



# MASHKIIZIBII MINIGRID

## Community Benefits Commitments Summary



Energy Coordinator & Climate Change Specialist Jillian Wilde at Wastewater Treatment Plant microgrid

This Community Benefits Commitments fact sheet describes how the Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas Program's project award recipient, Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians (also known as Mashkiiziibii in the Ojibwemowin language), intends to engage community and labor stakeholders and collaboratively develop plans for maximizing project benefits and minimizing or mitigating any potential negative impacts. These commitments will be updated at the end of each phase to reflect key learnings and developments as the project advances.

The Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians plans to build a 5 MW solar photovoltaic (solar PV) array and an 8 MWh battery energy storage system to connect with existing diesel and natural gas generation. This combination would form a hybrid minigrid that would power the reservation's Odanah, Aspen Acres, Franks Field, and Birch Hill communities. The implementation of a hybrid minigrid would increase the Tribe's energy resilience and reliability, while moving them closer to energy sovereignty.



## COMMUNITY AND TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT

The Bad River Band of the Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa Indians, a federally recognized tribe, would manage the operations and maintenance of the project. Tribal leadership intends to organize Community Discovery Workshops, public meetings, presentations, and surveys to understand the community's needs and priorities, support two-way learning, and inform project decisions.

Drawing on the well-established Bad River Energy Advisory Working Group, the Tribe plans to create a Community Advisory Board to provide direct input into community engagement planning, helping ensure engagement meets the needs and priorities of impacted communities and underrepresented groups, and help identify project impacts, mitigation strategies, and Justice40 metrics.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Bad River Band is a member of the Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association (MTERA), a tribal community network taking collective action on clean energy developments. Both are members of the Clean Energy Community Initiative (CECI), a statewide network of more than 120 partners led by the University of Wisconsin–Madison that focuses on building an equitable, community-centered clean energy transition in Wisconsin through two-way engagement with stakeholder groups and communities.

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The project's workforce development strives to encompass two areas: professional development and new employee training. The Bad River Band plans to partner with the University of Wisconsin–Madison to support a one-year Renewable Energy Certificate program, delivering participants into the clean energy workforce or a 4-year science and engineering degree. Together with the tribal energy planning group and local utility, the project also intends to explore opportunities for an internship program for Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe University graduates and skilled workers seeking careers in clean energy.

## EQUITABLE IMPACTS

The Bad River Reservation is home to 1,545 residents that face a 14% unemployment rate, harsh winter weather, extreme storms and flooding that cause extended power outages. The Mashkiiziibii Minigrig project plans to work to create quality construction and permanent jobs, offer workforce development opportunities, provide grid resilience, reduce energy burdens, and help the Bad River Band reach its goal of net-zero carbon emissions with 100% renewable electricity by 2027.