U.S. Department of Energy
2017 National Tribal Energy Summit

SMALL SCALE TRIBAL ENERGY PROJECTS
MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS
Mississippi Choctaw

Federal Recognition in 1945
10,800 enrolled members
35,000 acres of Trust Land
8 Communities in East Central Mississippi
Democratically-elected Government
Tribal Manufacturing Companies

Metal Fabrication
Powder Coating
Plastic Injection Molding
Fiberglass/Light Resin Transfer Molding

Spray Painting
Electronic Assembly
Wire Harnesses
HVAC Systems
Gaming and Tourism
Tribal Service Companies

General Contractor
Electrical Subcontractor
Licensed Nursing Home
Security Guard

IT / Telecom
Calibration / Metrology
Commercial Laundry Operations
Commercial Real Estate
Energy Deal Flow (2010-2015)

- Natural Gas fired “peaker plant” proposal
- Utility-scale biomass plant proposal
- Utility-scale solar project proposal
- Natural gas service proposal
- Compressed Natural Gas vehicle conversion proposal
- Tribally-owned Utility Company proposal
- Hydropower Plant proposal
- Wood Pellet Mill proposal
Tremendous deal flow related to energy development opportunities
We have cheap and reliable electricity. Why rock the boat?
Every project evaluation was a heavy-lift
Needed to get all key stakeholders on the same page
Our Strategic Planning Timeline

**September 22**: Attended National Tribal Energy Summit D.C.

**October 12**: Contacted Liz Doris – NREL

**November**: Gathered energy data

**Dec. 1-2**: Two day planning session at Choctaw

**Dec. 3**: Two-page plan summary received from NREL

**Jan. 5**: Received 1st draft of Strategic Energy Plan (20 pages)

**Jan. 15**: Tribal Council adopted Strategic Energy Plan
Key Stakeholders

**Coordinator (1):** Economic Development Director

**Core Team (6):** Chief of Staff, Development Director, Economic Development Director, Public Works Director, Choctaw Electrical General Manager, Housing Development Coordinator

**Elected Officials (18):** Tribal Chief and Tribal Council

**Key Stakeholders (30):** Housing, Schools, Casinos, Natural Resource, Hospital, Environmental, Tribal Administration, Forestry, Finance, Legal, Baker-Tilly (energy development consultants)

- Large energy users
- Anyone that would need to be involved in a development project

Tip: everyone was invited to attend by a written letter from Tribal Chief
Our Plan

Vision Statement: Maximize economic benefits and quality of life for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians through responsible, efficient, and strategic energy development and use

1. **Energy Efficiency**: audits, workforce training, replacement plan, new building codes
2. **Transit Authority**: replacement plan, natural gas conversion study
3. **Renewable Energy**: select pilot project
4. **Heating**: explore natural gas service expansion
5. **Operations**: develop energy usage database, hire Energy Manager
6. **Other**: review existing & proposed new energy contracts
Feasibility Study – BIA-DEMD:

- Residential
  - Not feasible at this time
- Combined Heat & Power
  - Not feasible at this time
- Compressed Natural Gas Fleet Conversion
  - Not feasible at this time
- Commercial & Governmental Facility Conversion
  - Will save the Tribe $1 million per year

Phase 1:

- Commercial & Government load
  - Free upfront vs. buy down
  - Groundbreaking in June 2017
Biomass to Energy (B2E) Facility – Growth in Feedstock Sources

- **Notes:**
  - Biewer (Newton, MS – 57 mi) 280,000 TPY Chips, 90,000 TPY Bark, 60,000 TPY Sawdust, 36,000 TPY Shavings
  - Weyerhaeuser (Philadelphia, MS – 28 mi) 25,000 TPY Bark
  - Others (red marks) - TBD

Winston Plywood Facility
Biomass to Energy (B2E) – Project Background

- Notes:
  - Winston Plywood & Veneer will generate 400 M square feet of plywood per year
  - The new plywood facility will employ about 400 workers
  - MBCI is proposing a B2E facility be constructed directly adjacent to the plywood manufacturing facility that would use waste wood from Winston to create steam and electricity for use by Winston in their production processes
Project Opportunity

Provide an economical disposal solution for Winston Plywood’s low value residual

Provide renewable steam & power to WP’s operation at an equivalent or lower price point than natural gas.

Provide energy product that is fixed over time to give Winston a hedge against natural gas/power fluctuations.

Leverage an available site owned by MBCI, and its inherent advantages

Utilize incentives available to MBCI via status as a tribal government

MBCI as a flexible partner-goal #1 is economic development for the tribe.
Financing Options +/-$10 million

New Markets Tax Credits

Traditional Debt: with or without guarantee

Tribal Economic Development Bonds

3rd party lease purchase
Yakoki!

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