U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ANNOUNCES COLLABORATION WITH TRIBAL LEADERS TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND STRENGTHEN NATIONAL SECURITY

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today announced the formation of the Tribal Fossil Energy and Carbon Management Working Group, administered by DOE's Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM). Tribes play a critical role in helping the United States meet its energy security and climate obligations while working to develop their vast energy, critical minerals and materials, and carbon management potential. As part of this collaboration, the Working Group will provide ongoing advice and expertise to DOE on the best ways to assist Tribal decarbonization efforts and utilization of their natural resources. DOE's technical assistance will help Tribes spur local economic development; provide workforce training for local, high-wage, middle class jobs; and support Tribal technical capacity for fostering energy, economic, and community development opportunities.

"The U.S. Department of Energy recognizes that energy is foundational to Tribal self-determination, and we are proud to have Tribal leadership in, and partnership with DOE's efforts to expand clean energy development," said **U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm**. "Under the Biden-Harris administration, DOE has invested more money in Tribal clean energy projects than any administration and we are excited to build on this work with a new Working Group aimed at supporting Tribal capacity-building and investments in carbon management, methane mitigation and critical minerals that benefit Tribal communities."

This Fossil Energy and Carbon Management Tribal Working Group marks the fourth working group the DOE has established to collaborate with Tribes. This latest working group will initially include representation from eight federally recognized Tribes with significant fossil energy reserves and reliance on revenue from those resources, including: Jicarilla Apache; Crow Nation; Navajo Nation; Caddo Nation; Hopi Nation; Southern Ute; Arctic North Slope Iñupiat; and Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara (MHA) Nation. DOE anticipates the number of Tribes formally participating in the working group will grow over time. "The Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation is deeply honored to have hosted DOE and the forum participants for a site visit to our MHA Native Green Grow and Bakken operations," said **Chairman Mark N. Fox**. "We extend our heartfelt thanks to the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management and the U.S. Energy Association for bringing together such an important gathering. It was a privilege to showcase our innovative initiatives and share our vision for sustainable resource development on tribal lands. The MHA Nation looks forward to continued collaboration through the Tribal Working Group and exploring new opportunities with DOE to ensure that our energy resources are managed responsibly for the benefit of future generations."

"The Caddo Nation is honored to join the FECM Tribal Working Group and participate in this vital initiative," said **Chairman Bobby Gonzalez**. "As stewards of our land and resources, we recognize the importance of addressing methane emissions and are exploring new opportunities for mitigation. Our Nation is particularly excited to work with FECM and other partners such as the Oklahoma University along with engineers and chemist and industry leaders on innovative solutions like converting methane to hydrogen, which aligns with our long-term energy goals and our commitment to sustainable development and lower emissions. These discussions within [the] FECM Tribal Working Group will not only benefit our Nation but also help Indian Country and the broader Oklahoma community as we look toward a cleaner, more resilient future."

“The Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope is eager to participate in the Tribal Working Group in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management,” said **Director of Natural Resources Doreen Leavitt**. “As stewards of the vast oil and gas resources on the Alaskan North Slope, we are committed to managing these resources in a way that honors our land and our people, while ensuring the well-being of future generations. We look forward to working together with FECM to explore sustainable practices that balance economic development with environmental protection, so that our communities can thrive for years to come.”

“We are committed to advancing practices that will bring long-term benefits to the Navajo Nation as well as other participating Tribes,” said **Interim Tribal Co-Chair William D. McCabe**. “Our participation in the [Tribal Carbon Management Strategies] forum strengthened our resolve to foster sustainable, responsible management of our natural resources. The Navajo Nation looks forward to actively collaborating within the Tribal Working Group and working alongside FECM to explore and leverage the full suite of technologies under the FECM umbrella. Together, we can harness these innovations to ensure that our resources are utilized in a way that brings economic growth, preserves our lands, and supports the prosperity and well-being of the Navajo people, now and for generations to come.”

“The Southern Ute Indian Tribe is proud to participate in the Fossil Energy and Carbon Management Tribal Working Group,” said **Demi Morishige, Designated Representative**. “This partnership enables us to advocate for our community’s priorities and promote sustainable energy initiatives that reflect our unwavering commitment to Tribal sovereignty. We are eager to collaborate with our fellow tribal nations and the U.S. Department of Energy to develop solutions for a safe, affordable, and reliable carbon-neutral future. Our efforts will prioritize promoting economic development across all tribal communities.”

“The Crow Nation extends its heartfelt gratitude to the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management and the U.S. Energy Association for the opportunity to participate in the Tribal Carbon Management Strategies Forum held in Medora, North Dakota. We are deeply honored to engage in these meaningful discussions about the future of energy, resource management, and economic development for our people. Our Nation is blessed with significant carbon resources, and we look forward to actively participating in the Tribal Working Group, where we can explore new avenues of cooperation with FECM. Together, we can ensure that the Crow Nation continues to utilize these resources in a manner that fosters prosperity for our people and protects the well-being of future generations.”

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides more than $13 billion in funding to directly support Tribal communities and makes Tribes eligible to apply for or request billions in additional funding. The Inflation Reduction Act directs $720 million in climate resilience and energy funding to Tribes, as well as provides hundreds of billions in tax credits for which clean energy and industrial projects on Tribal lands and in Tribal communities are eligible. For this reason, the initial priorities proposed for the working group are to explore technical assistance and capacity-building to leverage these funding opportunities related to FECM’s portfolio and other DOE offices:

- Development of carbon capture, transport and storage facilities and infrastructure;
- Methane mitigation;
- Critical minerals production and processing; and
- Repurposing existing energy assets slated for retirement—such as coal, oil, and/or natural gas facilities and accompanying equipment and infrastructure.

As a next step, FECM plans to convene representatives of the participating Tribes for a series of virtual information briefings across these identified priorities to prepare for the first formal meeting of the working group in 2025.

FECM minimizes environmental and climate impacts of fossil fuels and industrial processes while working to achieve net-zero emissions across the U.S economy. Priority areas of technology work include carbon capture, carbon conversion, carbon dioxide removal, carbon dioxide transport and storage, hydrogen production with carbon management, methane emissions reduction, and critical minerals production. To learn more, visit the FECM website, sign up for FECM news announcements, and visit the National Energy Technology Laboratory website.