



ELEVATE

Tribal Housing – Microgrids

7.15.2026



ELEVATE'S MISSION

Elevate is a nonprofit organization that works nationally and is headquartered in Chicago, IL. Elevate designs and implements programs to ensure that everyone has clean and affordable heat, cooling, power, and water in their homes and communities – no matter who they are or where they live.

Tribal Program Team



Brittany Turner

- Director | Tribal Programs | Elevate
- Haliwa-Saponi Tribe
- Love to dance with my mini-me
- Contemporary beadwork artist



Dyan Crow

- Program Manager | Tribal Programs | Elevate
- Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
- Golf is my #1 for fun
- Seamstress for 25 years and love woodland floral and traditional applique ribbon work



Tribal Program Approach

Grant Writing and Technical Assistance

Decarbonization & Portfolio Planning

Project Scoping and Design

Project Construction Oversight & Operations + Maintenance

Program Design - One Stop Shop Program Approach

Microgrids and Tribal Housing Resilience Overview

Microgrids as Resilience Tools

- Microgrids provide localized energy to maintain power during grid outages, enhancing safety and stability in tribal housing.

Support for Tribal Housing Operations

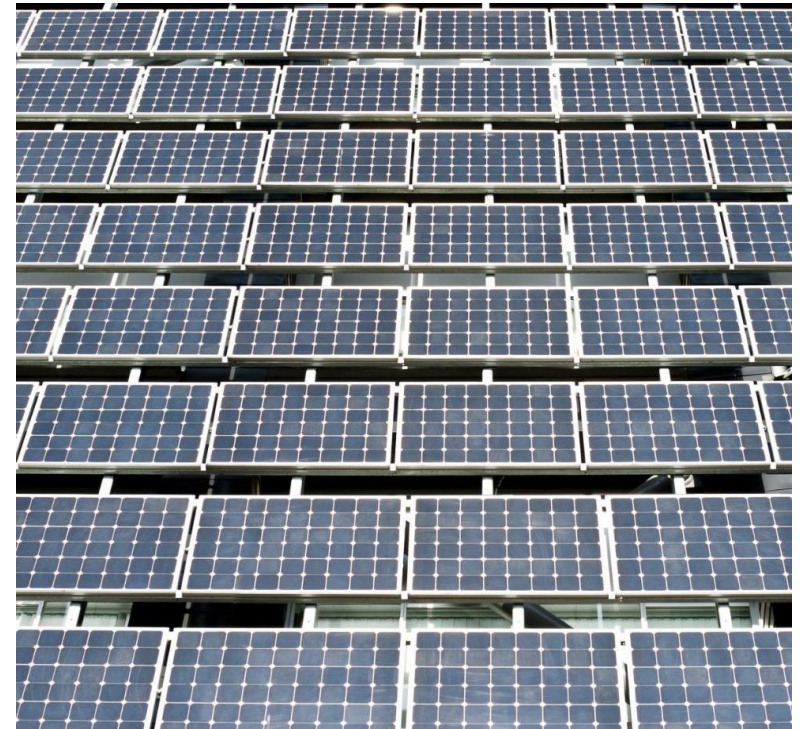
- Microgrids ensure continuous operation of housing offices, community centers, and emergency shelters for residents' well-being.

Leadership and Decision Context

- This overview aids tribal housing leaders to align energy solutions with housing policy and emergency preparedness priorities.

Focus on Scalable Solutions

- Emphasis on scalable, fundable microgrid projects tailored to diverse geographic and economic tribal housing conditions.



What is a Microgrid?

Definition of Microgrid

- A microgrid is a local energy system serving a specific area, capable of operating independently or connected to the main grid.

Key Components

- Most microgrids include power generation, battery storage, and a control system that manages energy flow efficiently.

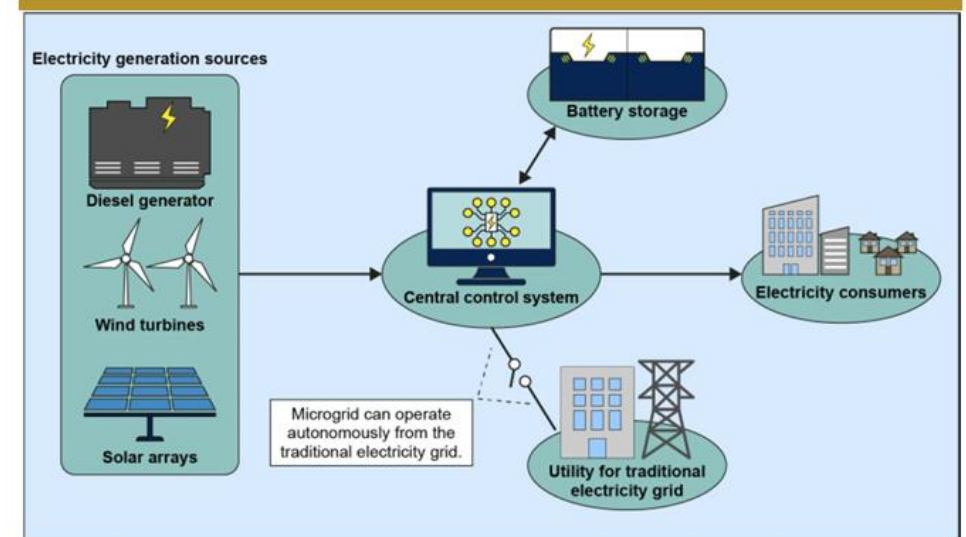
Operational Flexibility

- Microgrids can connect to the main utility or operate in island mode during outages, enhancing reliability.

Customization and Benefits

- Microgrids are customizable to community needs and help housing leaders engage in informed energy discussions.

Figure 1: Examples of Key Microgrid Components



Sources: GAO analysis of Department of Energy documentation; GAO (icons). | GAO-24-106278

Source Link: [GAO-24-106278, Accessible Version, Tribal Energy: Federal Assistance to Support Microgrid Development](#)

Why it Matters for Tribal Housing

Reliable Backup Power

- Microgrids provide dependable backup power for housing services and community centers during extreme weather conditions.

Enhanced Emergency Preparedness

- Microgrids reduce dependence on portable generators and uncertain utility restorations during emergencies like wildfires and storms.

Cost Stability and Energy Sovereignty

- Microgrids help stabilize long-term energy costs and support tribal energy independence with renewables and storage.

Proven Tribal Use Cases

- Many Tribes in the U.S. and Alaska already utilize microgrids, proving they are effective and trusted solutions.



This is a photo of an electrification and solar + battery project at LDF.

Federal Funding and Technical Assistance

Federal Agencies Supporting Microgrids

- Key federal agencies provide funding and programs specific to tribal microgrid development, including energy and resilience initiatives.

Technical Assistance Importance

- Technical assistance from agencies and labs helps tribes with feasibility studies, system design, and grant applications for microgrid projects.

Braided Funding Strategy

- Microgrid projects often need braided funding from multiple sources and early technical input to enhance project viability.

Programs with a history of providing grant funding for various aspects of tribal microgrid development:

- BIA's Energy and Mineral Development Program
- BIA's Tribal Energy Development Capacity Program
- DOE's Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs
- FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program
- FEMA's Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program
- USDA's High Energy Cost Grant Program
- Denali Commission's Energy and Bulk Fuel Program

Federal Technical Assistance for Tribal Microgrids

- **DOE Office of Indian Energy** – Feasibility studies, resilience planning, microgrid sizing, financial analysis, and interconnection support.
- **BIA Division of Energy & Mineral Development (DEMD)** – Energy resource assessments, project planning, feasibility studies, permitting, and financing guidance.
- **National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR) Formerly NREL (National Renewable Energy Laboratory)** – Community energy planning, microgrid analysis, battery storage integration, and funding strategies.
- **DOE Communities LEAP** – Assistance evaluating microgrid opportunities, project design options, and funding pathways.
- **DOE Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP)** – Energy resilience planning and technical analysis for remote and islanded communities.
- **DOE Energy Storage Program** – Technical support for battery storage and storage integration into microgrids.
- **FEMA Technical Assistance** – Support with resilience project development, benefit-cost analysis, and grant applications.
- **EPA Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs)** – Grant identification, proposal development, grant management, and capacity building.

Challenges and Next Steps for Housing Leaders

Identified Challenges

- Common challenges include funding match requirements, limited management capacity, high permitting costs, and staffing for long-term operations and maintenance.

Assessing Critical Needs

- Leaders should assess critical electrical loads and prioritize facilities critical for resident safety and service continuity.

Collaboration and Assistance

- Seek early technical assistance and build partnerships with utilities, tribal entities, and federal programs for support.

Phased Roadmap Approach

- Microgrid development follows a phased roadmap: planning, design, deployment, and operations for sustainable success.



TDHE Action Steps:

- Identify facilities requiring backup power.
 - Housing office
 - Community center
 - Elder housing
 - Emergency shelter
- Request technical assistance from HUD Community Compass.
- Request technical assistance from DOE Indian Energy.
- Pursue planning funds through BIA EMDP.
- Develop a phased resilience strategy.

Share Your Project Ideas With a Neighbor

- We want to learn from and highlight Tribal housing and energy projects.
- If you had funding for one resilient facility today, which housing-related facility would provide the greatest community benefit during a week-long outage?
- **Share your project idea with a neighbor.**

Tribal Case Studies



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GLIHA Energy Advisory Committee is a committee within GLIHA that:

- provides **insight into program design** for an efficiency and clean energy program that meets the needs of Tribal housing communities
- and to **assess the opportunities** for clean energy development and implementation.

Lac Du Flambeau, WI



10 Unit Multi-Family

Lac Vieux Desert, MI



Single Family

Red Cliff, WI



Duplex

Tribal Electrification Projects with Elevate

Lac du Flambeau | WI | 10-Unit Multifamily | Built 1980 | 9,350 ft²

■ Scope of Work:

- Ductless ASHP, Electric DHW ,ERV, Solar, Battery Storage

■ Total Cost: \$614,868

■ Estimated Savings (%):

- Cost: 87% | Energy: 85% | Emissions: 95%



Lac Vieux Desert | MI | Single Family Home | Built 1982 | 966 ft²

■ Scope of Work:

- Roof & siding, Doors & windows, Attic insulation and air sealing, Central ASHP, Electric stove, ENERGY STAR refrigerator, Solar

■ Total Cost: \$74,864

■ Estimated Savings (%):

- Cost: 28% | Energy: 32% | Emissions: 34%



Red Cliff | WI | Duplex | Built 1999 | 2,176 ft²

■ Scope of Work:

- Attic and crawlspace insulation and air sealing, Dual Fuel ASHP, Electric DHW

■ Total Cost: \$58,714

■ Estimated Savings (%):

- Cost: 26% | Energy: 44% | Emissions: 28%

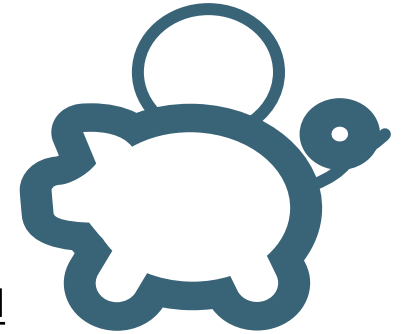


Funding Pathways:

Finance Energy Efficiency and Clean Energy Projects

State and Federal Grants

- Grid Resilience Allocation
- State Home Electrification and Appliances Rebates
 - MiHER - Available
 - WI HEAR (Focus on Energy) - Available
 - MN HEAR - Not Yet Available
 - WI PSC Energy Innovation Grant Program - Anticipated



Philanthropic Grants

- Tribal Funding Registry
- Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy - Indigenous Power and Light Fund
- Tribal Energy Alternatives
 - Tribal Facility/Residential Grant; Tribal Gap Fund Grant; Tribal Energy Planning Grant; Tribal Capacity Building Grant

More

- Tracking/Benchmarking Energy Bills
- Revolving Energy Fund

What Are You Exploring Next?

Take a moment to reflect:

- What housing or energy idea is your Tribe considering next?
- What support would help move that idea forward?

We would love to connect after the session to continue the conversation.

Microgrid Resources

- [Microgrid Overview - DOE Grid Deployment Office](#)
- [Accessible Version, Tribal Energy: Federal Assistance to Support Microgrid Development – U.S. Government Accountability Office](#)
- [Microgrids and Distribution Infrastructure: Tribal Energy Program Review Mini-Series - DOE Office of Indian Energy](#)
- [Microgrids | Indian Affairs](#)

Thank you! Let's Build Together

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Building Decarbonization & Electrification Overview

- **Building decarbonization reduces greenhouse gas emissions by:**
 - improving energy efficiency and transitioning from fossil fuels to clean, electric systems—all while supporting resident comfort and affordability.
- Building electrification is a component of decarbonization where equipment that uses fossil fuels is replaced with electric alternatives.
 - Heating and Cooling Systems
 - Water Heating
 - Cooking
 - Clothes Dryers

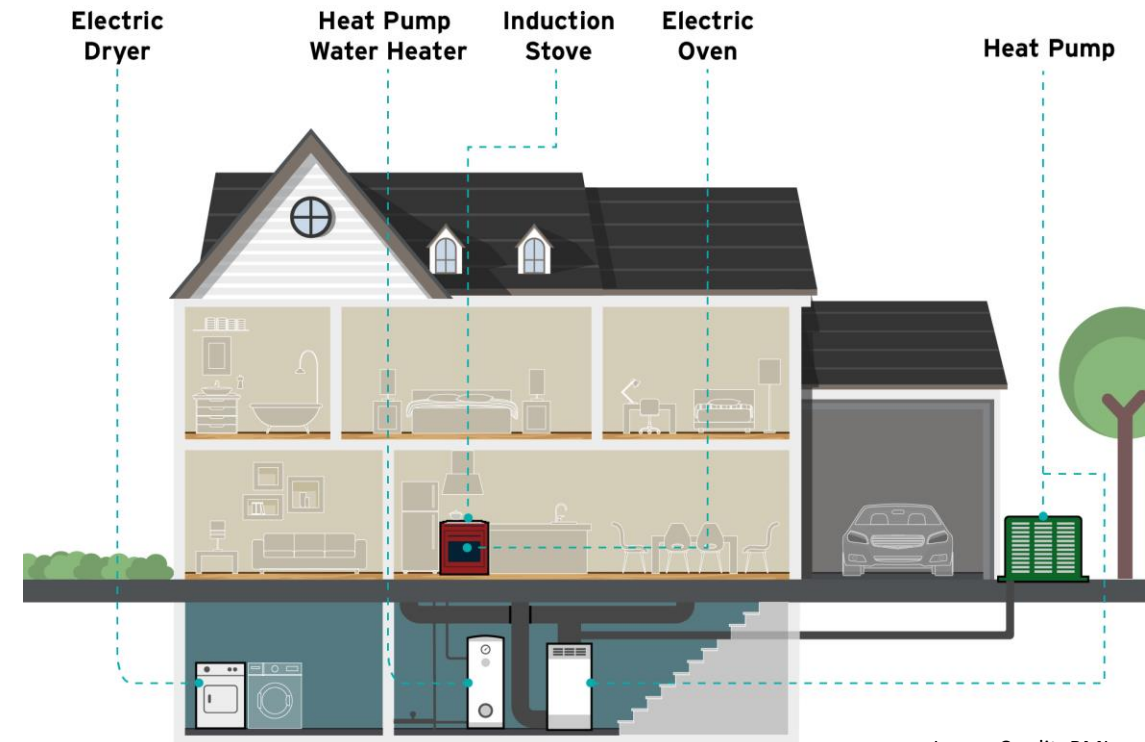


Image Credit: RMI.org