

Tribal Energy Program

May 4, 2010

Welcome to this edition of the Tribal Energy Program's (TEP) newsletter. This newsletter provides information on funding opportunities through TEP and other federal agencies, training opportunities, upcoming events, and other tribal-energy-related information.

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Upcoming Event Highlights

For a complete listing of trainings and other events of interest to tribes, please visit the [TEP events calendar](#).

- May 13 (3:00-4:00 EDT): Law Seminars International TeleBriefing - New MOU for Hydropower on Federal Lands
- May 17 (1:00-2:30 MDT): TEP Webinar– Topic to be announced.
- May 17 (3-5 p.m. EDT): DOE Webinar - Marine and Hydrokinetic Technology Funding Opportunity (DE-FOA-0000293)
- May 19-20: Energy Transmission System Planning Workshop, Bismarck, North Dakota
- May 25-26: National American Indian Housing Council 36th Annual Convention; Minneapolis, Minnesota – Save the Date
- June 7-8, 2010: Third Annual Renewable Energy Projects in Indian Country Conference ; Scottsdale, Arizona

Funding Opportunities

1) DOE Wind and Water Power Program Issues Marine and Hydrokinetic Technology Readiness Advancement Initiative Funding Opportunity – Responses Due June 7, 2010

The mission of DOE's Water Power Program is to perform and sponsor the necessary research, development, test, evaluation, and demonstration of innovative water power technologies in order to effectively generate renewable, environmentally responsible, and cost-effective electricity from Marine and Hydrokinetic (MHK) resources. Considering the early-stage of development of the industry and most MHK technologies, the program will employ Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs) as a means to assess the technical maturity of various types of marine and hydrokinetic water power technologies in a consistent and uniform manner.

It is the intent of this Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) to advance the technical and operational readiness of marine and hydrokinetic systems and components across a range of TRLs, with the unified goal of accelerating the development and deployment of these technologies to provide a domestic source of clean, affordable energy that is both economical and ecologically responsible.

This FOA seeks applications in the following Topic Areas:

- Topic Area 1: MHK Technologies Concept Development (TRLs 1-3)
- Topic Area 2: MHK Technology Readiness Level Advancement (TRLs 4-9)

Funding will be made available in each Topic Area for the advancement of both MHK "systems" and "components" as defined in the FOA. For the purposes of this announcement, "device" will refer to the technology in question and can be either a system or component.

For more information, see the [full solicitation](#).

Attend the May 17, 2010 [DOE Webinar](#) on this FOA for more information.

2) Rural Business Cooperative Service Providing Competitive Grants – Responses Due June 28, 2010

Native American organizations and tribes are eligible to apply for 20 new federal grants of \$250,000 each, or more in some cases, for improving infrastructure, agriculture, energy generation, or conservation in their territories.

The Rural Business Cooperative Service is providing the competitive grants under the Rural Business Opportunity Grant program for FY10. While there is a stated \$250,000 dollar limit per application, it does not apply to federally recognized tribes and Rural Economic Area Partnerships. Regions can be either multi-jurisdictional areas within a state, territory, tribal land, or cross boundaries.

Projects should be designed to help rural communities in the region create wealth, especially using any of the following key strategies:

1. Building local and regional food systems as a strategy for encouraging production agriculture
2. Creating renewable energy generation, energy conservation, and/or climate change adaptation or mitigation
3. Use of broadband and other critical infrastructure as a strategy to facilitate local entrepreneurship and expansion of market opportunities for small businesses
4. Improving access to capital in rural areas
5. Innovative utilization of natural resources as a strategy to expand business opportunities

The agency is particularly interested in applications that will establish "best practice" projects in the area of regional economic and community development using key strategies of the USDA.

Applications are due June 28, 2010. Get [more information](#) on how to apply for a USDA Rural Business Opportunity Grant.

3) New Application Window for Biorefinery Assistance, Repowering Assistance, and Bioenergy for Advanced Biofuels Programs – Responses Due June 1, June 15, and May 30, 2010

On March 12, 2010, Notices of Funding Availability (NOFA) from the USDA were published in the *Federal Register* for the Biorefinery Assistance, Repowering Assistance, and Bioenergy for Advanced Biofuel programs.

Biorefinery Assistance Program and Repowering Assistance Program:

A new application window to submit applications for both of these programs was announced under criteria established in prior NOFAs. Not all of the budget authority for these programs has been awarded. Therefore, USDA is requesting additional applications in order to award the remaining Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 budget authority.

The Biorefinery Assistance Program authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to make loan guarantees for the "development, construction, and retrofitting of commercial-scale biorefineries using eligible technology." Applications for participating in the program must be received by **June 1, 2010**. [Learn more](#).

Repowering Assistance Program: This program provides "financial incentives to biorefineries in existence on June 18, 2008, to replace the use of fossil fuels used to produce heat or power at their facilities by installing new systems that use renewable biomass, or to produce new energy from renewable biomass." Applications for participating in the program must be received by **June 15, 2010**. [Learn more](#).

Bioenergy for Advanced Biofuels Program: Not all the budget authority for FY 2009 has been distributed. As a result, additional payments are available for those producers of advanced biofuel previously determined eligible last year for payments under criteria established in the 2009 NOCP. Requests to be considered for additional payments for this program must be received by **May 30, 2010**. [Learn more](#).

For additional information regarding these notices, please contact Philip Brown, Business & Cooperative Loan Specialist, at 530-792-5811 or see the [USDA's Website](#).

4) \$42 Million Available in Competitive Grant Funding for Native American Communities and Organizations

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) Administration for Native Americans (ANA) announces the availability of \$42 million in competitive grant funding for fiscal year (FY) 2010 for community-based projects that promote economic and social self-sufficiency and cultural preservation for American Indians, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and other Native American Pacific Islanders from American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The FY 2010 funding includes \$27 million for continuing multi-year projects.

ANA grant funding supports social, economic, and governance development; preservation of Native American languages; and environmental regulatory activities.

Funding Opportunity Announcements can be downloaded and submitted at [Grants.gov](#).

ANA utilizes peer panel reviewers to analyze and score applications. To become a peer panel reviewer, please visit the [website](#).

Applicants are encouraged to contact ANA's technical assistance regional providers below who offer project development training and pre-application training free of charge.

- [Eastern Region](#)
- [Western Region](#)

- [Alaska Region](#)
- [Pacific Region](#)

For more information on ANA please visit their [website](#).

Items of Interest

1) New Memorandum of Understanding for Hydropower on Federal Lands

DOE Secretary Steven Chu and DOI Secretary Ken Salazar announced that the two agencies, along with the Army Corps of Engineers, will cooperate more closely and align priorities to support the development of environmentally sustainable hydropower. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) represents a new approach to hydropower development – a strategy that can increase the production of clean, renewable power while avoiding or reducing environmental impacts and enhancing the viability of ecosystems. By signing an MOU the federal agencies agree to focus on increasing energy generation at federally owned facilities and explore opportunities for new development of low-impact hydropower.

The MOU aims to increase communication between federal agencies and strengthen the long-term relationship between them to prioritize the generation and development of sustainable hydropower.

Objectives of the MOU include:

- Identifying specific federal facilities that will be well-suited as sites for sustainable hydropower
- Upgrading facilities and demonstrating new technologies at existing hydropower locations
- Coordinating research and development on advanced hydropower technologies
- Increasing hydropower generation through low-impact and environmentally sustainable approaches
- Integrating policies at the federal level
- Collaborating to identify total incremental hydropower resources at federal facilities.

Read the [DOE news article](#) for more information.

2) Director Gambrell, Senator Bingaman Announce Over \$10 Million in 2010 Native American CDFI Assistance Awards

Speaking alongside U.S. Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), the Director of the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund), Donna J. Gambrell, announced today \$10.26 million in financial and technical assistance awards through the Native American CDFI Assistance (NACA) Program. Hosted by the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the event celebrated the 45 Native organizations nationwide that received awards in the 2010 round and drew attention to the growing importance of Native CDFIs in their communities and among policy makers.

The 2010 NACA award announcement recognized an unprecedented number of awardees across nineteen states and emphasized the CDFI Fund's strong commitment to building the capacity of Native CDFIs to serve Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities by improving economic opportunity.

The Obama Administration's FY10 budget marked the first time funding for the Native Initiatives has been specifically included in a budget request to Congress. Expanded congressional support and concerted efforts by the CDFI Fund have supported rapid growth in the number of certified Native CDFIs, with the total number increasing more than 20% in the past year to 57 in 18 states.

The CDFI Fund's Native Initiatives works to increase access to credit, capital, and financial services in communities by creating and expanding CDFIs primarily serving Native communities. This is achieved through two principle initiatives: 1) a funding program – the NACA Program – targeted to increasing the number and capacity of existing or new Native CDFIs, and 2) a complementary series of training programs, called "Expanding Native Opportunities," that seeks to foster the development of new Native CDFIs, strengthen the operational capacity of existing Native CDFIs, and guide Native CDFIs in the creation of important financial education and asset building programs for their communities.

For more information about these awards, or about the CDFI Fund and its programs, please visit the [CDFI Fund's](#) website.

3) Secretary Salazar Lauds Winning Teams in 2010 Indian Education Renewable Energy Challenge

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar today announced the winning college and high school teams that designed and built the most efficient portable wind turbine systems as part of the 2010 Indian Education Renewable Energy Challenge with the Argonne National Laboratory. The awards were presented today at the Interior Department's headquarters in Washington, D.C.

At the college level, the first place award was shared by the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) from Albuquerque, New Mexico, and the College of Menominee Nation from Keshena, Wisconsin. At the high school level, the first place winner was the Oneida Nation High School from Oneida, Wisconsin.

The focus of the contest was to promote renewable energy development for Indian Country among students and teachers at the high school and college level. The contest is co-sponsored with the Bureau of Indian Education, the Indian Affairs Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development, and DOE's Argonne National Laboratory.

The challenge was a two-part contest. In Phase I, student teams organized by the schools were asked to submit designs for a portable wind turbine installation that generated energy, stored it mechanically or electronically and then used the stored energy to power an array of light emitting diodes. The 10 best designs (five high schools and five tribal colleges) were selected in the fall and those teams each received \$1,300 to construct a prototype for Phase II. A panel of judges chose the winners based on their final constructed models and videos.

The winning teams received their awards at a ceremony in the DOI's South Interior

Building Auditorium. For more information visit the [website](http://www.dep.anl.gov/indianed_energychallenge/).
http://www.dep.anl.gov/indianed_energychallenge/.

Read the [full story](#).

4) New Markets Tax Credit Questions and Answers Document Released

The Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI Fund) opened the 2010 round of the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) program on April 7, 2010. Today, the CDFI Fund is releasing the related Questions and Answers document via its website. In addition, the CDFI Fund has modified Question #29 in the NMTC Allocation Application to provide greater clarity for applicants.

- * [Application Q&A](#)
- * [Application](#)

For more information on the NMTC Program or certification as a CDE, please contact the CDFI Fund at cdfihelp@cdfi.treas.gov.

5) EPA Releases Handbook for Clean Water Act Section 319 Tribal Program

EPA's Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds recently released the *Handbook for Developing and Managing Tribal Nonpoint Source Pollution Programs Under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act* (the Handbook). Tribal water quality programs continue to increase in number and to mature in their capacity to understand and improve the condition of reservation lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands, and coastal waters. Currently, 159 tribes have approved nonpoint source programs. EPA developed the Handbook to support the continued growth and sophistication of tribal participation in the Clean Water Act Section 319 program.

The Handbook explains the role of both EPA and tribes in working together to help solve water quality problems caused by nonpoint source pollution. All aspects of the grants funding process are clearly explained, demonstrating how tribes can use Section 319 program funds to implement programs and projects to reduce pollution and restore water quality. It also provides a great deal of useful technical information regarding nonpoint source pollution, how to develop and assess available data to develop a plan of action, and how to implement activities to solve the problem.

The Handbook is posted on the [Tribal Nonpoint Source website](#)

6) Energy Transport Corridor Siting for Tribal Planners Guidance Manual Now Available

This manual describes a process for siting transmission corridors or rights-of-way across tribal lands to facilitate energy development and transmission while reducing associated environmental impacts.

Transmission system planning is a complex process comprised of many different steps. Once a tribe has identified a need for a transmission system connection, it must engage with transmission system operators, energy developers, and financiers to assess connectivity requirements, the regional and local transmission system infrastructure and available capacity, interconnection requirements, project financing options, and environmental impacts. The focus of this manual is to provide a process for identifying and resolving the environmental impacts related to siting of energy transmission corridors.

This manual recommends a step-wise process for the siting of energy transmission corridors or transmission rights-of-way across tribal lands in a manner that will help (1) facilitate both energy development and energy transmission and (2) avoid or minimize potential associated impacts of transmission development.

The [Tribal Energy and Environmental Information Clearinghouse \(TEEIC\) website](#) provides information about the environmental effects of energy development on tribal lands. DOI is funding the development of the TEEIC through the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs' Office of IEED.

Training and Upcoming Events

For a complete listing of trainings and other events of interest to tribes, please visit the [TEP events calendar](#).

Ongoing Training

- **Solar Energy International Offers Workshops and Courses on Solar Energy**

Solar Energy International's (SEI) Renewable Energy Education Program offers a full spectrum of [online courses](#) and [hands-on workshops](#) in locations around the world. Learn how to design, build and maintain renewable energy systems and energy-efficient, sustainable homes.

SEI believes that people learn by doing. Instructors are leaders in their fields, bringing the most up-to-date information in renewable energy technologies. Classroom and laboratory work is enhanced by case studies, tours and practical installations.

For a schedule of workshops and courses, see the [SEI website](#).

- **iCAST Offers Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Workforce Development**

iCAST, a Denver-based non-profit strives to provide "economic, environmental, and social benefits to economically disadvantaged individuals and communities; and to provide education and training that builds local capacity."

More information on courses covering a wide range of emerging technologies can be found on [iCAST's training](#) website.

Information provided courtesy of Ravi Malhotra, iCAST.

- **Utility Wind Integration Group Extends Meeting Scholarships for Co-Ops, Public Power Utilities**

The Public Renewables Partnership effort led by [Western Area Power Administration \(WAPA\)](#) and funded through the DOE [Wind and Hydropower Technologies Program](#) will offer \$500 scholarships in 2010 to 30 employees of electric cooperatives and public power utilities to attend [Utility Wind Integration Group \(UWIG\)](#) meetings.

The scholarships can be applied to any UWIG workshop or user group meeting and can be used to help defray travel expenses or registration fees. The applicant's employer must be a member of the [National Rural Electric Cooperative Association](#) or the [American Public Power Association](#). There is no limit on the number of scholarships per utility. To apply for the scholarship, please contact [Randy Manion](#) at 720-962-7423.

Information provided courtesy of Randy Manion, WAPA.