



USING GAP TO STREAMLINE CLIMATE PLANNING



GAP & CLIMATE PLANNING

There are numerous “climate planning” federal funding sources available for Tribes, but with all those federal funding sources, that also means varying requirements, formats, substance, etc. The end product may not reflect all of a Tribe’s climate priorities or you may end up with multiple plans that cover different aspects of climate planning.

The Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP) can be used to reduce the administrative burden of climate planning and make the plans more reflective of a Tribe’s comprehensive climate goals. By adding GAP funds to other federal funding streams for climate planning, you can:

- Add EPA-related climate priorities to a plan primarily funded by another agency. For example, develop a list of regulated facilities that pertain to critical infrastructure.
- Fund a contractor with multiple sources of funding for plan development.
- Engage with elders to help gather TEK/IK that’s relevant to your planning process.
- & many more possibilities!



BENEFITS OF CLIMATE PLANNING

Hundreds of Tribes all over the country have already developed climate change plans and are well on their way to implementing those plans. Other Tribes are in the middle of plan development, while some are just starting to put pen to paper. There are numerous benefits to documenting a Tribe’s climate priorities in the shape of a “plan”. For example:

- Identification of priorities can make it easier to identify (and take advantage of) project funding.
- Strategic planning can identify opportunities for leveraging and thus reduce the economic impacts of climate change.
- The planning process can focus a team’s finite energy on specific adaptation and mitigation actions, which will reduce climate change risks to current & future generations.

LET’S WORK TOGETHER!

EPA’s American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) wants to help simplify the climate planning process. We are interested learning how EPA can better work with other federal partners to make climate planning less burdensome. If you are interested in sharing your ideas or having a conversation, please email gap@epa.gov.

