

An Asset-Based Approach to Tribal Community Energy Planning

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Image source: sandia.gov, nrel.gov, energy.gov/indianenergy

About Me



Pratt Institute, School of
Architecture
M.S. Candidate in City and
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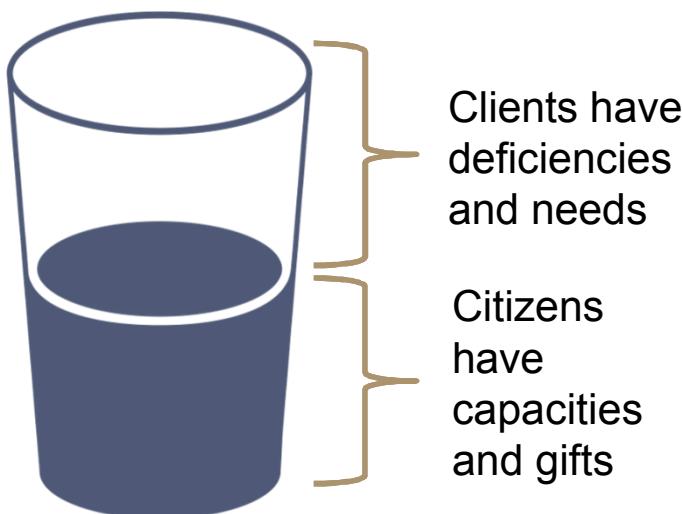
Global Engagement Studies
Institute Scholar (2012), South
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Boston University
B.A. International Relations,
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Two Approaches to Planning



1.

Needs-Based, Top-Down Approach

Creates a dependent relationship between a historically marginalized community and outside organizations and institutions

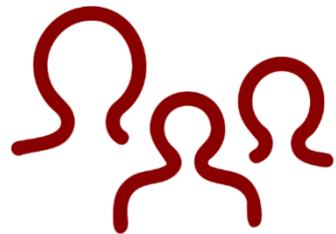
2.

Asset-Based, Bottom-Up Approach

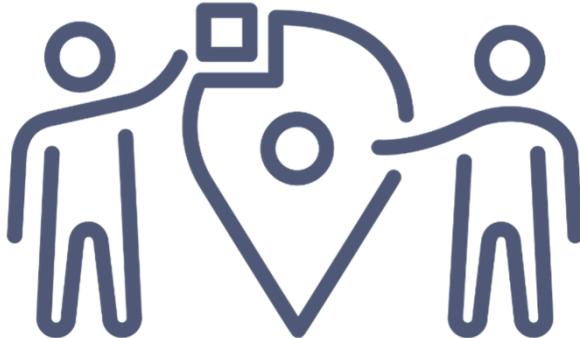
Focuses on a community's inherent gifts and strengths

What is Community Energy Planning?

Community energy planning is the process of bringing different tribal stakeholders together to plan for their collective energy future



Why is Community Energy Planning Important?



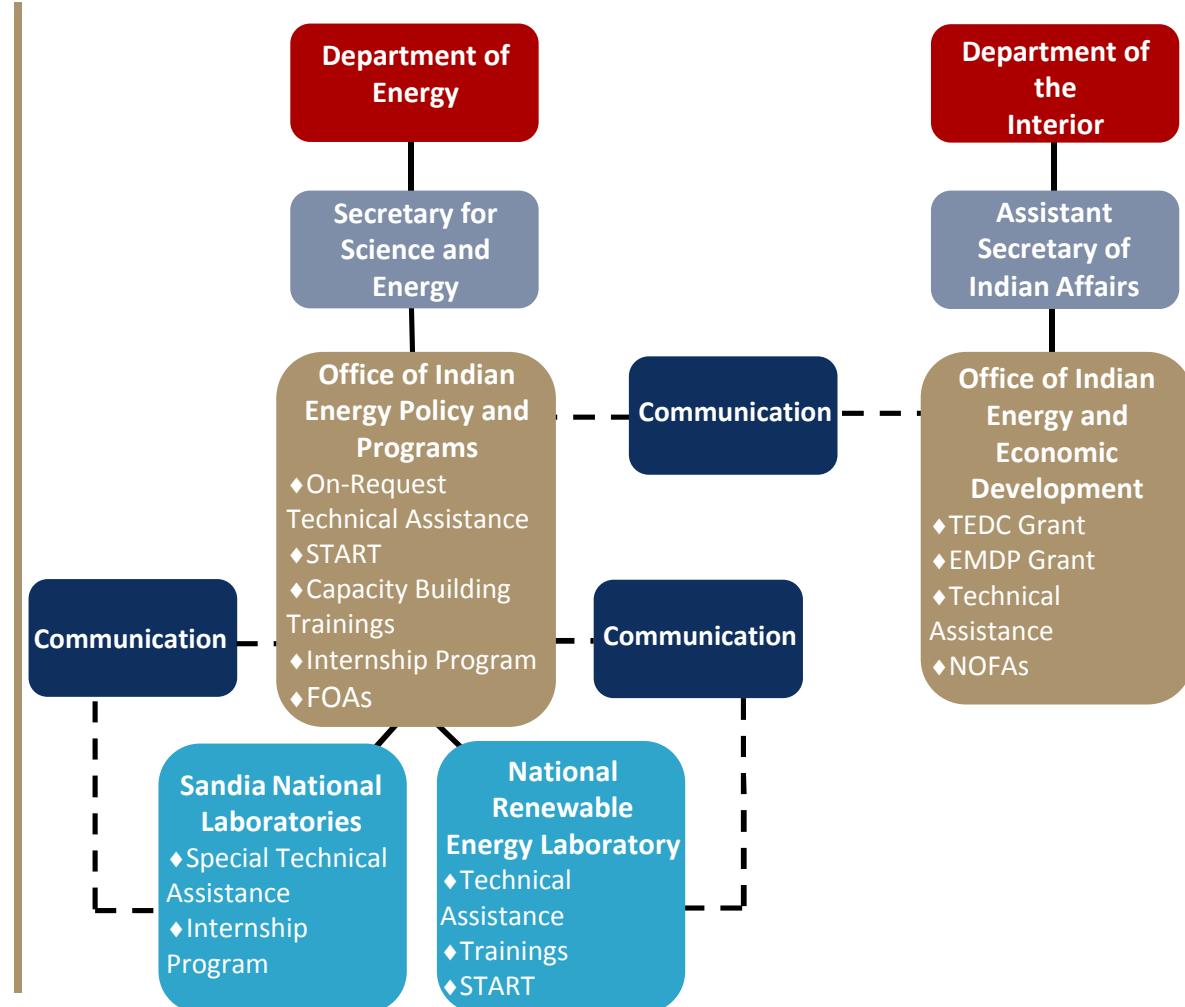
1. *Planning helps build consensus and encourages community-based leadership*
2. *Planning helps participants understand how issues and ideas are connected to one another*
3. *Planning facilitates better coordination between tribal offices and departments*
4. *Planning is an act of sovereignty and may lead to more energy efficient communities*

Current Federal Assistance & Programs

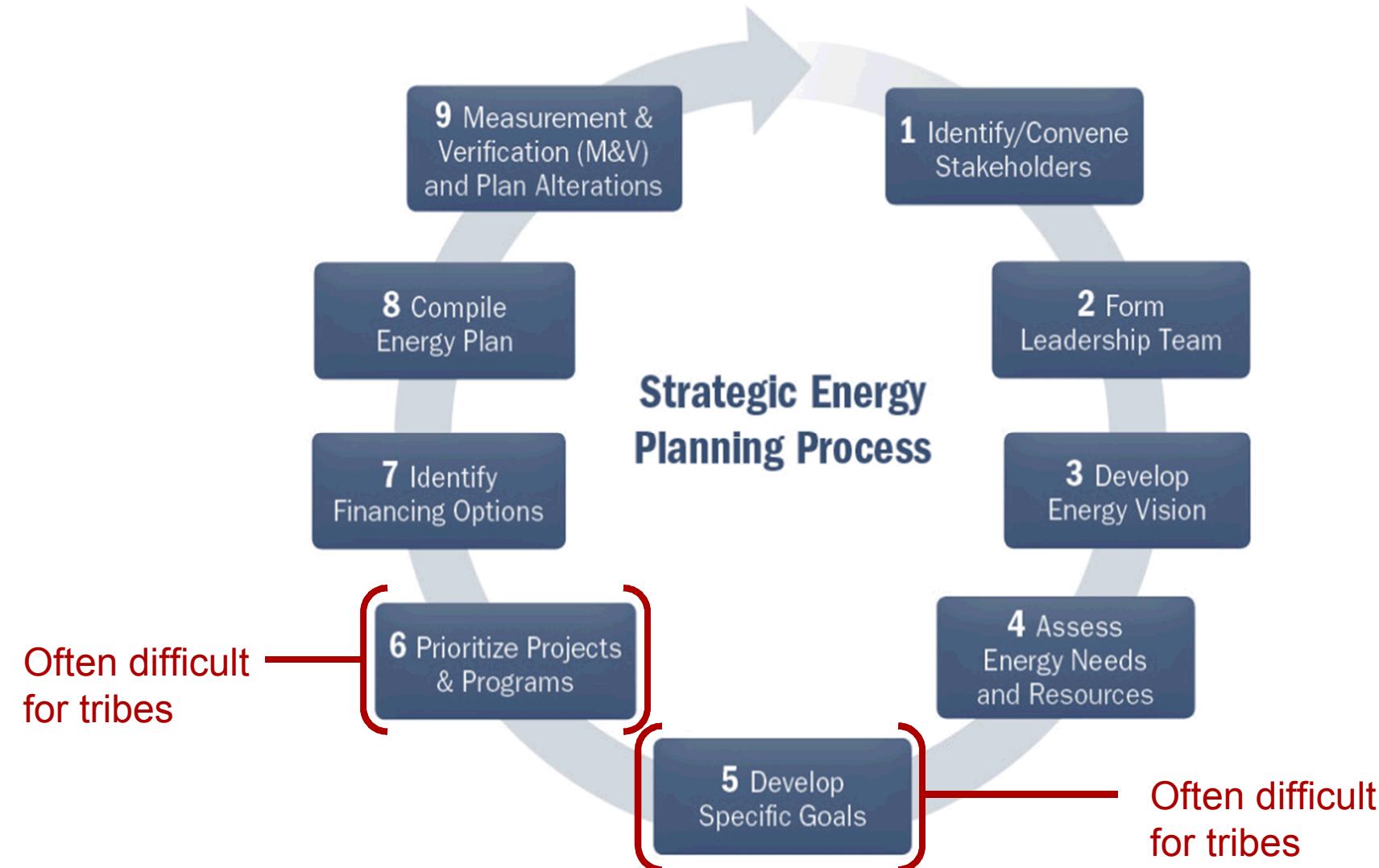


“First Steps Toward Developing Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency on Tribal Lands – 2016” coming August or September.

The planned FOA will complement the technical assistance Office of Indian Energy offers by providing funding to help tribal communities develop and sustain strategic energy solutions



Where Are the Obstacles?



Asset-Based Community Planning Framework



Human Capital

- Highly motivated population
- Subject matter expertise
- Access to a strong human capital network



Financial Capital

- Robust economy
- Access to financial resources
- Experience in other types of business



Geographic Capital

- Located in an area with abundant renewable resources
- Access to populated areas & transmission lines



Political Capital

- Strong political ties and/or hold political weight
- Access to political officials, governmental agencies, etc.

Unique Potentials with Each Type of Capital

Human Capital

- May not have to pay outside energy consultants
- Leverage human capital to make better informed decisions
- Project implementation may be more expedient
- Reach out to contacts for support

Financial Capital

- May be able to self-finance a project
- Can afford to hire outside consultants
- Could have financial freedom to expand into related industries (i.e. solar panel company)
- Use financial know-how to leverage incentives and credits

Geographic Capital

- Could be greater energy demand and increased incentives
- Some states have more aggressive RPS requirements
- May have freedom to choose which type of energy best suits the needs of the tribe

Political Capital

- May have support to help guide the tribe through bureaucratic processes
- Tribal officials can meet directly with agency directors via their government-to-government relationship

Let's Apply the Framework!

Hualapai Tribal Case Study



Capital Assets



Human Capital



Financial Capital

2012 START Planning Session

- Planning and Economic Development Department, Kevin Davidson - Director
- Update Resource Assessment and Project Feasibility Analysis, Primary Focus on a RE Project to Help Power Grand Canyon West

Hualapai Energy Vision

Towards Safe & Socially Responsible Energy Use & Management in Daily Life for 2022

- All Hualapai have Access to Affordable or Free Transportation
- Sustainable Economic Security
- Protection of Environment through Sustainable Clean Energy

Hualapai Community Capital Analysis



Human Capital

- Proactive planning and economic development department
- Access to a strong human capital network
- Good grant writing skills
- Energy subject matter expertise



Financial Capital

- Experience in other types of business (Tourism)
- Access to financial resources
- Grant/USDA loan funding support
- Establishment of a tribal utility



Geographic Capital

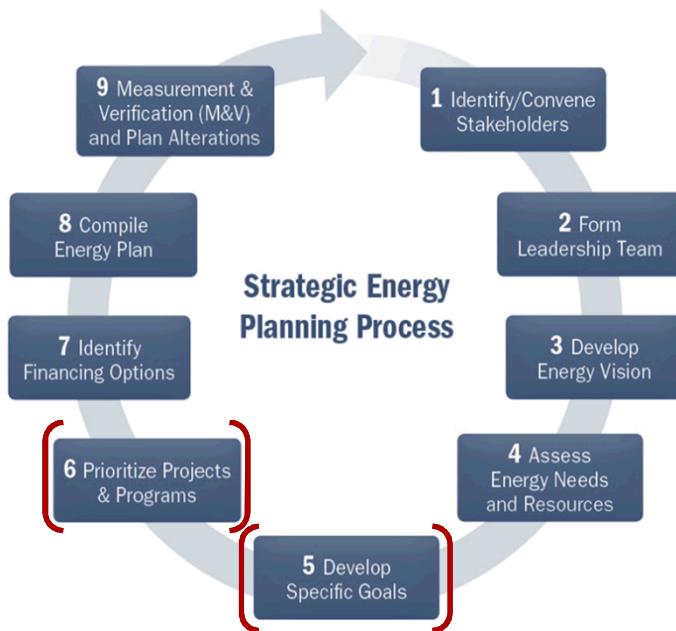
- Located in an area with abundant solar potential
- Possible access to transmission lines and grid infrastructure



Political Capital

- Access to agency directors and political officials via the tribe's government-to-government relationship

Conclusions



1. Possible Creation of FOAs to Bridge the Gap

- Funding could potentially be introduced to support tribes through these challenging steps

2. Asset-Based Planning Framework

- ABCD framework could be introduced earlier in the planning process
- Framework could be made available to tribes who express challenges with developing specific goals (step 5) and prioritizing projects & programs (step 6)



Aishen! Thank you!