

# TRIBAL CLEAN TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM NEWSLETTER



*Welcome to ITEP's New Tribal Clean Transportation Program's Monthly Newsletter with information about Tribal clean transportation projects, funding sources, news stories/analysis, policy updates, and upcoming event/conferences. If this landed in your email inbox, you have been added to ITEP's TCTP listserv! If you wish to discontinue this, feel free to send an unsubscribe request to [ryan.tsingine@nau.edu](mailto:ryan.tsingine@nau.edu).*

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## Featured News

**ANNOUNCEMENT!** The Tribal Clean Transportation Program is reaching out with an important survey designed to harness your insights and expertise. We want your feedback to help guide our efforts towards sustainable transportation solutions. Your input will play a pivotal role in our program initiatives that prioritize cleaner, more efficient, and accessible transportation options within tribal areas. Join us in this collaborative journey towards a greener future by participating in our survey today. Together, we can pave the way for a brighter, more sustainable tomorrow for all tribal members.

- **[Click Here to Fill out the 5-minute Survey.](#)**

**ANNOUNCEMENT!** The Tribal Clean Transportation Program (TCTP) will be having our next roundtable on **October 4, 2023, at 11 AM PT/ 2 PM ET**. A standing calendar invite was sent to the TCTP listserv and the National Tribal Air Association (NTAA) Mobile Sources Listserv. The roundtables will be bi-monthly starting October 4, 2023. The Mission of the roundtable is to forge a united front in addressing pressing transportation challenges within tribal communities. This collaborative platform brings together tribal leaders, community members, and experts to drive sustainable change. We're dedicated to reducing emissions, enhancing access to clean transportation, and championing alternative fuels. As we embark on this journey, we invite you to join us. Your insights and participation are crucial in shaping the future of clean transportation solutions that align with the unique needs and values of our tribes. Stay tuned for updates, events, and opportunities to make a difference in our quest for a cleaner, greener future!

- If you wish to be added to the TCTP listserv, please reach out to Research Associate Ryan Tsingine at [ryan.tsingine@nau.edu](mailto:ryan.tsingine@nau.edu) OR Sr. Program Coordinator Heather Bartlett at [heather.bartlett@nau.edu](mailto:heather.bartlett@nau.edu).
- Use the following information to join the call:
  - **Meeting Link:** <https://nau.zoom.us/j/82403555428?pwd=NXB2cEF3TFdzMVZJbElFZlR5ejlDUT09&from=addon>
  - **Meeting ID:** 824 0355 5428
  - **Password:** 140082

# Featured News

## *USDOT Releases the FY23 Thriving Communities Program NOFO and Call for Letters of Intent*

USDOT is now accepting applications for the FY 2023 **Thriving Communities Program (TCP)**. TCP offers two separate response opportunities for potential applicants: a Letter of Interest and a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO). Under the \$22 million NOFO, USDOT is accepting applications for both the **Thriving Communities National Capacity Builder Program** and a new **Regional Pilot Program** to fund State and Regional TCP activities. TCP provides technical assistance, planning, and capacity-building support to teams of community partners that may lack the staffing or technical expertise to scope, fund, and develop infrastructure projects that advance broader community goals. TCP will provide two years of deep-dive assistance and three years of facilitated peer learning support to selected communities to help them plan and develop a pipeline of comprehensive transportation, housing, and community revitalization activities. There is no cost to receive this support. Interested applicants must identify community partners and together submit a Letter of Interest (LOI) via **DOT webform** by **4:59 p.m. (ET) November 15, 2023**, to be considered for selection. An overview **webinar** that will introduce potential applicants to opportunities to apply to participate in the FY 2023 Thriving Communities Program will be held on **September 15, 2023, from 12:30-1:30 pm Eastern Time**. The webinar will also provide details about program requirements and how to apply.

- Register **here** to attend the webinar.
- See the **TCP website** for information on additional TCP webinars:
  - Interested in Providing Technical Assistance? Join the FY 2023 Thriving Communities Program Webinar for Interested Capacity Builders on **September 20, 2023 at 3:30-4:30 p.m. Eastern Time**.
  - Interested in Receiving Technical Assistance? Join the FY 2023 Thriving Communities Program Webinar for Interested Communities on **September 27, 2023, at 3:00-4:00 p.m. Eastern Time**.

## *WHY NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES STRUGGLE TO TAP BILLIONS IN CLEAN ENERGY INCENTIVES*

The Standing Rock Sioux reservation near the border of North and South Dakota has some of America's most powerful winds, with 20 mile an hour (mph) gusts regularly scouring its vast plains. The tribe in 2020 launched a plan to harness that energy with what would be the country's first tribal owned utility-scale wind farm – a project meant to supply jobs, money and electricity to a place where those things are in short supply. The project is at the heart of the Standing Rock Sioux's long-term economic strategy, and revenue from selling power to the regional grid would replace the reservation's casino, which nets around \$6 million per year, as the biggest source of revenue.

- **[Read More Here.](#)**



# Clean Transportation News

## **BUTTIGIEG MEETS WITH SD TRIBES TO DISCUSS TRANSPORTATION ISSUES**

Leaders from nine South Dakota tribes met with U.S. Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg on Monday, Sept. 11, to discuss transportation issues affecting tribes, including roadway safety, emergency response and public transportation.

“A lot of tribal citizens don't have access to a vehicle and that's why Tribal Transit and safer road design are so important,” Buttigieg said. “And then the broader issue of missing and murdered women is something that I also believe has links to transportation policy, because if we create better, safer ways for women to get to where they need to be, hopefully, fewer of them are likely to be victimized in that way.”



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY PETE BUTTIGIEG MET WITH SOUTH DAKOTA TRIBAL LEADERS ON SEPT. 11 IN OACOMA TO DISCUSS TRANSPORTATION ISSUES FACING INDIAN COUNTRY. (PHOTO COURTESY OF DOT)

## **AUTO WEEK AT D.C. CIRCUIT RAISES ‘MAJOR QUESTIONS’ FOR EPA**

A powerful federal appeals court will hear arguments this week in three challenges to the Biden administration’s efforts to curb the largest source of planet-warming pollution in the United States — and the battles have the potential to go all the way to the nation’s highest bench. The cases before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit target both historic and contemporary efforts to clean up car and truck exhaust. They will test a 1960s-era waiver that allows California to impose stricter pollution controls than the federal government, and they’ll wield a new legal tool — used by the Supreme Court last year to constrain EPA control of power plant emissions — against a Biden administration initiative to reduce vehicle emissions.

- [Read More Here](#)



POLITICO ILLUSTRATION/PHOTOS BY PIXABAY, ISTOCK



# Clean Transportation News

## U.S. ADDS 6.4 GW OF SMALL-SCALE SOLAR CAPACITY IN 2022, EIA SAYS

The U.S. is estimated to have added 6.4 gigawatts (G.W.) of small-scale solar capacity in 2022, the most ever in a single year, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) said on Monday. The capacity of small-scale solar increased from 7.3 GW in 2014 to 39.5 GW by 2022, the statistical arm of the U.S. Department of Energy said.

Small-scale solar - also called distributed solar or rooftop solar, refers to solar-power systems with 1 megawatt (M.W.) of capacity or less and accounted for about one-third of the nation's total solar capacity. The U.S. solar industry was expected to add a **record 32 G.W.** of production capacity this year, helped by investment incentives under the Inflation Reduction Act.

- [Read More Here.](#)



SOLAR PANELS ARE SEEN ALONG WITH A VIEW OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND LOWER MANHATTAN FROM THE ROOFTOP OF TIMBER HOUSE, THE CITY'S FIRST MASS-TIMBER CONDO BUILDING, IN THE PARK SLOPE NEIGHBORHOOD OF BROOKLYN, NEW YORK, U.S., AUGUST 16, 2022. REUTERS/BRENDAN MCDERMID

## LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES WITH RECYCLED METALS NEARING PRODUCTION IN THE US

We could soon see more lithium-ion batteries made with recycled materials thanks to a new partnership. BASF, a battery materials producer, **has announced** that it's teaming up with Nanotech Energy, a maker of graphene-based energy products, to produce lithium-ion batteries with recycled materials for customers in North America. While BASF will create the cathode active materials using recycled metals from a Battle Creek, Michigan facility, Nanotech will use those materials to create the lithium-ion battery cells. Making the batteries with recycled metals could decrease their CO2 footprint by around 25 percent, according to BASF.

- [Read More Here.](#)



PHOTO BY WAN SHANCHAO / VCG VIA GETTY IMAGES



# Upcoming Events, Webinars, and Conferences

## ***U.S. EPA – GRANTS WEBINAR SERIES FOR GRANT APPLICANTS AND RECIPIENTS***

EPA is hosting a series of three webinars for assistance agreement (grant) applicants and recipients. During each webinar, EPA staff will review key aspects of EPA's grant processes and requirements, and you will have the opportunity to submit questions. Register through the linked webinars below.

- September 19, 2 PM (ET) – Applying for Non-Competitive EPA Grants
  - [Click Here to Register](#)
- September 26, 2 PM (ET) – Competition Process
  - [Click Here to Register](#)
- September 28, 12 PM (ET) – EPA Grant Terms and Conditions for Fiscal Year 2024
  - [Click Here to Register](#)

## ***U.S. DOE – SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAICS (PV): PROCURING HIGH-QUALITY AND FEDERALLY COMPLIANT MODULES***

Solar photovoltaic (PV) systems should perform safely and reliably for 25–30 years (or more). Among the factors that determine solar PV system performance and longevity, the module is the most critical component. Many factors must be considered when choosing a module, including: quality, safety, weather strength ratings (e.g., wind, snow, hail), fire ratings, Buy American Act (BAA) compliance, and others. This webinar focuses on understanding these factors and on how a federal agency can select a module that best meets its needs and requirements, given what may appear to be competing considerations. In addition to procurement-related factors, the webinar also highlights the fundamentals of how solar PV modules produce electricity and different available cell technologies.

- **September 6, 2023, 1:00 PM (ET)**
- [Click Here for the Full Announcement and to Register.](#)

## ***OFFICE OF INDIAN ENERGY POLICY AND PROGRAMS – COMMUNITY POWER ACCELERATOR ROUND 2 INFORMATIONAL WEBINAR #2***

This is the second informational webinar dedicated to Round 2 of the Community Power Accelerator Prize. Join the prize administrators as they cover key details, including submission requirements, important dates, and prize amounts.

- **Sep 19, 2023, 03:00 PM (ET)**
- [Click Here to Register](#)



# Upcoming Events, Webinars, and Conferences Cont.

## ***DEEP DIVE – INFLATION REDUCTION ACT: INVESTMENT TAX CREDIT (ITC) AND PRODUCTION TAX CREDIT (PTC) FOR TRIBES***

Stanford Lawyers for a Sustainable Economy Initiative is partnering with the law firms in the Lawyers for a Sustainable Economy Initiative to provide several webinar series on tribal tax opportunities under the Inflation Reduction Act. This webinar will focus on Tax Opportunities for Tribes in the Inflation Reduction Act, especially the Investment Tax Credit (ITC) and Production Tax Credit (PTC).

- Deep Dive – Inflation Reduction Act: Investment Tax Credit (ITC) and Production Tax Credit (PTC) for Tribes
- **September 25, 2023, 12:00 PM PT**
- **[Click Here to Register.](#)**



The Tribal EPA & U.S. EPA Region 9 Annual Conference is proudly co-hosted by the Viejas Band Of Kumeyaay Indians and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the direction of the Viejas Environmental Department and in cooperation with EPA's Region 9 Tribal Branch.

- **[Click Here for Full Announcement.](#)**
- **[Click Here to Register.](#)**



# Funding Opportunities

## ***U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ANNOUNCES \$14.7 MILLION FOR MICROGRID TECHNOLOGIES FOR UNDERSERVED AND INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES***

**Deadline:** September 15, 2023.

**Eligible Entities:** Unrestricted

**Summary:** This program will provide funds for multi-year research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) of microgrid-related technologies. The goal of this funding is to bring microgrid solutions to underserved and Indigenous communities in remote, rural, and islanded regions in the United States.

- [Click Here for Full Funding Announcement.](#)

## ***U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ANNOUNCES \$27 MILLION TO SUPPORT CLEAN ENERGY PLANS TO BENEFIT DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES***

**Deadline:** September 30, 2023

**Eligible Entities:** Local, tribal, and state governments

**Summary:** EFG will provide direct funding to support meaningful partnerships between jurisdictions who may also partner with community-based organizations, academia, utility companies, and nonprofit organizations. With these funds, teams should address barriers preventing low-income and disadvantaged communities from realizing the benefits of clean energy.

- [Click Here for the Full Announcement.](#)

## ***USDOT SMART GRANTS NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY***

**AGENCY:** Office of the Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology (OST-R), U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT or the Department)

**ACTION:** Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO), Assistance Listing (formerly CFDA) #20.941

**SUMMARY:** The purpose of this notice is to solicit applications for Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Stage 1 Planning and Prototyping grants. Funds for the fiscal year (FY) 2023 SMART Grants Program are to be awarded on a competitive basis to conduct demonstration projects focused on advanced smart city or community technologies and systems to improve transportation efficiency and safety.

**DATES:** Applications must be submitted by **5:00 PM ET on Tuesday, October 10, 2023**. Late applications will not be accepted.

**ADDRESSES:** Applications must be submitted via Valid Eval, an online submission proposal system used by USDOT, at [https://usg.valideval.com/teams/USDOT\\_SMART\\_2023/signup](https://usg.valideval.com/teams/USDOT_SMART_2023/signup). USDOT will not accept or review application materials submitted via Grants.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:** Please contact SMART Grants Program staff via email at [smart@dot.gov](mailto:smart@dot.gov) or call Roxanne Ledesma at 202-774-8003. The deadline to submit technical questions is **5:00 PM ET on Friday, September 29, 2023**.

- [Click Here for Full NOFO](#)



# Funding Opportunities Cont.

## *REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS TO SUPPORT TRIBAL PARTICIPATION IN E-ENTERPRISE 2024-2029*

**Deadlines:** **October 16, 2023**

**Eligible Entities:** Interstate, intrastate, states, local entities, public and private nonprofit institutions/organization, **federally recognized Tribal governments**, U.S. territories and possessions, individuals/families.

**Summary:** The goal is to support and enhance tribal participation in E-Enterprise by providing tribes necessary research, training, and technical assistance. The scope of work is broad and may involve supporting topics that relate to many environmental program areas including but not limited to air, climate, water, chemical safety, land clean-up and revitalization, enforcement and compliance, and environmental justice. EPA intends to award \$1 million over 5-years to one recipient through a cooperative agreement.

**Important Dates:** On September 20, 2023, from 1:00-2:30pm ET EPA's Office of E-Enterprise will host an informational webinar for potential applicants using Zoom.

- [Click Here to Register for this webinar.](#)

### ***DIESEL EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT (DERA) NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY***

**AGENCY:** USEPA

**TITLE:** 2022-2023 Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) National Grants

**ANNOUNCEMENT TYPE:** Notice of Funding Opportunity

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITY NUMBER:** EPA-OAR-OTAQ-23-03

**ASSISTANCE LISTING NUMBER:** 66.039

#### **IMPORTANT DATES:**

- Wednesday, August 2nd, 2023; Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Opens
- Friday, November 10th, 2023; Final Date to Submit Questions
- **Friday, December 1st, 2023;** NOFO Closes – Application Deadline
- March 2024 Anticipated Notification of Selection
- June 2024 – August 2024 Anticipated Awards Application packages must be submitted electronically to EPA through Grants.gov no later than Friday, December 1, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time (ET) to be considered for funding.

The total estimated funding expected to be available for awards under this competitive opportunity is approximately \$115 million: \$58 million funded with FY 2022 funding and \$57 million funded with FY 2023 funding.

- [Click Here for Full NOFO](#)

