Choctaw Nation HELP
(Healthy Energy Living Project)

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Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma
“Sustaining our people, our traditions, our earth.”
Choctaw Nation Introduction

- The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma covers 11,299 square miles in southeastern Oklahoma and serves over 205,000 members worldwide.

- The Choctaw Nation Health Services Authority is a member of the Indian Health Services system and maintains a hospital and 7 outpatient clinics located throughout SE OK.

- Our hospital is 145,000 sq ft with 37 inpatient beds and 52 exam rooms.

- Began funding conservation measures through Department of Energy Grant in 2009
  - Hired Energy Manager
  - Began completing facility audits
  - Identified and initiated facility retrofits
Our Energy Conservation History

• Evaluation of conservation measures
• Initiated conservation retrofits:
  ▫ HVAC, lighting and window replacement, additional insulation
• Initiated facility energy audits
• New Buildings are being constructed with efficient lighting, windows, etc.
Building Retrofits to Date

- Hospital and one Clinic & 3 small facilities
  - Light bulb replacement/reduction; occupancy sensors
- Durant Headquarters Facility
  - Window replacement, light bulb replacement and reduction, vending machine misers, occupancy sensors
- Gaming Facilities
  - 8 buildings (various sizes)
    - Light bulb replacement / reduction; occupancy sensors
- 7 Community Centers
  - Light bulb replacement
Facility Audits

- Audits include a review of:
  - Previous 12 months of all utility billing
  - Building and construction type and building layout
  - Internal load – lighting, refrigeration, cooking/office equipment, number of people
  - Other loads – outdoor security and parking lights, motor loads, hot water heating
  - HVAC system and duct work
  - Thermostat settings
  - Insulation
  - Utility rates
Benefits of Program

• Awareness / Education of Tribal Members, Employees and Local Communities for energy conservation methods
  ▫ Employee Training Sessions
  ▫ Through Newspaper articles to local communities / members
  ▫ Sharing of Results

• Environment: reduce energy consumption
CSC Grant Initiatives

1) Install energy efficient lighting in our hospital and our out-patient clinics

2) Conduct on-going education for our employees and tribal members to reduce energy usage

3) Disseminate a White Paper detailing the process and success of the project

4) Produce and circulate a DVD emphasizing the success of the project and energy reduction education to conserve energy

5) Earth Day is Every Day Youth Event
CSC Grant Results

1) Able to retrofit the interior hospital lighting, hospital entrance canopy and the parking lot lighting as well as two small clinics on site in Talihina, OK and a larger clinic and drug refill center in Poteau, OK

- Reduced kilowatt hour usage by 400,000 kwh/year
- Estimated dollar savings of $21,500.
- Greenhouse Gas reductions were 292 MT CO$_2$, 1,439 lbs of SO$_2$ and 888 lbs of NOx
Grant Continuation Plans

- The DOE grant has ended and our EPA grant is coming to an end as well. With no on-going funding we have created the following strategy to continue the program:
  1) Prioritize facilities that need the most assistance based on energy consumption
  2) Consider utility rebates available… Light retrofit, occupancy sensors, etc
  3) If energy savings is significant and rebates are available we can complete retrofits for minimal or no cost to the tribe
  4) The new program purchases the retrofit supplies and in most cases the facility completes the retrofit with own labor.
  5) Rebates are submitted and go back into the Building Conservation fund along with a 25% annualized savings ‘fee’
  6) The savings are based upon documented usage and expected reduction
  7) The combination of the rebates and the savings fee allows the program to continue to complete projects
Other Environmental Initiatives

- Recycling has become a strong point for the tribe. Prior to our opening a public recycling facility in Durant, OK in December, 2010 there was no place to recycle within our 11,300 sq mile area.
  - Today we recycle all types of paper and cardboard, plastics 1, 2 and 5, aluminum and steel/tin cans, Styrofoam, printer cartridges and electronic waste.
  - In 2012, we have recycled over 1,500,000 pounds of material.
- Early January, 2013 we expect to open a second recycling facility in Poteau, OK.
- Also have adopted 10 miles of highway for clean up/wildflower planting, adopted numerous parks for clean up, conducted recycling events for general materials and electronic waste.
- Conducted used toy drives at Christmas.
Questions??

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