



March 1, 2024

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program (CPRG)

SUBJECT: Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin CPRG Application

The purpose of my communication is to provide a letter of confirmation for Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin (MITW) for their Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program application. MITW has plans to implement projects that support their energy sovereignty with clean energy solutions. A collaborative effort with Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association (MTERA) and Indigenized Energy has supported a tribal energy assessment and strategic plan to implement energy efficiency measures, install solar PV systems, and transition to electric vehicles and charging stations. The CPRG application focuses on providing a clean energy supply for the MITW tribal community of Middle Village. MITW is part of the Rural Partners Network – Greater Menominee Community Network.

The Rural Partners Network (RPN) launched in 2022 and is co-led by the White House Domestic Policy Council and US Department of Agriculture. It is an all-of-government program that partners with rural people to access resources and funding to create local jobs, build infrastructure, and support long-term economic stability on their own terms. It is part of the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to ensure all rural communities can benefit from federal resources, including historic funding provided by the American Rescue Plan, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, and Inflation Reduction Act. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is one of more than twenty federal agencies that are collaborating as part of RPN.

The clean energy project for Middle Village will produce renewable energy for the electrical substation that provides power to the tribal buildings and residents in the community. MITW plans to implement solar options as the renewable energy source to support its clean energy economy. Funding for this project will support a 4 megawatt solar installation to provide clean and renewable energy for the Middle Village electric substation, two 50kW systems for tribal facilities, and multiple 10kW systems for residential needs in Middle Village. According to U.S. Census, Middle Village within Menominee County is designated as a "Disadvantaged Area."

As the lead federal agency for the RPN, USDA Rural Development is committed to strengthening programs and initiatives that promote economic development and self-sufficiency to improve the lives of people living in the five Wisconsin RPN Community Networks, including the Greater Menominee Community Network. We look forward to a possible collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

Julie Lassa
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