17 projects selected for award negotiation span 20 states and at least 30 tribal nations and communities.

## ERA PROJECT SELECTIONS – LOWER 48



	Yakama Indian Reservation, WA
	Burney, CA; Mariposa, CA; Mammoth Lakes, CA
	Anza, CA; Arivaca, AZ; Clinton, MT; Cooke City, MT; Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, MN; Decatur, TN; Cherry Lane, NC
	Hopi Nation, AZ
	300 homes across Hopi and Navajo Nations
	Fort Lupton, CO
	Taos Pueblo, NM
	Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, WI
	24 sites across Red Cliff Reservation and Bayfield County, WI
	Montezuma, IA
	Tunica, MS; 125-175 other Southeast community health centers
	675 ME mobile/manufactured homes

### Notes:

- Square icons indicate Topic Area 1
- Rounded icons indicate Topic Area 2
- Subscripts and star icons indicate multi-site projects

## ERA PROJECT SELECTIONS – ALASKA



	Kotzebue, AK; 10 other Northwest Arctic Borough communities
	Nulato, AK; 7 other Interior Alaska communities
	Chignik Bay, AK
	Old Harbor, AK
	Angeon, AK

### Notes:

- Square icons indicate Topic Area 1
- Rounded icons indicate Topic Area 2
- Subscripts and star icons indicate multi-site projects

**Q. What are the anticipated benefits of the projects selected for award negotiation?**

The ERA program aims to fund community-driven energy projects that deliver measurable benefits to customers, and build clean energy knowledge and capacity throughout rural America.

The projects selected for award negotiation cover a wide range of clean energy technologies to support rural and remote communities around the country – from solar, battery energy storage systems and microgrids to

hydropower, heat pumps, biomass, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

The ERA program also expects to support new economic opportunities for rural and remote communities while also supporting DOE's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. These projects will contribute to the President's [\*\*Justice40 Initiative\*\*](#), which set a goal that 40% of the overall benefits of certain federal investments flow to disadvantaged communities.

**Q. How were these projects selected for award negotiation?**

Following a Request for Information in October 2022 to solicit public input, DOE issued a [\*\*Funding Opportunity Announcement\*\*](#) in March 2023, and then conducted merit reviews of eligible project submissions. The merit review criteria included:

- Technical Merit, Innovation, and Impact (30%)
- Financial and Market Viability (20%)
- Workplan (15%)
- Management Team and Project Partners (15%)
- Community Benefits Plan (20%)

All applications were evaluated through a rigorous merit review process as well as a secondary level of vetting that was conducted by a federal review panel to confirm the validity and strength of applications. These criteria included an evaluation of meeting funding announcement objectives, including energy resilience and reliability, project scope and timeline, and strategic community engagement.

**Q. How will communities where ERA projects are located be engaged?**

OCED will engage in early, frequent, and meaningful engagement with communities that host the ERA projects. Communities will have substantive opportunities to engage with both DOE and the projects—starting during the negotiation process and extending throughout the full lifecycle of each project.

On February 29, 2024, OCED will host a national stakeholder briefing to provide an update on the ERA program and share highlights on the projects selected for award negotiations. Additionally, OCED will co-host four regional briefings with selectees to allow participants to engage with DOE and selected projects in their region. Selectees will provide information about their projects, discuss the project timeline, and share how community members can be involved. OCED will continue to work with stakeholders and tribes throughout the design, construction, and immediate operation of the ERA projects. Learn more about [ERA local engagement opportunities here](#).

ERA projects that are successfully negotiated and awarded are required to implement their Community Benefits Plans, including engaging with community and labor groups; investing in America's workforce; advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility; and supporting the Justice40 Initiative.

If awarded, OCED will evaluate these projects through a [phased approach](#) to project management that includes "go/no-go" decision points between each project phase where DOE reviews and evaluates the key elements of the project, including community benefit commitments, and assesses how well they are being implemented.

**Q. How can I contact the DOE ERA Team?**

Contact: [EngageERA@hq.doe.gov](mailto:EngageERA@hq.doe.gov).

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