

EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Implementation Grant – General Competition

Nez Perce Tribe Workplan

# Overall Project Summary and Approach

## Introduction and Overview

#### Goals of the CPRG

The Nez Perce Tribe (Tribe) is pleased to submit this application for CPRG funding to implement actions in three sectors: Buildings, Energy, and Transportation. The measures in this proposal meet the goals of the CPRG. The Tribe wishes to take **bold actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions rapidly** **by 2030 and beyond** while addressing our most significant vulnerabilities and increasing the resiliency of the Tribe now. The Tribe is already coping with extreme heat and cold, wildfires, smoke, exceptional droughts, heavy precipitation, landslides, and floods. The Nez Perce Reservation (Reservation) is exceptionally vulnerable to wildfire and floods because most of our population and infrastructure is in riverine canyons.

We are requesting funding for projects that **complement other funding sources** and magnify current efforts by building the Tribe’s capacity with stable multi-year funding needed to fully implement our climate action plans, and projects that are difficult to fund otherwise. These projects have **substantial community benefits,** including improvements in air quality, energy cost savings and reinvestment, workforce development, improved housing, better access to the internet and communications in remote areas, increased resiliency, well-paid jobs in a rural disadvantaged community, reductions in GHGs and co-pollutants, training, the ability to pump water and receive information during emergencies, and expanding EV charging in a rural area.

We are submitting an ambitious and large proposal for the General Competition in Tier D to fill a significant gap in the State of Idaho. Idaho is not pursuing funding for residential energy efficiency retrofits, renewable energy, or Electric Vehicle (EV) transportation networks. This creates a need for tribes to lead these climate actions to ensure that Idaho welcomes the energy of the future and has resilient, decentralized power systems that undergird resiliency and safe energy, and resilient **climate-ready housing** that protects our people. Tribal leadership and staff are working on building capacity at the Tribe to mitigate the climate crisis. Our Priority Climate Action Plan highlighted some of these efforts. In a state lacking a statewide Climate Change Planning Program, the Tribes of Idaho have filled the gap with **innovative, collaborative, and just actions** thatare intended to be **replicated and** **scaled.** The Tribe’sactions have and will benefit the *Wéetespeme (“*natural resources**”**: air quality, water quality, soil health, and biodiversity) that are the foundation of the economy of the Columbia River Basin (CRB) in the Pacific Northwest (PNW). The need for **integrative solutions** that create a path for **climate-safe, resilient economies** in **rural** and **underserved communities** of the CRB is clear. This proposal’s measures support efforts to grow a locallytrained workforce to upgrade our housingand electrify our economy to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) and transition away from environmentally damaging forms of energy production. CRB is clear. This proposal’s measures support efforts to grow a locally trained workforce to upgrade our housing and electrify our economy to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) and transition away from environmentally damaging forms of energy production.

The Nez Perce Tribe will coordinate and collaborate with partners to leverage resources and complete these projects. Partners include agencies and organizations implementing the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy (OIE) and Tribal Energy IRA Energy Rebate Programs, DOE Energy Auditor Training Grant Program, DOE Weatherization Assistance Program, DOE Energy Efficiency and Community Block Grant Program, and Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

## Description of GHG Reduction Measures

## **Measure 1**: Built Environment – Residential

### Major Features

Many of the homes on the Reservation were built decades ago with outdated building standards and are not prepared for the changing climate. Tribal homes require significant upgrades to improve energy efficiency, provide heating and cooling in a changing climate, reduce exorbitant energy bills, and create resiliency on the Reservation. Nez Perce Tribal Programs, through various grants and creative partnerships, have made residential upgrades over the years. However, the funding has not provided an avenue for holistic improvements and major change in tribal housing. This CPRG funding would allow us to employ a holistic approach to the residential built environment to create “**Climate Ready Housing.”** Through conducting energy audits and weatherization, installing air-source heat pumps and new EPA-certified wood stoves, Measure 1 projects, along with home-based upgrades in Measure 2, will result in tribal homes that emit less air pollution and Nez Perce families prepared for climate change-induced smoke and weather events. This measure includes workforce training for Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority (NPTHA) staff and Nez Perce Tribe Certified Indian Businesses. Educating both tribal employees and tribal independent contractors will increase the number of tribal members skilled in energy audits, weatherization, and wood stove installation and contribute to the reduction of GHG emissions and other air pollutants. Partners include the Bonneville Power Administration, the National Fireplace Institute, and the Hearth Patio & Barbecue Association.

### Tasks

#### Project 1 – Conduct energy audits and upgrades for residences

There are 7,353 residential (tribal and nontribal) homes on the Nez Perce Reservation, and this project will target the 650 tribal homes. The home application process and selection criteria will be based on prioritizing imminent safety upgrades required and households with vulnerable or at-risk family member(s). Energy audits will identify opportunities to retrofit buildings (weatherization) and reduce energy use. Depending on the home, weatherization upgrades may encompass various measures, such as sealing air leaks in the building envelope and heating/cooling systems, installing weatherstripping on doors and windows, upgrading doors and windows, insulating mechanical systems and other structural components, and conducting minor repairs to walls and roofs.

The audit will also evaluate existing heating, cooling, and ventilation options and recommend upgrades that may include ceiling fan installation, air-source heat pumps, and new EPA-certified wood stoves. Air-source heat pumps specifically have the dual benefit of providing heat in the winter and air conditioning in the hot months. These devices will assist our communities that historically have not needed air conditioning to adapt to increasing temperatures while reducing heat-related mortality, especially in vulnerable populations (EPA 2023a).

This project will also include a portable HEPA filter air cleaner for each home. Without this device, improved weatherization through tightening the building envelope would actually decrease the air quality inside the home and be an unfair burden for tribal members. Therefore, the air filters are seen as a necessary part of the weatherization upgrades.

#### Project 2 - Update old, inefficient wood stoves to more efficient models

An estimated 1,352 homes on the Reservation use wood burning devices, and this project will target wood stove replacement for 350 tribal homes. Burning firewood is a cultural practice for Tribal members and a traditional and primary source of heat for many homes on the Reservation. Tribal households burn wood at a higher rate than other US households and are typically less likely to afford upgrades to their heating devices (EPA 2023a). Most of the stoves in Nez Perce homes were installed over 40 years ago when the homes were built and are uncertified devices.

Extreme weather events and power outages are common on the Nez Perce Reservation, and having a backup heat source is essential. For this reason, solely removing stoves and only replacing them with non-wood burning devices is not a viable solution. In addition to the weatherization upgrades listed above, our strategy involves upgrading homes with wood stoves older than 20 years to new EPA-certified stoves paired with electric air-source heat pumps. During a recent presentation, an EPA presenter described how some climatic regions require a combination of a wood stove and a heat pump to meet heating needs (Brockman, 2024). The Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRAPA) Targeted Airshed Grant “Home Heating Upgrades” Project in Oakridge, Oregon, also includes energy audits, weatherization, a heat pump, and a new efficient stove, and is an excellent model for tribal homes on the Nez Perce Reservation.

Measure 2 includes battery storage, which will be paired with solar arrays for which other funding is being obtained to help with resiliency issues for houses that require redundant heating systems. However, not all homes that need woodstove upgrades are located where solar is practicable. By layering projects, we will be able to serve the unique challenges for more tribal homes and neighborhoods.

This project also includes EPA Burn Wise educational approaches and materials for best burn practices to promote proper wood storage, the use of dry wood, and burning small, hot fires to increase safety and efficiency, and reduce emissions (EPA, 2024). Old stoves in this project will be rendered inoperable/destroyed by a local recycler.

### Tasks, milestones, and timeline

Energy audits and upgrades will be completed on a rolling schedule over the five-year period of performance (2025-2029). To allow for onboarding and training, 10% of the energy audits and upgrades will be completed in the first year of funding, with approximately 23% of the upgrades completed in each of the following four years.

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| Measure 1: Timeline and Milestones | |
| Task | **Dates** |
| Semi-Annual Performance Reports to EPA | Semi-annually (2025-2029) |
| Hiring process and employee onboarding | Oct. 2024 – March 2025 |
| Quarterly Interdepartmental Advisory Committee meetings | Quarterly – Sept. 2029 |
| Bid process for energy audits | March – April 2025 |
| Energy audit contract(s) in place | April 2025 |
| Energy audits completed (65 homes in Y1, 147 homes in each Y2-Y5) | May 2025 – September 2029 |
| Bid process for weatherization and heating/cooling upgrades | March – April 2025 |
| Weatherization and heating/cooling upgrade contract(s) in place | April 2025 |
| Weatherization and heating/cooling upgrades completed (65 homes in Y1, 147 homes in each Y2-Y5) | May 2025 – Sept. 2029 |
| Old wood stoves removed and recycled (35 homes in Y1, 79 homes in each Y2-Y5) | May 2025 – Sept. 2029 |
| Bid process for Certified Building Inspector | March – April 2025 |
| Certified Building Inspector contract(s) in place | April 2025 |
| Building Inspections completed (65 homes in Y1, 147 homes each Y2-Y5) | May 2025 – Sept. 2029 |
| Home application and selection process completed (65 homes in Y1, 147 homes in each Y2-Y5) | April 2025 – Sept. 2029 |
| Workforce trainings developed with partners | March - April 2025 |
| Workforce trainings completed | May – Oct. 2025 |
| Development and printing of educational materials | March 2025 – Sept. 2029 |
| Distribution of educational materials (65 homes in Y1, 147 homes in each Y2-Y5); community events | May 2025 – Sept. 2029 |
| Procurement of storage containers for home supplies. | March 2025 |
| Procurement of portable air cleaners and replacement filters | March – April 2025  Oct. – Nov. 2026 |
| Distribution of portable air cleaners and replacement filters to homes (65 homes in Y1, 147 homes in each Y2-Y5) | May – Sept. 2029 |
| Procurement of Burn Wise supplies | Mar. – Apr. 2025  Oct. – Nov. 2026 |
| Distribution of Burn Wise supplies to homes (35 homes in Y1, 79 homes in each Y2-Y5) | May 2025 – Sept. 2029 |
| Final Performance Report to EPA | Within 120 days after the end of the project period |

### Underlying Assumptions and Risks

Based on similar efforts, energy audits, weatherization, and heating/cooling upgrades are feasible within five years. The number of homes upgraded per year allows for supply chain issues. Project costs, including personnel, are based on air quality agencies in the Northwest’s recent completion of projects. Local and regional workers are already providing these services, including multiple HVAC businesses that install air-source heat pumps and hearth retailers that sell and install EPA-certified stoves. The Reservation is within 15 – 50 miles of the quad cities of Lewiston, Idaho and Clarkston, Washington, and Moscow, Idaho and Pullman, Washington. Per the Tribe’s subcontracting rules, TERO, and locally trained installers, we expect to be able to meet the needs of these projects.

We will mitigate these risks if the local workforce cannot meet Measure 1 needs by conducting outreach to businesses and contractors in the larger cities of Spokane, Washington and Coeur d’Alene, Idaho, approximately 120 miles north. Additionally, the nearby Lewis Clark State College offers an associate degree and a certificate in Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Technology, so there is a local pipeline to training and a skilled workforce. We will partner with the Bonneville Power Administration on weatherization training opportunities.

For wood stove upgrades specifically, an Idaho Targeted Airshed Grant in North Idaho recently replaced 200 wood stoves in four years with three dedicated wood stove vendors. In a discussion with the former coordinator, they said that it would be reasonable to complete 350 stoves in four years with the same number of vendors. As mentioned above, we plan to provide workforce training in wood stove installation to prepare for potential gaps in skilled workers.

### Nexus to PCAP

This measure is in the Nez Perce Tribe’s PCAP under Measure 1, Project 1: Energy Audits and Upgrades for Residences, and Project 2: Update Old, Inefficient Wood Stoves to More Efficient Models (PCAP pp. 33-37). This measure fits under the State of Idaho’s PCAP, the GEM State Air Quality Initiative (pp. 8-9); however, Idaho is not applying for CPRG implementation funding for residential energy efficiency retrofits. Further, our projects are a multifaceted, holistic approach along with Measure 2 (power wall installs) to create Climate-Ready Housing.

### Goals of the CPRG

Measure 1 projects of residential building retrofits and upgraded heating and cooling appliances are GHG reduction projects that meet the CPRG program goals (see Introduction) and reduce the financial burden on tribal families for basic residential energy needs. In addition to reducing GHG emissions, wood stove upgrades will reduce other air pollution emissions. For scale, EPA staff states that one old woodstove is the equivalent of eight school buses (Brockman, 2024), and this project would representatively remove nearly 3,000 polluting school buses. River valley communities such as Kamiah, Kooskia, and Orofino, Idaho, which have daily temperature inversions and wood stove heating, would benefit from wintertime PM2.5 reductions. NPT Air Monitoring data for the last 12 years shows that during winter there is an increase in poor air quality, with 29% days in the Moderate category of the Air Quality Index (AQI) for PM2.5.

## **Measure 2**: Deploy Renewable Energy (Primarily Solar) at Tribal Facilities and Residences

### Major Features

The Nez Perce Tribe has a bold vision to develop locally distributed renewable energy infrastructure, battery storage, and a virtual power plant to increase the resiliency of the Tribe, create good-paying jobs, and reduce the energy cost burden for tribal members who live in rural, remote areas and have unreliable, expensive power. Local renewable energy would be transformative for the Tribe’s economy and emergency management during wildfires, floods, landslides, and other extreme events that disrupt power and communications. Rooftops and parking lots allow for rapid deployment of solar energy with low permitting barriers, fewer environmental impacts, and distributed generation where energy is needed the most.

The Tribe is seeking funding from CPRG for solar arrays, batteries, and/or EV charging at two critical resiliency centers: the Clearwater River Casino (CRC) in Spaulding, ID, and the Joseph Fisheries Office (JFO) in Joseph, Oregon. These facilities and projects are for the following reasons. First, they are essential for helping the Tribe cope with extreme events and emergency management. Second, the cost savings on the Tribe’s very large energy bills will be reinvested in a scalable initiative. Third, funding these projects through other funding opportunities has proven challenging, and multiple applications to different programs have been unsuccessful (See Demonstration of Need). Fourth, these facilities are in areas where EV charging is scarce or lacking and where the additional electricity required for EV charging would have higher GHG emissions and/or environmental impacts than local solar arrays (Measure 3 in this proposal includes a small number of EV charging stations; the tribal only CPRG Grant will include a much larger ask for EV charging and vehicles). Fifth, we are applying for the funds needed for residential battery storage to complement residential solar arrays to fully implement Measure 1: Climate Ready Housing.

The Tribe has been working for several years to start a tribally led solar energy enterprise, “Nimiípuu Energy.” However, the infrastructure, staff, and equipment are not yet in place. As a result, we are seeking funding for projects that will provide resiliency for the Tribe now, cost savings that can be reinvested in more energy infrastructure, and the institutional support and expertise to fulfill the needs of the Tribe to have an Energy Sustainability Program, and to realize the vision of a tribally owned solar energy enterprise in the near future. Nimiípuu Energy would have a transformative impact on this region, creating up to 150 green jobs in a poor, rural area and a workforce trained to be a part of climate solutions.

The Tribe used over 47 MWh of electricity in 2023 and has 51 facilities with enough rooftop and parking lot space to generate enough solar energy to meet most of its energy needs. The Tribe’s current capacity from completed projects is 1.8 MW of nameplate PV Solar and 1.79 MW battery storage. The projects included in this proposal would add 3,172 MW of PV and 7.8 MWh of Storage.

#### Clearwater River Casino Resiliency Center Project

The CRC is a critical resiliency center for the Tribe because it has lodging, food preparation facilities, air filtration, large meeting spaces that can be used during emergencies, gas stations, and RV campsites. It will soon undergo an expansion that will include the addition of recreation spaces for children. During COVID-19 and wildfire evacuation events, the CRC was used to house tribal and community members. The CRC has a large parking lot suitable for solar arrays that would shade parking spots, reduce the heat island effect of the asphalt, and create shade for outdoor events. The CRC is co-located with a convenience store, gas station, RV park, and offices. The CRC is an ideal location for Tesla Megapacks to keep EV charging stations, the gas station, and the lodging and food preparation facilities running during power outages. In addition, the CRC’s proximity to a substation makes the installation of a megapack more advantageous for discharging excess power to the grid to increase grid reliability. The Tribe plans to reinvest any funds that may come from selling excess power to the grid in Nimiipuu Energy. Revenue from the CRC funds social services at the Tribe and local community education, and the CRC has the largest energy bills in the Tribe. In 2023, the CRC used 2,522,170 kWh of electricity at a cost of $299,627.24. Cost savings from the solar arrays and batteries at the CRC will be reinvested in the private match required for the DOE tribal energy guaranteed loan program or in additional solar energy projects.

##### Tasks, milestones, and timeline

The CRC solar array project will occur in phases. Phase I is the installation of rooftop arrays on the CRC to add PV generation to an array that has already been installed. Phase II will be the installation of the parking lot arrays during the summer when weather delays are least likely from 2026 to 2029. Megapack installation, Phase III, will occur in 2026 after the first parking lot array is completed and in 2029 after all the parking lot arrays are completed. This will allow energy staff to complete onboarding, training, and planning in 2025 and coordinate with air quality on the Climate Ready Housing Initiative.

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| Measure 2: Rooftop, Parking Lot, and MegaPack Installation CRC | |
| Tasks and Milestones | **Dates** |
| Semi-Annual Performance Reports to EPA | Semi-annually (2025-2029) |
| Kick-off Meeting to coordinate between project lead and staff responsible for onboarding staff and coordinating community-based processes. | Nov, 2024 |
| Quarterly coordination meetings for Interdepartmental Advisory Committee | Quarterly FY 2025 Q1 to FY2029, Q4 |
| Process grant award and set up budgets | Nov. – Dec. 2024 |
| Initiate Community Outreach and Engagement Process | Jan. 2024 |
| Write Job Descriptions, Advertise Job, and Interview Applicants, and hire | Nov. 2024 – Feb. 2025 |
| Employee Onboarding | March 2025 |
| Energy Coordinator drafts RFPs and serves as owner’s representative | April 2025 |
| Publish and award RFP | April 2025 |
| Contractor presents preliminary designs | May 2025 |
| Tribe approves designs | June 2025 |
| Contractor completes final designs | July 2025 |
| Third-party engineer certifies final designs | August 2025 |
| Order Long Lead Items (6 month buffer) | August 2025 |
| Permitting | August 2025 |
| Contractor Install Phase I: Rooftop Solar | Sept. – Nov. 2025 |
| Subcontractor completes electrical upgrades for Megapacks | Summer 2026 |
| Contractor Install Phase II: Parking Lot Array, Section 1 | Spring/Summer 2026 |
| First Megapack Installed | September 2026 |
| Contractor Install Phase II: Parking Lot Array, Section 2 | Spring/Summer 2027 |
| Contractor Install Phase II: Parking Lot Array, Section 3 | Spring/Summer 2028 |
| Contractor Install Phase II: Parking Lot Array, Section 4 | Spring/Summer 2029 |
| Second Megapack Installed | August 2029 |
| Parking lot arrays will be tested and inspected, then connected to inverters and the grid, and will be operational after each section is constructed. | End of Construction period 2026-2029 |
| Final Inspection of Project and Final Reports Completed | Within 120 days after the end of the project period |

#### Joseph Oregon Fisheries Office Remote Resiliency Center:

The Nez Perce Tribe’s Joseph Field Office (JFO) is in Northeast Oregon (NE OR) in Wallowa County within the Tribe’s Indian Claims Commission Territory (ICC). It is a rural region of low income, with a lack of family wage jobs, frequent wind events, common electrical outages, high elevation, and long periods of relatively cold temperatures. The JFO is not located in an Environmental Justice (EJ) Census Tract, but the adjacent tracts where most of the employees and tribal members reside and commute from are in EJ tracts. The JFO is the hub of the Tribe’s fish conservation work in Oregon. Fisheries Watershed and Research Staff and equipment are housed in these buildings, and two climate-related America the Beautiful Projects are centered in Wallowa County, including the “Restoring Sockeye Salmon Habitat Connectivity at the Wallowa Dam” and “Camas to Condors” Projects (DeVillier 2021).

Staff in Joseph have applied to put solar arrays on their buildings three times unsuccessfully. These buildings are a priority for the Tribe because they are needed as a remote resiliency center for emergency management and as a strategic location to expand the Tribe's EV charging infrastructure. Electricity outages are common in Joseph and the surrounding area. JFO could serve as an off-grid resiliency center during power outages to benefit the entire community.

We propose adding rooftop arrays to power the buildings and covered parking arrays to produce enough power for EV charging stations and the additional energy required to convert the building from natural gas heating to electric heating and cooling systems. This 147,678-kWh system would be paired with eight Tesla Powerwalls to power the buildings during power outages and to improve their dismal internet service. The covered parking area is helpful for managing heavy precipitation, snowfall, and heat by providing shade and cover.

This project would also reduce the financial burden of energy use. Limited financial resources could be refocused on the fisheries work the Tribe is undertaking in NE OR. In addition, much of the Tribe’s fisheries work in NE OR is conducted on private land, so maintaining good relationships with the public is essential. The proposed actions and co-benefits would serve as great examples to the community at large and would enhance the Tribe’s reputation and ability to work with non-tribal landowners, in addition to offering an example of power production that does not harm fish and is in line with the office’s values and mission.

##### Tasks, Milestones, and Timelines

Construction windows least likely to incur delays or mishaps are restricted to summer months in Joseph, so planning, permitting, and preparation will occur in the fall and winter of 2024-2025, and construction will occur in the summer of 2025 and 2026. The building requires a roof replacement, so a standing seam metal roof will be installed in the summer of 2025 to reduce fire risk and solar installation costs. In the summer of 2026, the rooftop solar arrays, parking lot array, and EV charging stations will be installed.

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| Measure 2 and 3: Solar and EV Installation at Joseph Fisheries Office | |
| Tasks and Milestones | **Timeline** |
| Joseph Fisheries Office Managers publish and award RFP | Nov 2024-Feb 2025 |
| Contractor presents preliminary designs for roof replacement, permits submitted, and subcontract agreements completed | Mar 2025 - May 2025 |
| Roof construction completed during summer when weather permits construction | Jun - Aug 2025 |
| Community outreach started for solar and EV project | Sept 2025 |
| Solar and EV Charging station install RFP issued and contractor selected | Oct - Dec 2025 |
| Solar and electrical contractors present preliminary designs | Jan 2026 |
| Tribe approves designs and orders long lead items | Feb 2026 |
| Contractor completes final designs and third-party engineer certifies final designs | Mar – Apr 2026 |
| Permit applications submitted. JFO is already coordinating with the County for this project, so we do not anticipate permitting delays | Apr 2026-May 2026 |
| Contractor installs solar arrays, ground mount parking lot array, EV charging stations (Measure 3), completes services upgrades, and installs Tesla Powerwalls | Late May – early Sept 2026 |
| Inspection and Project Completion: Final Payment Issued, Reports Written | Sept 2026 |

### Residential Battery Storage:

The Nez Perce Tribe will be installing solar arrays on residences owned by the tribe, by tribal people, and on multi-family units or via funding from the DOE Tribal Energy Program and/or Solar for All if the Bonneville Environmental Foundations application for the State of Idaho is successful. Sixty residential homes already have solar arrays installed, and arrays are planned for over 550 tribal homes through other funding sources. We have found it difficult to obtain funding for storage through other means, yet batteries are critical for increasing the resiliency of residences. We request funding for 300 Tesla Powerwalls (1.5 MW of storage) to be paired with existing solar installations and residential solar projects planned within the next five years. This is integral to and part of the Climate Ready Housing project in Measure 1. Energy Staff will coordinate with Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority who will be leading the Climate Ready Housing efforts to identify which homes need batteries and new solar arrays first. Please see our LIDAC analysis for more information.

##### Tasks, Milestones, and Timelines

Completion of this task will be done in collaboration with the staff and community leaders working on the climate-ready housing initiative. Energy Coordinators will be responsible for ordering batteries and coordinating the subcontracting, permitting, and training for battery installation on a rolling schedule over the five-year period of performance. We expect the bulk of battery installation to occur either in combination with solar array installations or in coordination with other climate-ready housing upgrades for greater efficiency. There may be multiple subcontractors working on these projects. The Tribe will advertise this work in compliance with EPA contracting and wage requirements.

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| Residential Storage | |
| Tasks and Milestones | **Timeline** |
| Coordination with NPT Housing for onboarding staff and prioritization process for prioritizing solar/batteries and upgrades in Measure 1. |  |
| Once energy program staff are hired for the CRC project (see timeline above); staff will work with air quality, social services, housing, LIHEAP, *Nimiípuu* Health, and the community to identify homes suitable for batteries and receive feedback from community members. | Nov 2024-Feb 2025 |
| Training for local area fire department and maintenance regarding battery safety and maintenance | Jan – Feb 2025 |
| Plans, permitting and RFP issuance | Jan-March of each year from 2025-2029 |
| Batteries installed in 60 homes each year from Y1 to Y5. Since this is being coordinated with solar installations, we have the goal of scheduling this work when weather delays are least likely from late spring to early fall. | Summer and early fall from 2025 – 2029 |
| Trainings for homeowners about how to utilize and maintain batteries will occur on a rolling basis as installations are completed. | 2025-2029 |
| Semi-annual and final reporting completed within 120 days after the end of the project period. | 2025- Jan 2030 |

### Underlying Assumptions and Risks

Potential supply chain bottlenecks due to the nationwide adoption of solar, batteries, etc., may increase the costs or wait time for some of these supplies. To mitigate this risk, the tribe plans to order long-lead items as early as practicable to limit delays due to potential supply chain disruptions or cost increases. Due to the uncertainty regarding the tax credits, the budget is for the full cost of the project. The Tribe has applied for tax credits and loans for another group of projects, and additional projects may be eligible. However, the tax credits will only be based on the money that is expended from the tribe (federal grant amounts for each project would be deducted from the eligible amount). If the tribe is eligible for more tax credits than currently expected, we are assuming that we can seek direction from our EPA project manager. We would suggest re-investing those funds in virtual power plant software, batteries, larger solar arrays, or whatever direction the EPA provides.

To mitigate the risk of a skilled labor shortage, the project includes on-the-job training for the solar workforce. The Tribe has used this model in the past, and subcontractors successfully hired and trained local laborers through the Tribe’s TERO program to meet the need for solar projects. There are 35 tribal members who reside locally who have solar training from the solar that is already installed at the Tribe that may be eligible to work on these projects. A few of those laborers have gone on to full-time positions and become certified to install and service solar arrays and Tesla batteries. A couple of laborers are working towards journey-level electrical licensure. Per the Tribe’s subcontracting rules, TERO, and locally trained installers, we expect to be able to meet the needs of this project.

The addition of batteries and EV charging stations at the Tribe will cause novel safety issues for first responders. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) offers free or low-cost safety trainings online that pertain to issues that may arise with batteries in vehicles and high-voltage charging stations. We assume that local first responders who need training can obtain it at low cost and that trainings can be added as part of the routine training regimen that first responders complete annually.

### Nexus to PCAP

This measure is in the Nez Perce Tribe’s PCAP under Measure 2, Rapidly Deploy Renewable Energy (Primarily Solar) at Tribal Facilities and Residences (PCAP pp. 40-43). C, the State of Idaho’s PCAP under 4.4. Power: Support the adoption of solar energy (pp. 13-14). This measure is also covered under the State of Oregon’s PCAP under Tribal Nations priority measures (pp. 15-17). The State of Idaho is not applying for funding for solar or storage projects, and Oregon’s application does not overlap with the Tribe’s.

### Goals of the CPRG

The CRC resiliency center, Joseph Fisheries Office, and Storage for residences were chosen for this application because of the emergency management scenarios the tribe has been dealing with in floods, fires, high winds, and landslides with greater frequency, intensity, expense, and damages since 2010. Many other facilities could house solar at the Tribe, but the CRC, JFO, and tribal residences are the priority for evacuations, sheltering in place, reducing costs, comfort, and safety for tribal members, and expanding EV charging without using more fossil fuels. In the introductory paragraph, we provided an overview of how all the proposed actions relate to the CPRG. Please see the attached chapter of our draft vulnerability assessment that includes more context regarding the co-benefits and the climate impacts we are experiencing. These projects were also chosen because the Tribe has a bold and scalable vision for a tribe-to-tribe virtual power plant, but that effort requires dedicated, full-time staff who can focus on fully implementing Measure 2 of the CPRG.

## Measure 3: Transportation

### Major Features

The Tribe’s ICC currently only has a small number of charging stations along major highways that are spaced too far apart for most tribal members and staff to practically utilize electric vehicles. The State of Idaho will not be including electric vehicle charging infrastructure in their Implementation grant, so Highways 95, 12, and 3 will not have additional charging facilities, leaving residents of central Idaho and the Tribe at a disadvantage for the rapid adoption of EV vehicles and equipment in the transition to a greener, climate-safe economy. In addition, charging infrastructure is concentrated on Highway 90 to the North and Highway 84 to the south, which may be diverting electrical vehicle owners around our territory and discouraging EV travel and tourism in the Tribe’s territory. As such, the Tribe would like to add Level III charging stations in two locations: the Fisheries office in downtown Joseph in Ne OR, Wallowa County, and at the It’se Ye-Ye Casino in downtown Kamiah, Idaho, on Highway 12. territory. As such, the Tribe would like to add Level III charging stations in two locations: the Fisheries office in downtown Joseph in Ne OR, Wallowa County, and at the It’se Ye-Ye Casino in downtown Kamiah, Idaho, on Highway 12.

### Joseph, OR Level III and Level II Chargers:

In addition, the Tribe is proposing to add one Level III charger and four Level II chargers to the JFO building on the corner of N. Main Street and E. Alder Street (600 Wallowa Lake Hwy). There are only three public charging stations in Wallowa County. The population of Wallowa County is only 7,659, and nearly one million tourists visit each year. The JFO is located on Main Street in Joseph, which is a tourist destination with dining and shopping nearby, so it is an excellent location for Level III fast public EV charging. In addition, we are proposing to add four level II chargers to the same parking area that can be used by staff to power tribal vehicles or personal vehicles. Several staff are interested in purchasing personal EVs but are unable to due to a lack of sufficient regional charging infrastructure, and providing charging at work would incentivize Tribal members and employees to convert their personal vehicles to electric. In addition, it would allow tribal members to hunt, fish, gather, and attend ceremonies in Wallowa County with EVs. These chargers will be open to Tribal and non-Tribal members, staff, and the general public. We are currently projecting a 20% utilization rate. If JFO adopts a commercial EV fleet in the future, public usage may be partially restricted. These chargers would be paired with new solar arrays that should produce enough electricity to offset the expense of powering the charges. The Tribe has a public charger at the CRC for which the fee/rate structure is $0.25/kWh for public charging. This rate schedule is based on average rates at area chargers. The tribe will adjust this rate to cover the maintenance costs for offering public charging, and proceeds will be used to reinvest in additional charging stations or offset utility bills. The goal is to make public charging affordable, and staff charging free or low cost, without incurring burdensome maintenance and electrical expenses. If funded, we see accessibility as the most important factor.

### Kamiah, ID: Installation of Level III Charger

The Tribe already has a Level III charger to install in Kamiah from the Volkswagen Settlement, but costly power upgrades are needed to install the charger. We are requesting the funds to do these power upgrades to get the charger installed, which would make it possible for EV drivers to charge in Kamiah, commute between Lapwai, Orofino, and Kamiah, to forage in the Nez Perce Clearwater Forest utilizing an EV, and to cross Lolo Pass to go Buffalo hunting in Montana, visit relatives in Montana, and to attend Nez Perce Memorial services in Big Hole and Bear Paw, Montana. Currently, tribal members and staff cannot travel these distances without utilizing fossil fuels. The charger would be installed at the It’se Ye-Ye Casino on Highway 12 at the corner of Idaho Street in downtown Kamiah (419 3rd Street, Kamiah, ID). The Wa’A ‘Yas Community Center and the Kamiah *Nimiípuu* Health Clinic share a parking lot with the It’se Ye-Ye. Shopping, cafes, grocery stores, and restaurants are within walking distance from this central location. As with JFO, The Level III charger at the It’se Ye-Ye Casino will be utilized to offset the costs to maintain and power the charger, and towards additional charging infrastructure at the Tribe’s community center in Kamiah, ID, which is next door to It’se Ye-Ye Casino. Our proposed fee/rate structure is $0.25/kWh, which is the rate we currently utilize at the CRC and the area average.

#### Tasks, Milestones, and Timelines:

The installation of the EV charging station at Joseph will be integrated with the installation of the solar array in Measure 2, so it is included in the Measure 2 Table of Tasks.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Measure 3- EV Installation at the It’se Ye-Ye Casino in Downtown Kamiah, ID | |
| Tasks | **Timeline** |
| Enterprises Staff publish RFP & solicit bids from electrical contractors for power upgrades needed to bring Phase III power to charging location. | Nov 2024 – Jan 2025 |
| Contractor selected and subcontracting accounting completed. | Feb – Mar 2025 |
| Permitting completed | Mar – Apr 2025 |
| Contractor completes power upgrade and install charging in early spring | May – Jun 2025 |
| Testing and Inspection | Jul 2025 |
| Semi-annual and final reporting completed within 120 days after the end of the project period. | 2025- Jan 2030 |

#### Underlying Assumptions and Risks

We are assuming that the majority of the revenue generated by the charging stations will be needed for maintenance and utility bills. If the charging stations are profitable, we will seek guidance from EPA project managers about how to fairly reallocate the funds. Our goal is to reinvest savings and/or profits in expanding solar capacity, increase solar energy to offset increased demand forecast due to EV charging, and/or invest in additional charging stations.

#### Nexus to PCAP

This measure is in the Nez Perce Tribe’s PCAP under Measure 3, Transportation, (PCAP pp. 44-46). This measure also fits under the GEM State Air Quality Initiative, the State of Idaho’s PCAP under 4.5.2. Support the transition to sustainable cleaner fuels (pp. 18-19). This measure is also covered under the State of Oregon’s PCAP under Tribal Nations priority measures (pp. 15-17). However, Idaho will not be asking for charging infrastructure. The Nez Perce Tribe’s PCAP Measure 3, Transportation, includes activities to reduce local transportation emissions because they account for 23 percent of the Tribe’s total emissions. Staff and program managers described attempts to order EVs for their programs, and an analysis demonstrated that they could not yet convert to EVs because of inadequate charging networks and challenges with ordering efficient vehicles from the General Services Administration. The Tribe owns 138 vehicles, and the majority of the fleet is more than seven years old, but in order to be able to convert that fleet, and encourage staff to transition to EVs, we have to better EV charging networks. We are putting just two charging sites in this proposal at the most important places to add charging now, with plans to fund more stations later.

#### Goals of the CPRG

On-road transport contributes more emissions than any other sector according to the Tribe's most recent greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory. Electrifying the Tribe’s vehicle fleet and increasing transit options will not only reduce Tribal emissions, but they will also help reduce tailpipe emissions, harmful criteria air pollutants and hazardous air pollutants. Reducing these co- pollutants will lead to better outcomes for Tribal members and those living and working on or near Tribal facilities. This measure is a small step towards electrifying the Tribe’s fleet. This fits under the goal to rapidly reduce GHG and to help remote, rural, and disadvantaged economies and peoples.

## Demonstration of Funding Need

The Tribe is experiencing increasing severity and frequency of wildfires and wildfire smoke, drought, heatwaves, extreme precipitation, floods, and erosion; all of which are expected to increase in the future. This cycle of extremes has impacted the health, well-being, and lifeways of the *Nimíipuu* in tangible and intangible ways. In addition, it has had a wide range of social and economic impacts including public health impacts, losses to key subsistence resources (fish, game, wetlands, and native plants), and economic impacts on Tribal enterprises and the regional and local economy.

According to the USDA Forest Service Wildfire Risk to Communities, the Nez Perce Reservation is one of the highest risk communities in the United States for wildfire likelihood, exposure, and risk to homes. Communities on the Nez Perce Reservation have faced severe wildfire smoke events during both summer and fall for the last 12 years. During these months, data from the Tribe’s outdoor air monitors show an average of 6.5 days in the AQI Unhealthy category or worse for 24-hour averages of fine particulate matter (PM2.5). Current tribal housing allows for outdoor smoke to seep inside, making the indoor environment similar to or worse than outside conditions.

In addition, this region has started experiencing heatwaves with daytime temperatures ranging from the high 90s to 122°F and overnight temperatures in the mid to high 70s multiple days in a row increasing the risk of heat stress, heat exhaustion, and excess heat related deaths. Higher overnight temperatures have reduced the efficacy of opening windows to cool homes overnight even when the ambient air quality is healthy enough to do so. Extreme cold events and power outages are also common. Climate change is expected to increase the frequency and severity of polar vortex events (Cohen et al, 2021). As described in other sections, high electrical costs result in families making difficult choices between having heating, cooling, or paying other necessary bills. Smoke events and extreme temperature events increase risks for people with health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, COPD, and heart disease, and for youth, pregnant women, and elders (Alahmed et al 2022, Ebi et al 2018, Meyer et al 2010). Please see additional information under LIDAC and Environmental Justice.

#### Measure 1

Until the Inflation Reduction Act Environmental Justice and Climate Program Grants, no funding mechanism existed for tribes to conduct wood stove upgrades to create significant change in community outdoor and indoor air quality even though it is a top priority of tribes (NTAA 2021, NTAA 2022). It is unjust for tribal communities to have to depend on Supplemental Environmental Projects, donation projects of outdated stoves (HPBA 2020), and/or small allocations of Clean Air Act 103/105 funding for the possibility of a more efficient heating device. For instance, the NPT Air Quality Program has only successfully upgraded 19 wood stoves since the Program began in 1998 through childhood asthma-research funding (Semmens, 2011; Ward, 2011). Fortunately, in 2023, the Tribe received funding from EPA Region 10 and through a partnership with the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality to upgrade stoves in 15 tribal homes in FY 2024 – 2025. These new stoves will be installed before the start of this grant and tribal homes that receive a stove will not be eligible for a stove upgrade under this CPRG proposal.

The Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority (NPTHA) manages multiple U.S Housing and Urban Development Grants for the 140 tribal rental properties that they manage. Through other federal and non-federal grants, NPTHA also offers limited home-repair programs to low-income families and seniors. The allowable repairs do not specifically target GHG reduction measures, and the funding is exhausted quickly as the most severe and imminent repairs are prioritized. As described in the Measure 1 description, beneficial improvements have been made to tribal homes, but funded is limited for large-scale change and families continue to be burdened with high energy costs.

In December 2023, Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority submitted a grant to the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) for $200,000 for weatherization, heat pumps, and energy education. As of the writing of this proposal, grant awards have not been announced and will serve families not served by this CPRG proposal. The DOE IRA Tribal Energy Rebate Program has a $404,000 allocation for the Nez Perce Tribe with applications due by May 2025 ($14,000 max per home or 29 homes total). As of the writing of this proposal, the Rebate Program funding will serve homes not served by this CPRG proposal. It is unknown when the State of Idaho DOE Energy Rebate Program will roll-out and which households will qualify for the funds. Both the BPA and DOE funding are not sufficient to adequately address the large-scale energy efficiency upgrades that are needed for tribal housing.

#### Measure 2

The Joseph Fisheries office has unsuccessfully applied for funding to put solar on their buildings three times in 2015, 2016, and 2021. Those applications were to the federal government (Dept. of Energy (DOE), Office of Indian Energy (OIE)), the local utility program (Blue Sky Renewable Energy), and the Oregon Clean Power Cooperative. Considering how critical this outpost is for a resiliency center and expanding the availability of EV charging for tribal members and staff, we are asking the CPRG to fund this project. The Tribe is a partner to a Solar for All grant proposal submitted by the Bonneville Environmental Foundation. If that application is successful, 25% of the award would go to tribal communities. If the funding was split equally amongst the five tribes of Idaho, an estimated 315 homes per tribe could have solar arrays. The Tribe applied to the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program in January 2023 for the workforce required to start Nimiípuu Energy, but the application was unsuccessful. The Tribe has been working through the process to apply for DOE Tribal Energy Loan Guarantees for two years and is waiting for third party engineering certification in order to proceed with the next steps. If the tribe is successful in that application, the funding would go towards standing up Nimiípuu Energy and developing a portfolio of 8 projects on the reservation to install approximately another 0.8MW of PV Solar. Those projects have been submitted for approval for IRA tax credits. The State of Idaho and DOE are supposed to get a set aside for IRA credits. We do not know when this rollout will occur, if it will be fully funded, or which households will qualify for the funds. We also are aware that these credits will not meet the current need or demand for electrification upgrades. The DOE loan requires a significant up-front match ($1,000,000) that the Tribe would have to pay upfront to accept the loan. Cost savings from the solar arrays and megapacks proposed for CPRG funding would help the tribe raise those funds to reinvest in Nimiípuu Energy and the additional solar projects. The loan program is based on the prospective ability of repayment, and the cost of batteries makes the financial model less of a sure thing that the system will pay for itself. Part of the challenge in procuring funding has simply been a lack of full-time staff with experience in renewable energy planning and grant writing. CPRG funding would provide stable funding dedicated staff. There are other programs that fund solar energy projects, but after years of onerous attempts to procure energy grants that were unsuccessful, CPRG seems like the best fit.

#### Measure 3:

The State of Idaho has a NEVI Formula Program that will install DC fast charging stations on Highway 95 and US 12 but has chosen to locate those stations on non-tribal facilities in locations that are not advantageous to the tribe. Also, most of the roads that the Tribe needs charging infrastructure are not major interstates, and Idaho does not have these locations in their National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) plan. The Tribe owns one Level III charger that has not been installed due to high installation costs. The charger was paid for by the Volkswagen Diesel Emissions Environmental Mitigation Trust. The State of Oregon has a Community Charging Rebates program that the Tribe may be eligible for that could cover 75% of the costs of installing Level II Chargers. If the Tribe qualifies for that rebate, the funds will be used to install an additional row of EV charging stations in the fenced staff parking lot. We searched the PNW tribal climate guide for sources of EV funding but did not find current opportunities.

## Transformative Impact

The positive, transformative impact that our proposal’s GHG reduction measures will have on tribal homes and multiple communities cannot be overstated. Large-scale upgrades of residential energy efficiency to create climate ready housing coupled with Resiliency centers that can be powered off-grid coupled with remote solar and battery arrays will achieve the following: reduction of household and tribal energy bills, energy reliability, safety, and internet access. The creation and expansion of local, high paying good jobs, with skill attainment in new careers in which people do not have to forget about their values to put food on the table would be transformative.

We believe that once the realization that residents and businesses can own their own cleaner, cheaper, local energy, regional public attitudes may change towards climate solutions, rapidly. Tribal members installed the existing solar PV on tribal facilities including the electrical wiring, switchgear installation, inverter installation and programming, and site mapping for the solar and storage components. However, this is just the start of the ball rolling on a much broader, ambitious, and transformative vision. The Tribe’s intention is to leverage the deployed solar and storage and implement a virtual power plant (VPP), greatly improving the resiliency of the local grid (See Funding Need). Each individual solar and storage site would be consolidated into a decentralized energy capacity that would allow Nimiípuu Energy to deliver energy to the grid when it is most needed during an emergency or at peak times. The VPP would also generate additional income for the Nez Perce Tribe by allowing them to sell excess energy stored, replacing the non-renewable energy sources tapped when excess energy is needed.

CPRG funding will provide the opportunity to further develop the Tribe’s capacity and tools required to achieve its goals of a tribe-to-tribe training and enhancement of technology transfer programming, both to absorb best practices and to demonstrate them. By accounting for the way that the Tribe’s local, organically growing PV and battery systems fit into the energy economy of the Northwest Power Pool and the Western Interconnect, we can ensure the success of independent Tribal energy efforts that provide local and regional benefits to the Pacific Northwest. As the Tribe develops local energy independence it will have broad implications including large-scale GHG reductions. The Tribe’s vision is to demonstrate distributed energy systems that can be developed at scale, and which provide greater energy diversification and flexibility for the region.

# Impact of GHG Reduction Measures

The total emission reductions are summarized in the table below for 2025-2030 and 2025-2050 for each measure and across all measures. The total emissions reduced for the activities that CPRG would fund alone is 7,683 MtCOe from 2025 to 2030, and 65,820 from 2025 to 2050. Please see the attached CPRG Calculations Technical Appendix for information about assumptions and methodology.



## Magnitude of GHG Reductions from 2025 through 2030

From 2025-2030, the implementation of the projects outlined in this proposal is projected to result in a total reduction of 7,683 MTCO2e. The accompanying table provides a detailed breakdown of the magnitude of emissions reductions attributable to each measure. These reductions represent permanent enhancements to infrastructure, including upgrades to buildings and energy production systems. Additionally, as more individuals transition to electric vehicles, the accompanying increase in electrical demand necessitates sustainable methods of power generation, which are facilitated by the proposed projects. They also address urgent and pressing needs for safety, reliability, resiliency, and indoor and outdoor air pollution.

## b. Magnitude of GHG Reductions from 2025 through 2050

From 2025 to 2050, the cumulative reduction in emissions resulting from activities funded by the CPRG is estimated at 65,820 MTCO2e. These reductions are attributable to direct actions undertaken as part of the proposed projects and are expected to yield enduring benefits for environmental sustainability. The proposed projects were specifically chosen because they involve direct actions that would result in permanent GHG emissions reductions, and because they will offset emissions associated with the increased demand for electricity resulting from the transition to electric vehicles. By investing in sustainable methods of power generation, the proposed projects contribute to long-term emissions reductions and environmental stewardship.

## Cost Effectiveness of GHG Reductions

The cost effectiveness analysis reveals that the average cost per MTCO2e for all projects combined is $4,861. Among the measures, Measure 3 exhibits the lowest cost per reduction, offering a cost-effective solution despite yielding fewer emissions reductions compared to other measures. Measure 1 was the second most cost-effective measure, with a cost per MTCO2e of $3,908. This measure is predicated on the assumption that weatherization efforts will curtail energy consumption in single family homes, thereby reducing overall GHG emissions. Notably, the effectiveness of this measure may vary based on the specific characteristics of homes and the mitigation strategies implemented. The analysis incorporates specific data points such as the total count of homes, estimates from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for kilowatt-hours (kWh), and the eGRID MTCO2e factor specific to the Northwest Power Pool (NWPP) subregion. Additionally, emissions stemming from fireplaces and non-certified wood stoves are derived from the CARB Woodsmoke Reduction model, encompassing details like the total count of such heating appliances, replacements with EPA-certified wood stoves or inserts, and corresponding CARB estimates for MTCO2e.

Measure 2 had the lowest efficiency per MtCOe, primarily due to the exclusion of emissions reductions from the 300 solar arrays that would be paired with battery storage. The inclusion of these reductions would align the estimate more closely to the PCAP estimate of $3,354 per MT. Also, we used an industry standard of approximately $3.00 per kWh for installed rooftop PV arrays, and $4.00 for installed parking lot arrays. These estimates do not encompass the costs associated with additional staff required for implementation, which reduced our cost per MTCO2e. Unlike states, which often utilize tax revenues to fund staff positions, the Nez Perce Tribe relies predominantly on grant funds to finance personnel in Natural Resources and Climate Change. While this approach may impact our cost-effectiveness relative to states, investing in staff in rural tribal areas is imperative for enhancing climate resilience, especially considering that rural tribes and landowners possess significant land resources for carbon sequestration and renewable energy generation.

These investments will deliver transformative benefits for tribal members and local rural communities, both economically and environmentally. More importantly, investments in Measure 2 are scalable, and hold the potential to catalyze renewable energy adoption and job creation in Idaho, a state lacking a statewide climate program. Despite political challenges that impede climate action at the state level, investing in the Nez Perce Tribe represents a sound mitigation strategy, aligning with broader efforts by other Tribes, cities, counties, and universities to combat the climate crisis and foster sustainability.

## Documentation of GHG Reduction Assumptions – Please See attached Technical Appendix and GHG Emission Reduction Spreadsheet.

# Environmental Results – Outputs, Outcomes, and Performance Measures

## Expected Outputs and Outcomes

Activities under Measure 1, 2, and 3 support EPA’s Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2026 Strategic Plan. Project activities support Goal 1, “Tackle the Climate Crisis”; Objective 1.1, “Reduce Emissions that Cause Climate Change.” Under this objective, Projects will “aggressively reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases from all sectors while increasing energy and resource efficiency and the use of renewable energy.” Activities under Measure 1 Projects also support EPA’s Goal 4, “Ensure Clean and Healthy Air for All Communities”; Objective 4.2, “Reduce Exposure to Radiation and Improve Indoor Air”, and under this Objective, project activities will “achieve healthier indoor air quality, especially for vulnerable populations”. Detailed outputs and outcomes are listed in the tables below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Measure 1: Anticipated Outputs and Outcomes (GHG & Co-Benefits) | |
| Outputs | **Outcomes** |
| EPA semi-annual and final reports | Documentation of GHG reductions and community engagement during project and at completion. |
| Staff hired to implement GHG reduction measures. | Increase of high-quality jobs in LIDAC area. |
| Workforce training on home energy efficiency retrofits (weatherization) and appliance energy efficiency upgrades. Number of workforce training events. Number of people trained. | Increase of high-quality jobs in LIDAC area. Increase in tribal workforce skilled in residential GHG reduction. |
| Number of houses energy audited. Number of houses retrofitted for energy efficiency (weatherization and heating/cooling upgrades). Number of electric air-source heat pumps installed. | Reduction in cumulative metric tons of GHG emissions:  From 2025 through calendar year 2030: 1193  From 2025 through calendar year 2050: 9881  Lower energy demand and residential expenditures, and reduced energy bills for tribal residents. Increase in tribal homes that effectively reduce occupants’ exposure to wildfire smoke and resilience to extreme weather events. |
| Number of EPA-certified stoves installed. Number old wood stoves removed from homes and recycled. | Reduction in cumulative metric tons of GHG emissions:  From 2025 through calendar year 2030: 3,616  From 2025 through calendar year 2050: 28,002  Lower energy demand and residential expenditures, and reduced energy bills for tribal residents.  Increase of tribal residences with reduced exposure to CAP and HAP (healthier indoor and outdoor air). |
| Outreach to homes and community about home energy efficiency and preparedness for smoke and extreme weather events. Number of households. Number of public outreach events. Number of people reached. | Increase tribal household and community-wide awareness, capacity, and action to reduce residential energy usage and exposure to wildfire smoke and woodsmoke within highly impacted communities. |
| Distribution of portable air cleaners for use in tribal homes. Number of homes that received portable air cleaners and number of units distributed. | Increase of tribal families using filtration devices that effectively reduce occupants’ exposure to indoor air pollutants and wildfire smoke. |
| Distribution of Burn Wise supplies and educational materials. Number of homes that received supplies and number of supplies distributed. Number of homes that received education on best burn practices. | Increase of tribal families using best burn practices that increase wood stove efficiency and reduce GHG emissions and other air pollutants. Increase of safety in tribal wood burning homes. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Measure 2: Anticipated Outputs and Outcomes (GHG & Co-Benefits) | |
| Outputs | Outcomes |
| EPA Quarterly and Final Reports | Documentation of GHG reductions and community engagement during project and at completion. |
| Staff hired to implement GHG reduction measures. | Increase of high-quality jobs in LIDAC area. |
| Workforce training on solar, battery, and electrical installation and maintenance. | Increase of high-quality jobs in LIDAC area. Increase in tribal workforce skilled in residential GHG reduction. |
| Number of solar panels, MegaPacks, and Tesla Power Walls installed.  The TOTAL number of GHG emissions reduced because of the projects that are matched with this project. Number of houses with solar and battery. Number of kWh produced and MTCOe offset. Cost savings to tribe/homeowners | Reduction in cumulative metric tons of GHG emissions:  From 2025 through calendar year 2030: 2,352  From 2025 through calendar year 2050: 20,754  Lowered fossil fuel based electrical demand, reduced energy bills, reliable power, emergency management benefits, and access to the internet at home. |
| Number of tribal members who were able to shelter in place safety, communicate during emergencies, or shelter at an off-grid resiliency center. Qualitative community and mental health benefits measures. | Better emergency shelters, communications during emergencies, and greater safety and peace of mind for tribal members dealing with extreme events. |
| Outreach to seniors, elders, and residents about the transformative power of distributed energy. Number of public outreach events. Number of people reached. | Increase awareness, capacity, and action to utilize solar to power residences, medical equipment, and evacuation centers off-grid during emergencies. |
| Number of high-paying green energy jobs. Average wages of those staff and annual incomes. Economic indicators in area. | Local workforce capable of meeting the demand needed to speed to the adoption of solar energy. Higher incomes and standards of living in the community. |
| Full time dedicated staff to build capacity. Number of projects completed, trainings attended, and completion of steps towards a tribally owned solar enterprise with a virtual power plant. Total emissions offset from added capacity. | Progress and concrete steps completed towards the vision of tribe-to-tribe virtual power plant and solar initiative. Better educated workforce. Stable long-term staff building expertise, skills, and networks within the tribal climate change networks and Indian energy networks. |
| Number of batteries installed. Number of homes with internet service at home. MtCOe2 offset. Cost savings to homeowners and tribe. | Batteries that can be used to create a virtual power plant for emergency management. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Measure 3: Anticipated Outputs and Outcomes (GHG & Co-Benefits) | |
| Outputs | Outcomes |
| EPA Quarterly and Final Reports | Documentation of GHG reductions and community engagement during project and at completion. |
| Number of EV Charging Stations Installed  And number of charges completed at each station. Number of kg of GHG pollution offset via EV car charging. Reductions in tailpipe emission co-pollutants. MTCO2e reductions. | Reduction in cumulative metric tons of GHG emissions:  From 2025 through calendar year 2030: 342  From 2025 through calendar year 2050: 7,184  Reductions in co-pollutants |
| Number of emergency personnel/first responders and fire fighters trained to manage high voltage incidents with cars and chargers | Emergency management personnel trained to respond to electrical incidents with electric cars and chargers. Better preparedness for the expansion of EV charging. |
| Survey results regarding tribal programs and staff members interests and needs in adopting EV technology and transitioning to fossil free transit. | A more comprehensive understanding and strategy for reducing transportation emissions for tribal operations and staff who are commuting. |
| Number of chargers available for staff to utilize, # of Kg offset due to charging. | Data to analyze to understand how the availability of charging may affect vehicle purchasing decisions for staff. |

## Performance Measures and Plan

1. Initiate intradepartmental coordination meetings and hire staff.
2. Oversight of contractors and vendors.
3. Tracking and reporting project progress on expenditures, purchases, and community engagement.
4. Tracking, measuring, and reporting accomplishments and proposed timelines/milestones.
5. Integration of outcomes and outputs into promotion, continuation, and replication efforts within NPT activities into the future, after the project has ended.
6. Semi-annual Performance Reports to EPA, with the final semi-annual report due by October 31, 2029. In Year 2, provide a report that quantifies benefits to LIDAC, including changes in co-pollutant emissions.
7. Final Performance Report to EPA by January 31, 2030, within 120 days after the end of the project period. Report on the total GHG emissions and other pollutants reduced, summary of community engagement, and discuss the problems, successes, and lessons learned from the implementation of the GHG reduction measures that could help overcome structural, organizational, or technical obstacles to implementing a similar project elsewhere.

## Authorities, Implementation Timeline, and Milestones

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Measure 1 - Authorities, Implementation Timeline, and Milestones | | |
| Authority | **Key Tasks** | **Dates** |
| Ken Clark, NPT WRD Director has current authority to carry out the reporting requirements of the grant. | Semi-annual and final Performance Reports to EPA | Semi-annually and final report within 120 days after the end of the project period |
| Nez Perce Tribe Housing Authority (NPTHA) has current authority to carry out the Measure 1 – Project 1 and 2 tasks (as specified in this table) | Hiring process and onboarding of 3 employees | October 2024 – March 2025 |
| NPTHA will develop, advertise, and manage contracts. | Bid process and contracts in place for energy audits, weatherization, heating/cooling upgrades, and Certified Building Inspectors | March – April 2025 |
| NPTHA and partners will develop and hold workforce trainings. | Development and completion of workforce trainings for 10 tribal people. | March – October 2025 |
| NPTHA will distribute educational supplies and educational materials. | Procurement and distribution of supplies/materials (65 homes in Y1, 147 homes in each Y2-Y5) | March 2025 – September 2029 |
| NPTHA will develop, advertise, and work with project homes. | Home application and selection process completed in 65 homes in Y1, 147 homes in each Y2-Y5 (653 homes total). | April 2025 – September 2029 |
| NPTHA selected contractors will conduct energy audits of homes. | Energy audits completed in 65 homes in Y1, 147 homes in each Y2-Y5 (653 homes total). | May 2025 – September 2029 |
| NPTHA selected contractors will weatherize and conduct heating/cooling upgrades in homes. | Weatherization and heating/cooling upgrades completed 65 homes in Y1, 147 homes in each Y2-Y5 (650 homes total; 350 of which that use wood burning stoves). | May 2025 – September 2029 |
| NPTHA selected contractors will work with local recyclers to destroy old wood stoves. | Old wood stoves removed and recycled from 35 homes in Y1, 79 homes in each Y2-Y5 (350 old stoves total). | May 2025 – September 2029 |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Measures 2 and 3- Authorities, Implementation Timeline, and Milestones | | |
| Authority | **Key Tasks** | **Dates** |
| Ken Clark, NPT WRD Director has current authority to carry out the reporting requirements of the grant | Semi-annual and final Performance Reports to EPA within 120 days after the end of the project period | Semi-annually and final report |
| Water Resources Division Climate Change Staff: Ken Clark, Stefanie Krantz, and Admin | Hiring process and onboarding of 2 new employees, organizing kick off meetings with interdepartmental advisory committee, processing awards and setting up budgets, ordering supplies, and initiating community outreach process | Nov 2024 – March 2025 |
| Executive Direction and Enterprises to lead.  Authority will also be shared through our community-based process with tribal programs and members. Community groups and non-profits. | The Executive Directors office and Enterprises staff will be responsible for helping to train and onboard the new Energy Coordinators, participating in community-based process to coordinate the distribution of solar arrays and batteries to community members, oversight for the installation of arrays at the CRC, and for subcontracting out the installation of the Level III charger in Kamiah | Nov. 2024 – Sept. 2029: coor. with Measure 1 staff/community  Solar and battery installation.  Phase I CRC, 2025.  Phase II: 2026-2029  Megapack installation: 2026, 2029  Kamiah EV charger installation: 2025 |
| Energy Coordinators and JFO Fisheries office staff will develop, advertise, and manage contracts. | Bid process and contracts in place for solar arrays, electrical upgrades, Tesla Megapack installation, ordering Tesla PowerWalls, and installation of EV charging stations. | JFO: Nov 2024- March 2025  CRC: April-2025 to Sep 2025.  Batteries: 2025-2029 |
| Energy Coordinators, Air Quality and NPTHA, Climate Change | Lead community-based process in collaboration with climate change and air quality | Apr. 2025 – Sept. 30, 2029 |
| Energy Coordinators | Schedule construction, do reporting, and monitoring, and quality control. | April 2025- August 2029 |

# Low-Income and Disadvantaged Communities

## Community Benefits

The Nez Perce Tribe is a federally recognized Indian tribe, and, as such, is considered a disadvantaged community for the purposes of the Justice40 Initiative. Please see attached LIDAC and Census Tracts document. The KwH efficiency per year is 2,430 for Measure 1. For homes paired with solar and batteries, along with other upgrades, energy bills are expected to be eliminated. For homes without solar, but with energy efficiency upgrades, energy bills are expected to be more in line with area averages of approximately $100.00 per month. The median household income on the Nez Perce reservation is $54,290, $20,000 below the median in the United States. The poverty rate is 13.5%. The measures in this proposal reduce risk, improve air quality, provide greater protection for tribal members with comorbidities that make them more vulnerable during extreme weather, decrease energy costs, improve housing quality and safety, provide high quality jobs and training for the sustainable workforce of the future, improve rural internet and cell phone communications, provide vital emergency management centers, and reduce the risk to life and property from wildfires, heatwaves, and cold snaps. This proposal also reduces tribal dependence on polluting forms of energy that harm air quality, water quality, the climate, and fish and wildlife.

#### Measure 1:

Implementing this measure will conserve energy consumption and decrease energy bills for 650 tribal homes. Reduction of co-pollutants from wood smoke will create health benefits for residents throughout the Reservation. Once fully implemented, this measure along with Measure 2 Powerwalls also mitigates health risks from extreme smoke and weather events by adding portable, HEPA-filter air cleaners and adding cooling and back up heating sources for residences. Many tribal families are burdened with exceptionally high energy costs. Through the community outreach process, the high cost of energy was identified as an acute problem Community members shared stories about not being allowed to turn on furnaces, lights, or fans, and relying solely on opening windows and wood heat, because energy bills are so high for some residences. One of the most startling conversations was with tribal leaders who, when posited with the idea that solar could power heat pumps that would cool homes during heatwaves, responded, “we are just used to suffering through the heat and the cold. Solar energy would help alleviate that burden. The lack of air conditioning units and the high cost of energy also pose a threat to tribal members. In the past, area residents could rely upon opening windows at night to cool their homes for free. Higher overnight temperatures and hazardous air from smoke events have demonstrated an acute need for modern, efficient air conditioning units that can both heat and cool, tighter building envelopes with better insulation, and local solar energy production that reduces the cost of energy. Energy bills can be upwards of $800/month for some tribal families. These measures could reduce those bills to zero.

Taking a holistic approach, this measure will reduce tribal occupant exposure to indoor air toxics and air pollution and improve public health protection by strengthening preparedness and resilience to extreme smoke and weather events. The energy efficiency upgrades outlined will reduce GHG emissions and create 650 Climate Ready Homes that can reliably stay warm in winter, cool during hot weather, maintain good indoor air quality, and keep out smoke. The effects of this proposal are multiplied when one considers that although many Americans reside in multiple apartments and houses over their lifetime, whereas Nez Perce people may live their entire life in one home. Multiple generations occupy tribal homes and houses are often given to the next generation when an elder passes. It is not uncommon for seven people to be living in a 1,200 square foot home. As described in Measure 1 above, NPT commits to creating Climate Ready Housing through increases in tribal and local employment opportunities including multiple workforce training opportunities for tribal housing employees and independent tribal contractors.

#### Measure 2:

On-site generation of renewable energy reduces GHG emissions and co-pollutants while creating energy resilience for residents and Tribal government operations. Solar/storage solutions reduce reliance on overhead power lines which can go down during storms and fires. Implementing this measure also lowers energy bills which is particularly important for low-income residents of the Reservation. In addition, measure 2 includes microgrids which dramatically increase the resilience of our remote and rural community. Specifically, this includes preparing individuals for high-quality, middle-skill career pathways that enable economic mobility, rather than short-term, low-wage jobs.

Implementing this measure creates resiliency by offering consistent, renewable energy for residents and Tribal operations. It also creates income generation by providing power to the grid when needed, offering economic benefits to the Tribe and the communities living on the Reservation. By training and employing a Tribal workforce, additional economic benefits would positively impact the Tribal community. There are 35 tribal members with varying degrees of training as solar installers who reside on or near the reservation who are eager to work full time in the solar industry. Additional solar projects would provide additional opportunities to these solar installers. It would also help the tribe build towards running a tribally owned solar energy company.

Also, during wildfires, high wind events, and floods, many homes are unable to pump water when it is needed most due to power outages. Evacuation routes for many of these homes become impassable during emergencies (due to floods, ice, or fires), creating a situation where people are sheltering in place without water pressure. Tribal members who rely upon electricity to pump well water are at greatest risk during wildfires because they are unable to pump water to put out fire starts, wet down vegetation, barns, and houses, drink water, or provide water to livestock. The homes that are most vulnerable to wildfire with limited evacuation options are most in need of solar panels coupled with battery storage so that even if the power goes out, they are still able to pump water, filter air, power medical equipment, and communicate. Tesla Powerwalls have Starlink internet that is not dependent upon the grid, wires, or cell towers, and they can provide power overnight or during smoke events that reduce solar PV electrical generation. In addition, just having access to the internet in the home could provide economic and educational opportunities for tribal members. It would also help the Tribe be able to transition to hybrid or remote work options that reduce transportation-based greenhouse gas emissions.

For those that can evacuate, solar powered resiliency centers with battery banks could offer lodging, meals, heat and cold shelters with filtered air, power for medical equipment, communication, and fuel. To be able to keep people safe and respond to emergencies, the Tribe needs to produce solar energy coupled with battery storage to weather emergencies off-grid in places that are used for shelters and command centers during emergencies, and for those sheltering in place.

#### Measure 3:

Implementing this measure will reduce co-pollutants from tailpipe emissions resulting in improved health outcomes, and fuel costs for the Tribe and employees who convert to an (PH)EV. The GHG savings for the ChargePoint EV Charger at the CRC in 2022 was 5,507 kg. Most importantly, this measure is visible to the general public; by placing EV charging stations on Highway 12 and Main Street in Joseph, electrification is normalized for the region/tribal members, accelerating the adoption process. Furthermore, by placing charging stations in front of JFO, a strong message is conveyed about the importance of salmon to Nez Perce people, and that as we move into an uncertain climate future it is possible to align our energy production with our values.

### Environmental Justice

The Nez Perce Tribe’s climate mitigation and adaptation projects are **indigenous-led, community centered** projects that focus on reciprocity with nature and ecological mercy (“environmental justice” per Executive Order 14096). As a tribal community, we are inherently an environmental justice community, but the Tribe is also resilient and determined in a way that few communities are. We have survived climate change in the past, and protected and stewarded our homelands for generations. The core philosophy in *Nimíipuu* traditional teaching, *Tamal’wit*, is a holistic approach to life that expresses a profound sense of mutual obligation and reciprocity; recognizing that everything is alive and our sacred obligation to treat the soil, air, water and all our plant, animal, and human relations with respect and care to maintain the sacred balance that perpetuates life. We understand that a profoundly different approach is needed to end the climate crisis while protecting those who are most vulnerable; namely**, low income, disadvantaged communities** such as**tribes**, and climate endangered habitats, plants, wildlife, and fish. In our teachings, Salmon was the first species to give up its flesh for the people. We are indebted to salmonids to end the ecological crises that underpin the climate crisis and the biodiversity crisis. These species are our relatives; we are responding to climate change to protect our family. We believe that a dramatic paradigm shift is needed globally to create a truly just, equitable, and sustainable economy. From a tribal perspective, environmental and climate justice must include an energy system that does not cause the extinction of other species, protects the most vulnerable, grows an economy that does not destroy nature, and protects future generations. The Tribe opted to include air quality improvements in Measure 1, and an ambitious solar project in Measure 2 with staff capacity because even though it hurts our $/MT GHG, the health costs of tightening building envelope are disproportionately borne by DAC members, and the costs of losing subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering opportunities to tribal members are exceptional. Also, the tribe is trying to do the right thing for salmonids.

Salmon, steelhead and lamprey are all uniquely threatened by climate change and by hydroelectric power production. There are 274 hydroelectric dams in the Columbia River Basin (CRB) today. They block or inhibit fish migration, entrain juveniles into turbines, create heat trapping slack water reservoirs, attract predators while making salmon more vulnerable and cut off more than 40% of the historic spawning habitat in the CRB. Furthermore, hydroelectric reservoirs produce methane, a potent GHG. In 2023, the reservoirs behind the four lower Snake River dams experienced an unprecedented algal bloom which harmed aquatic wildlife, water quality, and the recreation economy. These inaugural algal blooms are expected to increase dramatically as the climate warms in the coming decades. It is hard to consider hydroelectric power as “green power” when it has such devastating impacts to fish, wildlife, water quality, aesthetic, and cultural values. The Snake River in particular, within the ancestral homeland of the Nez Perce, formerly saw one of the largest salmon runs in the world. Yet today these runs are either extinct or listed under the Endangered Species Act. Therefore, the Tribe does not wish to continue its counterproductive reliance on fossil fuels or hydropower. In light of their negative impacts to the Tribe’s fisheries resources and our consecrated covenant that we maintain with Salmon, we are committed to replacing the power produced by the fish-killing Snake River Dams with clean energy alternatives. And finally, we believe the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) are significant steps toward restoring what is sacred, realizing our inherent place as caretakers of creation and engaging with likeminded partners.

The Tribe also wants to pair storage with production because Idaho has repeatedly changed their net metering laws to reduce the cost effectiveness of residential solar energy development. In 2023, Idaho ended net metering and shifted to net billing, and put costs associated with utility upgrades that were formerly covered by the utility upon consumers diminishing the ability of consumers to invest in green energy and reduce their energy costs. It has been estimated that the new compensation rate will be 5.96 cents/kWh, down from an already low 8.8 cents/kWh. This dramatically reduced solar sales in the first quarter of 2024 in Idaho when it went into effect. It also increases the need but reduces the cost benefits for this proposal. The local utility company bargained with the Tribe to allow them to connect to the grid only after they learned that the Tribe could run the Wastewater Treatment Plant off-grid. Ultimately, they agreed to work with the Tribe because our solar energy generation and microgrid increases their resiliency and reliability and reduces their costs during peak power demand. The Tribe installed the first Megapack in the State of Idaho demonstrating their determination to lead on climate. The same utility charges exorbitant rates for rural electric service to our most remote and vulnerable rural residences. The Tribes of Idaho, who are leading on climate, and using limited capacity to find a way to install solar, are thus disadvantaged economically for CPRG funding simply because we are geographically located in a State that does not have a statewide climate program, and because we have to hire staff to increase our capacity instead of having staff paid for by state tax dollars to assist us in our pursuit of life-saving, climate safe, resilient energy. This is an inherent climate, economic, and environmental justice issue (EPA 2023b, Soued et al 2022, Wockner et al 2024). See LIDAC for a longer discussion.

## Community Engagement

Tribal governments are at the forefront of engaging with their communities and providing resources to support the social, environmental, spiritual, and emotional needs of their members. Not only does the Tribe intimately understand the needs of their community, but they also provide services and programs to support the needs of their members. The LIDAC file includes the history of community engagement at the Tribe to address climate change. In January 2024, to prepare the PCAP, the Tribe held a workshop and conducted an on-line survey asking Tribal members to identify the co-benefits associated with taking action to reduce GHG emissions. The community was invited to prioritize measures that both reduce climate pollution and provide additional benefits to the Tribe. As a result, the Tribe conducted a qualitative co-benefits analysis on the GHG reduction measures that were identified in the PCAP. Preliminary survey results and PCAP planning conversations indicate that Tribal members value cultural and health co-benefits the most, with environmental benefits also scoring high. Economic benefits scored slightly lower than environmental benefits but remain an important consideration. In addition, tribal staff were interviewed regarding climate impacts and their capacity to manage for them to identify critical needs. This proposal addresses some of the resiliency issues identified by those interviews.

Implementation actions will be led by an interdepartmental advisory committee comprised of staff from Executive Direction, Nez Perce Tribal Housing Authority, Enterprises, Social Services, Education, Nimiípuu Health, Air Quality, Water Resources (Water Quality and Climate Change), Cultural Resources, Fisheries, Forestry and Fire Management, and Emergency Management. Air Quality, Water Resources, and the Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee Climate Change and Energy Subcommittee will provide government oversight. The Circle of Elders will provide insight and advice on Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

In addition, we have a draft Community Engagement plan with the goal to engage with individuals and organizations directly and indirectly impacted by the Nez Perce Tribe’s climate planning efforts. This overarching plan has four key priorities:

1. To communicate and provide awareness on the Tribe’s climate planning process.
2. To provide contributors and partners meaningful opportunities to engage in the decision-making process for climate action planning.
3. To assist the Tribe in understanding the co-benefits of their climate plans
4. To assist the Tribe in prioritizing climate action activities

The plan will be put into place before we know if we have succeeded with our Implementation grant because we will be doing this holistically for multiple efforts including the Tribe’s Comprehensive Climate Action Plan, the Climate Change Adaptation Plan, finalizing the Tribe’s Vulnerability Assessment, launching the Smoke Ready Communities project, and creating short climate change films for education. The following phases have been identified for this process:

Phase 1: Identify and consult with internal contributors, conduct partner and contributor mapping, and finalize engagement plan.

Phase 2: Facilitate in person and online engagement and workshops for internal partners and contributors. Gather feedback for CCAP. Finalize prioritization methods. Report on PCAP engagement process and results.

Phase 3: Initial communication to external community. Facilitate in person and online engagement opportunities. Continue internal and external engagement for climate change projects.

Phase 4: Prioritize measure using feedback. Report on CCAP engagement process and results.

# Job Quality

The Tribe is an equal opportunity employer, inherently a DEIA employer, and has specific policies, programs, and measures in place to achieve this end. Approximately 2/3rd of the staff at the Tribe are either Native American, descendants, or mixed-race from underrepresented groups. The Tribe adjusted its wage scale to provide a $15.00/hour minimum wage during the Covid 19 pandemic. The Tribe provides excellent health insurance benefits, worker’s compensation benefits, the most generous paid sick leave and vacation leave in the region, emergency leave, a 401k match, an Employee Assistance Program, and other insurance benefits. The Tribe does annual training regarding employee benefits and rights. OSHA and other safety training is provided as needed and in compliance with grants and contracts. The Tribe is the third largest employer in a disadvantaged community. In addition, the Tribe employs people with criminal records and involvement with the justice system. The Tribe collaborates with in-house sobriety and recovery programs and sober living facilities. School aged children interact with many tribal programs to learn about career pathways through STEM education events, extension events, environmental education events, and presentations in classrooms to connect education to career pathways. Recruitment and hiring is based upon formerly agreed upon job classes and educational requirements and a transparent wage scale. Workers are provided on the job training opportunities. Collaborations with educational entities provide free, reduced cost, or scholarship-based training and workshop opportunities for tribal staff (Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals and the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Lewis Clark State College, etc.). The Tribe has programs to support employees pursuing higher degrees and other educational advancement programs and supports attendance at professional meetings and conferences. The Tribe’s Tribal Employment Rights Office (TERO) has specific contracting requirements that increase recruitment and job quality of tribal members and descendants into the workforce. The Tribe does not have a union, does not require nor discriminate against union members, and many TERO workers are union members. Human resources disputes are managed by professional, trained Human Resources staff. The Tribe is experienced working with subcontractors to ensure that prevailing wage and Davis Bacon wage requirements are met. All RFPs will include the standards put forth by the EPA for wages and job quality so that the Tribe is in compliance with the EPA standards and job quality standards will be met for the employees of all tribal subcontractors.

# Programmatic Capability and Past Performance

## Past Performance

The Nez Perce Tribe’s Water Resources Division (WRD) will provide overall project administration. The WRD has extensive experience successfully implementing environmental programs since the early 1990s. Below is a list of five federally funded assistance agreements implemented within the past three years:

1. **Project Title:** Performance Partnership Grant (PPG)

**Assistance Agreement Number:** BG-97065606

**Agency and Assistance Listing Number:** Environmental Protection Agency, 66.605

**Description:** The PPG houses several grants, including the Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP), the Clean Water Act §106 and §319 grants, and two wetland CWA §104(b)(3) grants—the EPA Region 10 Wetland Program Development Grant and the EPA National Tribal Wetland Program Development Grant. The total award for this five-year grant was $3,185,157, and it was successfully closed out in FY2023.

**Agency Contact:** Lucas DuSablon; [dusablon.lucas@epa.gov](mailto:dusablon.lucas@epa.gov); 206-553-2570

1. **Project Title:** Clearwater River (Idaho) Watershed Baseline Monitoring

**Assistance Agreement Number:** RB-01J72901

**Agency and Assistance Listing Number:** Environmental Protection Agency, 66.962

**Description:** This project collected and analyzed surface water, sediment, and biotic tissue samples in the Clearwater River Watershed for a variety of toxins in order to fill existing data gaps. The total award for this grant was $200,000.

**Agency Contact:** Krista Mendelman; [mendelman.krista@epa.gov](mailto:mendelman.krista@epa.gov); 206-553-1571

1. **Project Title:** Clearwater River Toxics Assessment and Monitoring Project

**Assistance Agreement Number:** 44-02J19901

**Agency and Assistance Listing Number:** Environmental Protection Agency, 66.962

**Description:** This project involves monitoring for total and methyl mercury, PPCPs, PBDEs, and PFAS/PFOS throughout the mainstem Clearwater River and select tributaries. The total award for this grant was $195,692.

**Agency Contact:** Lauren McDaid; [mcdaid.lauren@epa.gov](mailto:mcdaid.lauren@epa.gov); 206-378-5768

1. **Project Title:** Nez Perce Reservation Surface and Groundwater Pollutant Reduction Project

**Assistance Agreement Number:** 44-02J40301

**Agency and Assistance Listing Number:** Environmental Protection Agency, 66.962

**Description:** A project to reduce pollution and improve water quality by implementing agricultural best management practices and promoting citizen knowledge and engagement. The total award for this grant was $1,960,754.

**Agency Contact:** Lauren McDaid; [mcdaid.lauren@epa.gov](mailto:mcdaid.lauren@epa.gov); 206-378-5768

1. **Project Title:** Nez Perce Tribe Brownfield Tribal Response Program 2022-2024

**Assistance Agreement Number:** RP-96046314

**Agency and Assistance Listing Number:** Environmental Protection Agency, 66.817

**Description:** EPA’s CERCLA Section 128(a) grant program funds activities that establish or enhance the capacity for tribal response programs. The Nez Perce Tribe oversees and performs planning, assessment, and cleanup of brownfields sites throughout the Tribe’s traditional lands. The total award for this grant was $341,360.

**Agency Contact:** Krista Rave-Perkins; [rave-perkins.krista@epa.gov](mailto:rave-perkins.krista@epa.gov); 206-553-6686

## Reporting Requirements

For each of the assistance agreements listed above, performance reports have been submitted in a timely manner, documenting accomplished outputs and outcomes. Progress, modifications, and status changes of WRD projects have been and will continue to be reported quarterly, semi-annually, and annually to EPA, according to reporting requirements. These reports discuss accomplishments toward completion of work plan commitments; work performed for all work plan components, and any existing or potential problem areas affecting project completion. Individual project reports are also developed, detailing the goals, objectives, implementation, outcomes, and lessons learned for each project to document current projects and help expedite the development of future projects.

## Staff Expertise

#### Overall management of the NPT Implementation Grant will be conducted by the WRD, whose Director will serve as Project Manager. The WRD will play a pivotal role, serving as the central hub for project coordination and administration. Within the WRD, the NPT Climate Change Program staff will provide valuable advisory support to ensure alignment with climate resilience goals. NPT Grants and Contracts will offer essential oversight assistance, ensuring compliance with funding requirements and facilitating efficient grant management processes. For Measure 1, NPT Housing will lead as the primary administrator, with advisory support from the NPT Air Quality Program. Administration for Measures 2 and 3 will be handled by the NPT Executive Direction and Nez Perce Tribal Enterprises, respectively. NPT Department of Fisheries Resources Management (DFRM), Joseph Fisheries Office, will assist with the administration of Measure 3. The collective expertise and resources of these Departments underscore the Nez Perce Tribe’s commitment to effective grant management and the successful implementation of sustainable initiatives. Staff expertise is listed below. Resumes of key personnel are included with this application as Other Attachments.

#### Ken Clark, Director, Water Resources Division: Ken Clark, Director of the WRD, oversees all programs within the Division and will serve as Project Manager for the Implementation Grant. Mr. Clark brings a wealth of experience and expertise to the role of Project Manager, having honed his project management skills over the years by overseeing a diversity of programs within the Division, including the Surface Water Quality Program, Brownfields Tribal Response Program, Climate Change Program, Utilities Program, and Water Rights Administration Program, to name several of the ten Divisional Programs. Mr. Clark began working for the Tribe in 2010, initially serving as the Water Quality Program Coordinator before advancing to the position of Director. His academic credentials include a Master of Science degree in Natural Resources and Environmental Science from the University of Idaho, specializing in Water Resources Management, and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from the same institution. Mr. Clark’s tenure within the WRD has been marked by successful collaborations with internal and external stakeholders, fostering strong relationships crucial for effective project execution. His comprehensive understanding of environmental regulations and his adeptness in project management and report writing position him as a qualified and capable leader for overseeing the Implementation Grant.

Stefanie Krantz, Climate Change Program Coordinator, Water Resources Division: Stefanie Krantz has over 20 years of experience as an ecologist and planner, with expertise in climate change vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning, community engagement, workshop planning, climate education, permitting, environmental impact and biological assessments, compliance monitoring for endangered species, habitats, and stormwater. Ms. Krantz has eight years of experience conducting surveys, compliance, and permitting for infrastructure projects, including solar, wind, transmission, desalinization plants, roads, bridges, and tunnels.

###### Anthony Broncheau, Senior Grants & Contracts Coordinator: Mr. Broncheau is an enrolled member of the Nez Perce Tribe and has been working with the Tribe for over 22 years, with over 15 years of tribal grant management experience. Mr. Broncheau has an Associates and Bachelor’s degree in Information Systems Analysis and has 15 years working in Finance, Accounting, Payroll, Financial Management, Auditing, Indirect Cost Rates, Project Management, Databases, Spreadsheets, Budgeting, Organizational and Time Management, Strategic Planning, and institutional knowledge and experience with the Nez Perce Tribe. Mr. Broncheau has managed grants for the Tribe, including the development of the Tribal Justice Strategic Action Plan, AmeriCorps VISTA Project, 2010/2020 Census, and Department of Energy Grants.

**Anna Lawrence, Interim Director and Housing Manager, NPT Housing Authority:** Over 25 years of experience in tribal housing administration with a Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration. Currently Interim Director and Pathways Certification Trainer for the National American Indian Housing Council. Administers and monitors all aspects of housing management, including planning and development of housing assistance programs, comprehensive housing counseling, resident relations, lease compliance, and crime prevention and safety, to ensure consistent and optimal rental income stream and applicant and resident satisfaction. Assists with management of IHBG, ROSS, ICDBG, LIHTC, Treasury Funds, Bonneville Power Administration funding, and other private funding. NPTHA has a five-person Board of Commissioners elected by the NPT General Council. NPTHA manages 140 rentals and a six-million-dollar budget, including costs for new construction.

**Julie Simpson, Air Quality Program Coordinator, and Johna Boulafentis, Air Quality Program Environmental Specialist, Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Division**: Staff from the Air Quality Program will assist NPT Housing Authority in an advisory capacity for the implementation of Measure 1. Julie Simpson, Air Quality Program Coordinator, has a Master’s Degree in Environmental Science and has worked for the Nez Perce Tribe since 1995. Johna Boulafentis, an Environmental Specialist, has a Master’s Degree in Conservation Biology and has worked for the Air Quality Program since 2005. Ms. Boulafentis’s expertise includes participation in the National Residential Wood Heat Task Force and Identifying Clean Burning Appliances Workgroup, participation in the Residential Wood Heat Working Group for States, Locals, and Tribes, administration of the Northwest Tribal Residential Wood Heater Donation Program in partnership with the National Tribal Air Association, participation on the 2023 Residential Wood Smoke Workshop Planning Committee, and project lead for four wood heat and health-related research projects on the NP Reservation.

##### Janet Poitra, Deputy Executive Director, Nez Perce Tribe: Janet Poitra has an extensive background in building business strategy, training and development, human resources, public relations, corporate communications, and leadership development, and with assistance from the Grants and Contracts Coordinator and Nez Perce Tribal Enterprises, will provide administration for Measures 2 and 3. Prior to joining the Nez Perce Tribe in 2022, Ms. Poitra served in various roles over a 24-year span with Schweitzer Engineering Labs, helping grow the company worldwide from 250 employees to almost 6,000. As the Director of International Human Resources, she directed and supported the creation and development of business operations in 23 countries. Ms. Poitra has extensive experience in recruiting and building high-performing teams, with a focus on electrical engineers in the power systems field. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration (with a concentration in Management and Human Resource Management) from Washington State University and a Master of Science in Strategic Communications Management from Purdue University.

**Nikoli Greene, Executive Officer, Nez Perce Tribal Enterprises**: Nikoli Greene, an enrolled member of the Nez Perce Tribe, has served as the Executive Officer of the Nez Perce Tribal Enterprises since October 2021. Greene grew up in the region, graduating from Lapwai High School, and subsequently obtained his bachelor’s degree in accounting from Lewis Clark State College. He has worked in various positions for the Nez Perce Tribe Enterprises over the last 12 years. As Executive Officer, Mr. Greene manages the development of new business enterprises and economic opportunities for the Nez Perce Tribe and oversees the tribe’s existing enterprises – Clearwater River Casino & Lodge, It’se Ye Ye Casino, Nez Perce Express, Camas Express, Red Wolf Golf Course and Zim’s Hot Springs.

**Shelby Leighton, Business Operations Director, Nez Perce Tribal Enterprises**:Shelby Leighton has worked in the Business Operations Department for over four years and is a Nez Perce Tribal Member. He has lived in Lapwai, ID, for much of his life and has primarily worked for the Nez Perce Tribe. He received his undergraduate business degree from Washington State University and his Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Arizona State University. Mr. Leighton’s work includes management and project development surrounding Tribal acquisitions (Zims Hot Springs and Red Wolf Golf Club), economic development projects, and various projects with the surrounding community and economic partners. Mr. Leighton’s work revolves around providing the Nez Perce Tribe with economic success to foster the strengthening of sovereignty and community investment.

**Jim Harbeck, Field Office Supervisor/Research Project Leader & Shane Vatland, Research Project Leader, DFRM, Joseph Field Office:** Jim Harbeck has been the DFRM Joseph Field Office Supervisor for over a decade. He has a distinguished career as a fisheries scientist and researcher and is passionate about ending the climate crisis. Mr. Harbeck has prepared three proposals to add solar arrays to the Joseph Field Office buildings and has led the office in other structural upgrades and building contracting projects. He will lead the Measure 3 subcontracting effort with the assistance of the Energy Coordinator. Shane Vatland, a fisheries researcher, and a member of the Nez Perce Tribe’s Climate Change Task Force, will assist Mr. Harbeck in preparing and soliciting bids, interviewing contractors, and contracting.

# Budget

The total budget for implementation of these three priority GHG reduction measures is $37,346,490. The consolidated total budget by year and by project are shown in the tables below. A separate budget narrative and budget spreadsheet are included with this application as Project Narrative Attachments.



**Budget by Project**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Project Number | Project Name | Total Cost | % of Total |
| 1 | Project Administration and Coordination | $202,100 | 0.54% |
| 2 | Measure 1 Built Environment | $18,591,016 | 49.78% |
| 3 | Measure 2 Electric Power | $18,430,178 | 49.35% |
| 4 | Measure 3 Transportation | $123,196 | 0.33% |
| Total |  | $37,346,490 | 99.46% |

