

2026

2ND ANNUAL

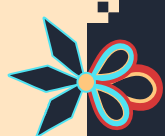
TRIBAL ENERGY FORUM

HOSTED BY THE TRIBAL ADVOCACY COUNCIL ON ENERGY (TACE)

Empowering Sustainable Futures Through Energy Sovereignty
"Sovereign Energy for the Next Seven Generations."



AGENDA



October 8-9, 2026

www.nativesun.org/tace

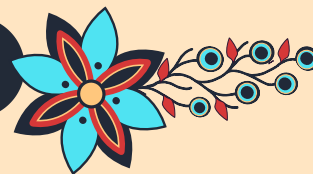


Lower Sioux Indian Community | Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel

• 2ND ANNUAL

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Welcome Biindigen | Tanyáŋ yahí

The Tribal Advocacy Council on Energy (TACE) is a sovereign, inter-tribal body dedicated to enhancing energy independence, sustainability, and economic opportunity across Tribal Nations in Minnesota. By fostering coordination among Tribal leadership, state and federal agencies, and clean energy partners, TACE works to ensure Indigenous priorities shape regional energy planning and policy development. The Tribal Advocacy Council on Energy (TACE) is a first-of-its-kind, Tribal-led organization established in Minnesota to advance energy sovereignty, policy coordination, and long-term clean energy planning among Tribal Nations.

The Tribal Advocacy Council on Energy (TACE) Members are represented by:
Co-Chair, Tracy Burr, **Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe** - Misi-zaaga'igani Anishinaabeg

✿ **Bois Forte Band of Chippewa** -
Zagaakwaandagowininiwag
Amy Mason, Energy Director

✿ **Bois Forte Band of Chippewa** -
Zagaakwaandagowininiwag
Randy Long, IT Director

✿ **Fond du Lac Band
of Lake Superior Chippewa** -
Nagaajiwanaang
Annika Frazer, Sustainability Analyst

✿ **Fond du Lac Band
of Lake Superior Chippewa** -
Nagaajiwanaang
Arianna Northbird

✿ **Grand Portage Band of
Lake Superior Chippewa** -
Gichi-onigamiing
Krishna Woerheide, Env.
Director/R5 RTOC Rep

✿ **Grand Portage Band of
Lake Superior Chippewa** -
Gichi-onigamiing
Vallen Cook, Director,
Land Trust & Resources

✿ **Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe** -
Gaa-miskwaabikokaag
Brandy Toft, Director

✿ **Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe** -
Gaa-miskwaabikokaag
John Kingbird,
Sustainability Coordinator

✿ **Lower Sioux Indian Community** -
Čaŋšayápi
Kristi Schoen, Lower Sioux Tribal Council
Member

✿ **Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe** -
Misi-zaaga'igani Anishinaabeg
Kelly Applegate,
Commissioner of Natural Resources

✿ **Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe** -
Misi-zaaga'igani Anishinaabeg
Tracy Burr, MLBO Commissioner of
Community Development.

✿ **Prairie Island Indian Community** -
Tíŋta Wita
Ron Johnson, PIIC Tribal Council Member
✿ **Prairie Island Indian Community** -
Tíŋta Wita
Andrea Zimmerman,
Energy Program Manager

✿ **Red Lake Nation** -
Miskwaagamiiwi-Zaagaiganing
Robert Blake

✿ **Red Lake Nation** -
Miskwaagamiiwi-Zaagaiganing
Brian Seki

✿ **Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux
Community** -
Śákpe Mdewákhanthunwan Dakóta Oyáte
Jac Campbell, Sustainability Coordinator

✿ **White Earth Nation** -
Gaa-waababiganikaag
Jacob McArthur, Secretary, Treasury

✿ **White Earth Nation** -
Gaa-waababiganikaag
Nathan (Nate) Mathews,
Ex. Dir. Tribal Utility Commission (TUC)

AGENDA



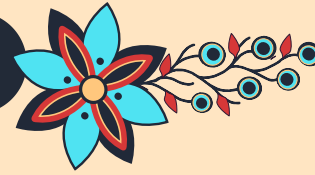
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Structure: An independent, inter-tribal advocacy council composed of primary and alternate appointees from 10 of Minnesota's 11 federally recognized Tribal Nations.

TACE is Tribally led and operates independently from the State. Participating Tribal Nations appoint representatives to serve on the Council. TACE meets quarterly, with subcommittees meeting between full Council meetings. The Minnesota Department of Commerce provides Tribal liaison and administrative support.

TACE is Tribally led and operates independently from the State. Each participating Tribe appoints a primary and alternate representative. TACE meets quarterly, with two subcommittees meeting monthly. TACE serves as an advocacy and advisory body to the Minnesota Department of Commerce and fosters mutual support among its members. The Minnesota Department of Commerce provides Tribal liaison and administrative support.

History:

The idea originated in 2019 during consultations between Tribal leadership and the state. In 2023, the Minnesota Legislature passed a bill that provided funding and authorized the Minnesota Department of Commerce to provide development and administrative support to formally establish the council.

Tribal leaders introduced the idea of establishing TACE in 2019 through their engagement with the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council. From 2019 through 2023, the Minnesota Department of Commerce pursued legislation to support TACE's development and administration. Enabling legislation passed in 2023 with a one-time appropriation of \$300,000. Tribal leadership and Commerce then convened a workgroup

to develop bylaws and establish Tribal representation. The first official meeting of appointed TACE members was held in October 2024.

TACE hosted its first Tribal Energy Forum in September 2025, and its Strategic Plan was unanimously adopted in May 2026

Core Mission:

TACE is committed to advancing recommendations to improve Tribal energy on Reservations, Adjacent Territories, and Ceded Territories through meaningful consultation, effective collaboration, partnerships, policies, and legislation.

Values:

Connection; Innovation; Collective Action; Partnership; Unique; Optimism; Strength; Tribal Sovereignty; Energy; Energy Resilience; Community; Learning; Collaboration; Unity; Inclusion; Empowerment; Diversity; Relationship Building; Communication; Trust; Culture; Authentic; Expertise; Determined; Strength; Creative; Leadership; Connections.

Focus Areas:

Establish a sustainable organizational model including funding and staffing to ensure TACE's continuity, autonomy, and effective leadership.

Collaboration and Impact:

Building a Resilient Future. TACE actively partners with key organizations, including Native Sun Community Power Development, to host the annual Tribal Energy Forum. This premier event brings together Tribal leaders, utilities, clean energy developers, and state and federal agencies to address grid readiness, advance infrastructure development, and strengthen regional climate resilience.

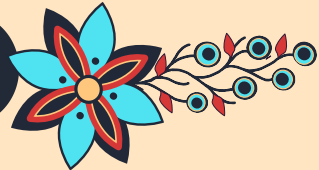
[LEARN MORE](#)

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• 2ND ANNUAL



TRIBAL ENERGY FORUM

Date: **October 8, 2026**

Time: **7:00 AM - 7:30PM**

01

Registration

Breakfast

7:00 – 8:00 AM

Forum Opening

8:00 – 9:00 AM

9:00 – 9:30 AM

- Drum
- Invocation
- Color Guard

Welcome from Lower Sioux Indian Community - Čaŋšayápi Leadership

Welcome from TACE: **Co-Chair Tracy Burr**,

9:30 – 10:00 AM

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe - Misi-zaaga'igani Anishinaabeg,
Commissioner of Community Development, with Guest Speaker.

Welcome & Acknowledgments: **Julia Dreier**, Interim Commissioner,
Minnesota Department of Commerce.

Breakout Session

10:00 to 10:15 AM

02

Breakout Session I

10:15 – 11:00 AM

Lower Sioux Indian Community - Čaŋšayápi Hempcrete and housing program	Danny Desjarlais, <i>Industrial Hemp Project Manager</i>	Crossed Arrows A
Aki Giizis: Community development, workforce, and housing partnership work with Minnesota Tribes.	Dr. Luke (Lucas Aaron) Warnsholz, Executive Director of the <i>Minnesota Chippewa Tribe</i> and Corey Pemberton, <i>Foundational Architect, Ops Leader & Tribal Consultant</i> .	Crossed Arrows B
Solar Tiny Homes (coupled with portable solar tiny home displayed in parking lot)	Doug Shoemaker, <i>Vice Chair Minnesota Renewable Energy Society (MRES)</i>	Crossed Arrows D
Minnesota Indigenous Energy Workforce Initiative	Annette Kuyper, <i>Core Co Organizer and Program Director</i> , and Kevion Ellis, <i>Workforce Partnerships Manager</i>	Crossed Arrows E

Break with snack – Move to breakout session

11:00 – 11:15 AM

03

Tribal Energy Showcase

11:15 – 12:30 PM

Presentation on TACE Strategic Plan

- Co-Chair Tracy Burr, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe - Misi-zaaga'igani Anishinaabeg
- Jackie Dionne, MN Department of Commerce, Director of Tribal Affairs
- Amy Fredregill, Senior Director of Sustainability at WSB



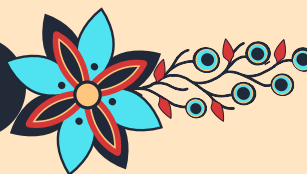
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Date: **October 8, 2026**

Time: **7:00 AM – 7:30PM**

04

Lunch with Speaker

12:30 – 1:30 PM

Bridget Williams, Policy Coordinator for the Energy Systems of the Great Plains Institute (GPI). (12:30-1:00 PM)

Break – Move to breakout sessions

1:30 – 1:45 PM

05

Breakout Session II

1:45 – 2:30 PM

8th Fire Solar, Community Solar Thermal	Gwe Gasco, <i>Program Director</i>	Crossed Arrows A
MN CARD Heat Pump Project	Laura Manthe (SlipStream), <i>Senior Manager of Community Outreach</i>	Crossed Arrows B
Oceti Sakowin Power Authority	Caroline Herron, <i>Project Director / Project Manager</i> and Ronald Neiss, <i>Council of Elders Member</i>	Crossed Arrows D
Midwest Industrial Transformation Initiative (MITI)	Jamie Alexander, <i>Director of External Affairs and Strategic Partnerships</i>	Crossed Arrows E

Snack Break

2:30 – 3:00 PM

Carbon Markets in Minnesota Presentation
Minnesota House Representative Larry Kraft,
representing District 46A.

3:00 – 4:00 PM

Networking and Vendor Time

4:00 – 5:00 PM

06

Dinner Feast

5:30 – 7:30 PM

Keynote Speaker:

- Dr. Gabriel Chan, UMN Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs, on Inter-Tribal Utility.
- Guest Speaker – Ray Wiseman, Yakama Power, General Manager.



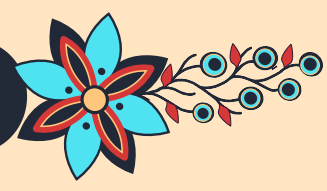
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TRIBAL ENERGY FORUM

Date: **October 9, 2026**

Time: **8:00 AM - 12:00PM**

01

Breakfast

8:00 – 9:00 AM

Presentation:

PowerOn Midwest of transmission project and Tribal collaboration with Xcel Energy, Great River Energy and ITC Midwest.

02

Data Centers and Tribal Nations Panel

9:00 – 10:30 AM

Infrastructure, Siting, and Long Term Impacts.

- **Data Center Panel Moderator: Lissa Pawlisch**, Assistant Commissioner for Federal and State Initiatives, Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources.
- **Bridget Williams**, Policy Coordinator for the Energy Systems team at the Great Plains Institute (GPI).
- **Dr. Jean Hardy**, Michigan State University, Associate Professor at Michigan State University and Associate Director of the Quello Center for Media & Information Policy.
- **Chantel Greene**, Founder and CEO of Xexus Greene Energy LLC (heavily involved with UnityCloud.AI) and Nez Perce tribal member.
- **Catherine Neuschler**, Executive Director of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB)

Raffle Drawing & Forum Review

10:30 – 11:00 AM

Closing Ceremony and Boxed Lunches To-Go

11:00 – 12:00 PM

Acknowledgment of Minnesota State Commerce leadership that supported TACE in its establishment:

- **Grace Arnold**, Minnesota Department of Commerce, Former Commissioner
- **Melissa “Lissa” Pawlisch**, Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs), Assistant Commissioner
- **Sydney Lieb, PhD**, Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC), Assistant Commissioner
- **Pete Wyckoff, PhD**, Evergreen Action, Former Deputy Commissioner of Energy Resources



AGENDA



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• CONFERENCE LOCATION

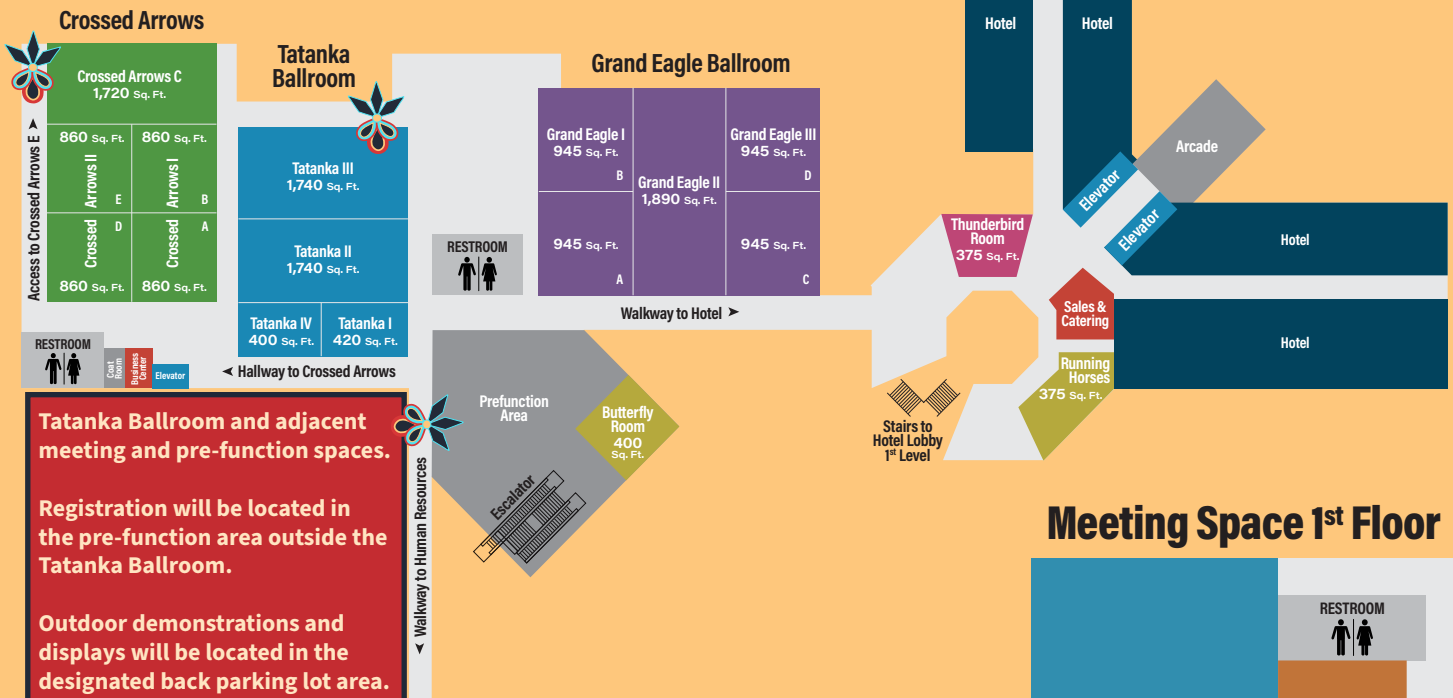
THE JACKPOT JUNCTION CASINO HOTEL

39375 County Road 24, Morton, MN 56270

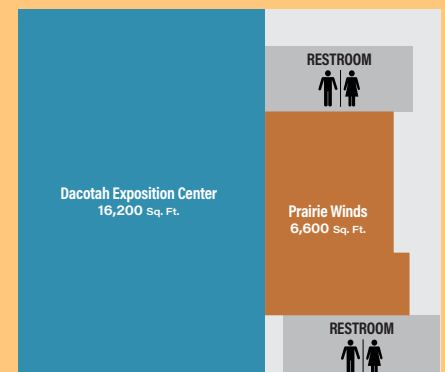
The entire resort complex sits on sovereign tribal land of the Lower Sioux Indian Community along the southern bluff of the Minnesota River Valley, just two miles south of the city of Morton.



Meeting Space 2nd Floor



Meeting Space 1st Floor



LODGING RESERVATIONS

By Phone: You can speak with a reservations agent by calling their main line at 1-800-WIN-CASH (1-800-946-2274) or click for online.



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DIVISION OF ENERGY RESOURCES



• EXHIBITOR VENDORS

- 8th Fire Solar
- Baker Tilly
- Center for Energy and Environment (CEE)
- Citizens Utility Board of Minnesota (CUB)
- Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs)
- Enterprise Energy
- Dakota Cabins
- Fully Promoted
- KLJ Engineering
- MN E-Bikes

- Minnesota Renewable Energy Society (MRES)
- Native Sun Community Power Development
- Resircle8 / eFinery Energy
- Resircle8 / North Star PBC
- Solar Bear
- United Bus Sales
- University of Minnesota, Center for Science, Technology and Environmental Policy
- World Resources Institute

Graphics, and artwork by Sarah Miskwaa-ens Migiziwigwan
www.LittleRedfeatherdesign.com
Photography by Nedahness Rose Greene



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