



Tribal Housing Weatherization Initiative

Pre-Pilot Dialogue

Conference Report

**September 19, 2006
Red Lion Inn
Denver, CO**

Conference Partners:

U.S. Department of Energy – Tribal Energy Program

U.S. Department of Energy – Weatherization Program

US Department of Housing and Urban Development – Office of Native American Programs

U.S. Department of Interior – Housing Improvement Program

National Renewable Energy Laboratory

This page intentionally left blank.

Table of Contents

Acknowledgements	1
Executive Summary	2
Welcome and Invocation.....	3
Introductions	3
The Importance of Weatherization in Indian Country	4
What Constitutes Good Weatherization Programs	4
Federal Resources and Programs	5
Tribal Case Studies	6
Navajo Nation	7
Salish Kootenai	7
Overview and Introduction of the Proposed CERT/DOE Tribal Weatherization Pilot Program	9
Facilitated Work Session.....	9
Recommendations and Closing	10
Speaker Bios, Appendix A.....	11
Conference Agenda, Appendix B.....	14
Invitation Letter, Appendix C.....	15
CERT Member Tribes, Appendix D.....	16
Registration List, Appendix E.....	17
Conference Handouts, Appendix F.....	20

Acknowledgements

The Council of Resources Tribes would like to acknowledge and thank our conference partners:

U.S. Department of Energy – Tribal Energy Program

U.S. Department of Energy – Weatherization Program

US Department of Housing and Urban Development – Office of Native American Programs

U.S. Department of Interior – Housing Improvement Program

National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Executive Summary

The Council of Energy Resource Tribes (CERT) and the Department of Energy (DOE) entered into a cooperative agreement to support American Indian Tribes in their pursuit of energy sufficiency. In 1999, over sixty Tribal leaders convened a strategic planning workshop at the Fort Mojave Indian Reservation where Tribes envisioned a future that would lead to true energy sustainability by accessing federally discounted hydro-power allocations, pursue new power generation with an emphasis on smaller community generation with attention to renewable technologies, and finally, to complete the National Tribal Energy Vision, Tribes envisioned pursuing the development of Tribal energy efficiency programs, to include energy audits, weatherization retrofits, and code development.

In the spirit of information and data gathering, CERT and DOE conducted seven comprehensive energy audits in five different climate zones in Indian Country. The Tribal energy audits were both formal and technical in nature, assessing Tribal enterprises, government facilities and Indian housing stock. The audit findings contained common issues from all the regions, confirming that Indian Country is in dire need of better codes and standards, the implementation of weatherization programs and trained Tribal professionals in the techniques and technologies of energy efficiencies and weatherization programs. The audits have proved critical not only for the utility of the cooperative agreement but more importantly as baseline information for future developments for Tribes desiring to create Tribal energy efficiency and weatherization programs. CERT and DOE are equally committed to the development of a National Tribal Energy Efficiency Initiative to support Tribal efforts and planning in energy efficiency and weatherization.

CERT and DOE convened a Tribal Housing Weatherization Initiative directed at the Tribes located in the extreme weather, northern plains states of North and South Dakota, Montana, and Wyoming. The Initiative is designed to facilitate Tribal leadership and representative's direction from the very beginning. CERT and DOE invited Tribal Housing Program directors and representatives to a one-day workshop that delivered a comprehensive overview of Indian Country energy efficiency fact situation and federal program resources. Tribal case studies at Salish and Kootenai and the Navajo Nation each delivered an outline of their respective Tribal programs. CERT and DOE presented an opportunity for Tribal representatives to assist in the initial development of a new program that would deliver training and equipment to Tribes desiring to create and expand their existing weatherization programs. Finally, CERT facilitated a Tribal planning dialogue on a highly participatory basis.

CERT and DOE proposed conducting basic training with SunPower in Denver and invited Northern Plains Tribes to participate. Many of the Tribes reacted positively to the proposal.

Welcome and Invocation

Roger Taylor, Tribal Energy Program Manager
National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

Roger Taylor welcomed conference participants and explained the partnership between Department of Energy (DOE), National Renewable Laboratory (NREL) and the Council of Energy Resource Tribes (CERT) as working together to help Tribes bring energy efficiency into their agenda. He explained it is less expensive to save a few megawatt hours than it is to build new energy generation, so it makes sense to begin with energy efficiency.

The invocation was given by Elfina Wauneka, Acting Program Manager, Navajo Housing Services.

Introductions

Roger Taylor, Tribal Energy Program Manager, NREL

Roger Taylor explained a graph showing resources involved in US energy production with the highest resources being oil, natural gas, and resource importation. He explained previous price fluctuations in energy resources caused by political issues, including the 1975 middle-east oil embargo, were minor compared to the real energy issue going on today due to the end of the age of oil. According to Roger, for those in the room who experienced the 1970's oil crisis, their grandparents saw the beginning of oil and their great-great grandchildren will see the end of oil. The age of oil will span, essentially, seven generations, and it is necessary to plan and take action for the future of our choosing while there is still time.

Roger explained energy efficiency will help by reducing the amount of energy and mitigating the ever-increasing cost. This statement is backed by results from CERT's energy audits completed for seven Tribes in five climates. In most cases the energy audits demonstrated energy loss as a result of homes built without energy conservation in mind. Audits on many building types found consistently poor insulation, unsafe or hazardous circumstances, unsafe or antiquated appliances using too much gas, and many other areas resulting in poor conservation of energy and resources. Weatherization services will be necessary if the Tribe wishes to prepare for cold weather. Many of these issues can be prevented in the future with Tribal building codes which set specific standards for new buildings construction companies must follow regardless of who initiates the building project.

Meanwhile, multiple varieties of housing stock must be prepared for cold weather. DOE's Weatherization Program is designed specifically for this purpose. Currently only states and two Tribal entities—Navajo Nation and Intertribal Councils of Arizona (ITCA)—are direct grantees of this program. A number of other Tribes are sub-grantees, receiving money from the states, but most Tribes do not apply for money from states. Residents can still apply directly to the state for assistance, but this does not happen very often. Roger explained CERT and DOE's proposal involves helping Tribes receive funding from the DOE Weatherization program to build their own weatherization program, should they so choose.

The Importance of Weatherization in Indian Country

Roger Fragua, Deputy Director
Council of Resources Tribes (CERT)

Roger Fragua explained that today is not a focus on what happened at contact, but he would like to begin with a historical accounting of Indian energy. Touching on the seven generation concepts, Roger cited the development of the federal hydropower systems in the 1940's in the Missouri River Basin and Columbia River Basins. This brought about the existence of the US transmission lines, and resulted in more loss of land and displacement to Tribes. This was followed by the energy shortage of the 1970's and a call to increase local supply resulting in formation of CERT in 1975 to help protect Tribal lands and resources. The Tribal leaders who sit on CERT's council created the 1999 National Tribal Energy Vision.

The National Tribal Energy Vision sets a goal to supply Tribes with a sufficient supply of reliable affordable energy. Part of this goal incorporates energy efficiency to help reduce the amount of energy required so that existing hydropower generation and new community renewable energy generation can provide sufficient energy.

This historical recounting served as context to convey the critical need for internal Tribal "champions" to advance the development of Tribal energy efficiency and weatherization programs, so no more lives will be lost due to inclement weather and poor housing.

What Constitutes Good Weatherization Programs

Rob DeSoto, Weatherization Project Manager
Department of Energy

Rob DeSoto outlined the key characteristics of sound weatherization programs and the reasons Tribes might consider the development of a program. Weatherization involves preparing a home for extreme temperature conditions so homes stay warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

Weatherization is important because it reduces energy expenses for those families and individuals who can least afford to pay high energy bills. "Low-income households typically spend sixteen percent of their total income on energy verses 4.5 percent of other households." This often causes a difficult choice between a warm house or other equally-important purchases such as food or medicine. Safety concerns are also high in low-income households including high carbon monoxide levels and old unsafe appliances. For every dollar spent in weatherization it will save as much as three dollars in energy use.

A good weatherization program involves the whole house approach including: providing plenty of insulation; performing heating and air conditioners safety and efficiency checks; controlling electric load including use of energy star appliances; health and safety measures; making necessary repairs and replacements of broken windows, door, roofs; providing client education so homes receive the upkeep necessary to maintain weatherization; and providing training in all these areas.

A good weatherization program also provides training, does cost-effective work which saves the most energy, focuses on quality control, standards compliance, and regular feedback.

A good weatherization program provides good energy efficiency audits which provide the vehicle for analyzing where the biggest energy problems lie and what work will be the most cost

