



# Renewable Energy Projects in Indian Country Conference


March 19 - 20, 2009

Radisson Fort McDowell Resort & Casino  
Scottsdale, AZ

**Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**

**8:00am – 9:00am** Conference Registration / Continental Breakfast / Exhibit Hall Opens

**9:00am – 9:15am** Welcoming Remarks / Opening Prayer

<b>Opening:</b>	<b>Co-Chairs:</b>	
	 Tracey LeBeau, <i>Partner,</i> Red Mountain Energy Partners	 Elizabeth Hendricks Schmiesing, <i>Partner,</i> Faegre & Benson LLP

**Opening Prayer led by:**



Dr. Clinton Pattea,  
*President,*  
Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation

**9:15am – 10:15am** Renewable Energy Developments: The Past, Present and Future




This panel will provide a history of renewable energy development including the latest demographics and statistics that are making headlines. What is renewable energy and why is it important to the pending energy crisis that the United States is facing? We will also explain the incentives of investing in these projects and the factors that are driving the marketplace. What should we expect for the future of renewable energy development?

<b>Moderator:</b>	<b>Panelists:</b>	
 Barry Thalden, <i>Partner,</i> Thalden Boyd Emery Architects	 Phil Glynn, <i>Director,</i> Travois New Markets LLC	 Chris Lee, <i>Principal,</i> FORMA
		Thomas Sacco, <i>Director of Tribal Energy Program,</i> Department of Energy (DOE)

**10:15am – 10:45am** Coffee Break & Networking Opportunity

**10:45 – 11:30am** Legal Entitlements and Land Issues

This panel will discuss some of the legal entitlements involved in developing energy projects in Indian Country, such as securing land or easement rights and how to use the new Tribal Energy Resource Agreements (TERA) process. This panel will also discuss critical legal issues that can delay the construction of your renewable energy project.

<b>Moderator:</b>	<b>Panelists:</b>	
 Tracey LeBeau, <i>Partner,</i> Red Mountain Energy Partners	 Bert Acken, <i>Attorney,</i> Lewis & Roca LLP	 Padraic McCoy, <i>Attorney,</i> Faegre & Benson LLP
		Jon Panamaroff, <i>Northwest Zone Manager,</i> <i>Division of Capital Investment,</i> Indian Affairs Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED)

**11:30am – 12:15pm**

**Powering a Nation: Renewable Energy Projects in Indian Country**

This panel will explain how Native Nations are diversifying their business initiatives with renewable energy projects. We will feature Tribal Leaders who will explain how their renewable energy projects are becoming a viable source of revenue and growth for their communities.

**Moderator:**



Elizabeth Hendricks Schmiesing,  
*Partner,*  
Faegre & Benson LLP

**Panelists:**



D. Eileen Briggs,  
*President,*  
Ta-tè Topa Energy, Inc. (a  
wholly owned corporation of the  
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe)

Roger Meyer,  
*CEO,*  
Morongo Band of Mission  
Indians



Arvin Trujillo,  
*Executive Director,*  
Navajo Nation Division of  
Natural Resources

**12:15pm – 1:30pm**

**Buffet Lunch in Exhibit Hall**

**1:30pm – 2:30pm**

**Renewable Energy Innovation on Tribal Lands: Capitalizing on Sovereignty**

A discussion of the opportunities that exist for Tribes to develop and finance innovative renewable energy technologies that are tailored to their particular needs and resources.

**Moderator:**



Thomas C. Jensen,  
*Partner,*  
Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal  
LLP

**Panelists:**



Margaret Kavalaris,  
*Partner,*  
Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal  
LLP



Marshall McKay,  
*Chairman,*  
Yocha-De-He, Rumsey Band of  
Wintun Indians

**2:30pm – 3:00pm**

**Coffee Break & Networking Opportunity**

**Sponsored by:**

CHADBOURNE  
& PARKE LLP

**3:00pm – 4:00pm**

**Financing Renewable Energy Projects**

This panel will discuss the total capital required to fund a renewable energy projects and how Native Nations can acquire those funds. What are the basic requirements Native Nations should have before approaching lenders? What programs and funding is provided from the federal government for Native Energy projects? What incentives are available to Native Nations through the Energy Policy Act of 2005? What Native Nations are using their own revenues to fund these projects?

**Moderator:**



Robert F. Lawrence,  
*Partner,*  
Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe  
LLP

**Panelists:**

Elfonzo Nephew,  
*Vice President,*  
Key Bank

Stephen Tromly,  
*Native American Liaison/Tribal  
Energy Manager,*  
Western Area Power  
Administration



Lloyd MacNeil,  
*Counsel,*  
Chadbourne & Park LLP

**4:00pm – 5:00pm**

**Recognizing the Risk Factors & Overcoming the Hurdles in Developing Renewable Energy Projects**

This panel will take a look at the investment, construction and operation risks of renewable energy projects. What impact has recent shortages in materials and high market demand had on project development and what projects have failed due to unforeseen roadblocks? Panelists will also explore the internal obstacles that are being faced by Tribal Leaders while they try to develop a master plan for renewable energy development on the reservation. Are these projects really creating a significant job source for Tribal Members?

**Moderator:**



Brad Toner, CIC, CRM,  
*Vice President,*  
Conover Insurance

**Panelists:**



Ron Feazle,  
*Executive Director,*  
Kaw Enterprise Development  
Authority



Nikki Symington,  
*Government & Public Relations,*  
Rincon Tribe of Luiseno Indians



Arvin Trujillo,  
*Executive Director,*  
Navajo Nation Division of  
Natural Resources

**5:00pm – 6:00pm**

**Cocktail Reception & Networking Opportunity**

**Sponsored by:**



**Honorary Sponsor:**

**Yocha-De-He  
Rumsey Band of Wintun Indians**



8:00am – 9:00am

Conference Registration / Continental Breakfast / Exhibit Hall Opens

9:00am – 10:00am

Building Green: Sustainable Design & Construction

Constructing a green facility is becoming a source of significant savings and recognition for Native Nations. What are the techniques that are being used in designing and constructing their facilities that have reduced their energy costs and given them a competitive edge?

**Moderator:**



Paul S. Moe,  
Partner,  
Faegre & Benson LLP

**Panelist:**



Bob Birmingham,  
Director of Planning &  
Development,  
Mashantucket Pequot Tribal  
Nation



Todd Hooks,  
Economic Development  
Director,  
Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla  
Indians

Carlos Knight,  
Vice President,  
USA Ecostar

10:00am – 10:30am

Keynote Address

President Obama has identified the development of renewable energy resources as a critical priority for his Administration and a necessary part of addressing both climate change and America's dependence on foreign oil. The Administration recognizes furthermore the need to include and engage Indian Country in the development of renewable resources if the United States hopes to meet the defined energy development goals over the next decades. In short, Tribes have a prime opportunity to partner with the federal government to achieve mutually beneficial objectives. Keith Harper, who served on the Energy Department Team among his other roles in the Obama-Biden Presidential Transition Team, will explore the lessons learned and provide insight as to how Tribes can effectively position themselves to exploit existing opportunities and work with the Administration to aid the development of renewable energy resources.

**Introduced by:**



Tracey LeBeau,  
Partner,  
Red Mountain Energy Partners

**Keynote Speaker:**



Keith Harper,  
Senior Member,  
Obama-Biden Presidential  
Transition Team in the Energy  
and Environment Cluster (&  
Partner at Kilpatrick Stockton  
LLP)

10:30am – 10:45am

Coffee Break & Networking Opportunity

10:45am – 11:30am

Shedding Light on Solar Power Projects

This panel will feature successfully developed solar energy projects in both a large and commercial-scale. Panelists will discuss the benefits in venturing into solar projects and explain the processes involved in developing this valuable energy resource.

**Moderator:**



Thomas Stephens,  
Partner,  
Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal  
LLP

**Panelists:**



Theresa Dodson,  
Environmental Director,  
Ramona Band of Cahuilla  
Indians



Carolyn Stewart,  
Partner,  
Red Mountain Energy Partners



Deborah Tewa,  
Renewable & Tribal Energy  
Coordinator,  
Arizona Department of  
Commerce

## Harnessing Wind Power

This panel will feature Tribes that have undertaken wind energy projects on their reservation or trust lands. Tribal Leaders will describe the planning and development of these projects as well as the obstacles that they encountered along the way. How have these Tribes successfully funded and sustained these projects to bring power & profit to their communities?

### **Moderator:**



Peter Stricker,  
*Vice President, Strategic  
Development,*  
Clipper Wind Power  
Development Company, Inc.

### **Panelists:**



D. Eileen Briggs,  
*President,*  
Ta-tè Topa Energy, Inc. (a  
wholly owned corporation of the  
Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe)



Chase Iron Eyes,  
*Attorney,*  
Standing Rock Sioux Tribe



Roger Tungovia,  
*Project Manager,*  
Hopi Clean Air Partnership  
Project

## 12:15pm – 1:00pm

## More Renewable Energy Project Ventures

This panel will discuss other renewable energy projects that are being developed in Indian Country. These projects include river and stream energy, wave energy, geothermal energy and biomass projects. What are the necessary components that are involved in developing these projects? What projects have been successful in reducing energy costs and providing sustainable revenue? What are the risks involved in these projects?

### **Moderator:**



Tracey LeBeau,  
*Partner,*  
Red Mountain Energy Partners

### **Panelists:**



Michael Devine,  
*COO,*  
Shoshone Energy



Winona LaDuke,  
*Executive Director,*  
Honor the Earth

## 1:00pm

## Conference Adjourns