

# Uk'e koley

## “No Footprint”

Chickaloon Village Traditional Council  
*Nay'dini'aa Na'*

# Brief Summary of Tribe:

- *Nay'dini'aa Na'* meaning: a log across the river
- Our Tribe has long been devoted to being a good steward to the environment, understanding that it is our responsibility to take care of the land that has been loaned to us for the short time we are here.

# Brief Summary of Tribe:

- Historically harvested resources include salmon, moose, caribou, beluga whale, grizzly and black bear, dall sheep, beaver and numerous other animals and plants for food, medicine, tools and fiber.

# Brief Summary of Tribe:

- As a result of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act 1971 (ANCSA), the Tribe's current land holdings consist of approximately 72,000 acres that are spread among numerous non-contiguous parcels, with the largest single parcel covering 20,000 acres and the smallest consisting of less than 40 acres.

# Brief Summary of Tribe:

- Dating as far back as 1900, Chickaloon Village's traditional territories have been subjected to non-sustainable resource extraction including coal, copper and gold mining, oil and gas drilling, and logging. The highway and railroad construction also impacted Tribal lands negatively.

# Brief Summary of Tribe:

- As a response to the environmental and social injustice suffered by Chickaloon Village Tribal Citizens coupled with the passing of the Alaska Native Claims and Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971, our Elders re-established the Chickaloon Village Traditional Council (CVTC) in 1973 to reassert the Tribe's identity, cultural traditions, and economic self-sufficiency.

# CVTC's mandate & long range goals

- CVTC's mandate is to perpetuate our ancestors' beliefs, customs, traditions, values and steward our environment to help our citizens thrive.
- Goal #1: Rejuvenate Athabascan culture, oral traditions, spirituality, Ahtna Athabascan language, songs, and dances based on our traditional values.

# CVTC's mandate & long range goals

- Goal #2: Exercise and assert our self-determination by developing and managing programs and services to solve our health, social, housing, educational, judicial, transportation, and economic development needs.
  
- Goal #3: Protect, enhance, and restore our ancestral lands, waters, and air and ensure respectful development.

# CVTC's mandate & long range goals

- Goal #4: Ensure local, regional/state, national, and international recognition and sovereignty of the Athabascan Nation and Nay'dini'aa Na' Traditional Village (Chickaloon Native Village).
  
- Goal #5: Strengthen our Council, Staff Members, and Tribal Citizens by respectfully increasing communication, educational development, and collaboration.

# Brief Summary of Tribe:

- Since reorganization of the CVTC, positive progress has been made in each of the five areas, and the council has developed a strategic plan designed to help achieve each of the above outlined long-range goals.

# Brief Summary of Tribe:

- Our Tribe has been recognized for the exemplary vision, implementation, grant administration and reporting of its programs by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

# Brief Summary of Tribe:

- Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government awarded its 2002 Highest Honors Award in Tribal Governance to our Ya Ne Dah Ah "Ancient Teachings" School.

# Brief Summary of Tribe:

- In 2006 our Moose Creek Restoration Project received a national-level U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Award "in recognition of outstanding contribution to fisheries and habitat conservation."

# Brief Summary of Tribe:

- Chickaloon Native Village gained federal recognition on November 24, 1982, according to Federal Register Vol. 58, No. 202. We are governed by a nine-member Traditional Council (CVTC), tasked to reassert the Tribes identity and cultural traditions, and create economic self-sufficiency for the Tribe.

# Brief Summary of Tribe:

- Our Tribe is managed by an *Executive Director* and is divided into six (6) departments to serve the needs of our Tribal citizens and another estimated 5,500 Alaska Natives and Native American living in our service area, the Matanuska-Susitna (Mat-Su) Valley.

# Brief Summary of Tribe:

- Our departments include Health and Social Services, Housing, Education, Environmental Stewardship, Transportation, and Accounting/Administration.

# Brief Summary of Tribe:

- With each having a *Department Director* assigned to the day-to-day management, development and implementation of programs. Some programs require a *Program Manager or Project Manager* who then report directly to the *Department Director*.

# Project Overview:

## Our long-term Energy Vision:

- Is to produce enough clean, renewable energy to power and heat all our existing buildings and rental housing units, and become a green energy supplier to the regional utility company.

# Project Overview:

## Our Long-term Energy Goal:

- Protect, enhance and restore our ancestral lands, water and air and ensure respectful, healthy development by reducing our reliance on fossil fuels.

# Project Overview:

## Project Goal:

- To conduct a feasibility study to assess the energy uses, loads, and efficiencies for all of our current Tribally owned and operated buildings and rental housing units, to determine if it makes economic and environmental sense to install renewable energy systems on each building to lower our carbon footprints and to decrease our dependence on fossil fuels.

# Project Location

- Our Tribe is located in Southcentral Alaska approximately one-and-a-half hours drive from Anchorage, Alaska's largest city.

# Project Location

- Our traditional homelands cover a vast area that is roughly bounded by the Talkeetna Mountains to the north, the Copper River to the east, the Chugach National Forest to the south, and Cook Inlet/Gulf of Alaska to the west.

# Project Locations

- All of our current Tribally owned and operated buildings and rental housing units are spread out over 4 different locations.
- They are approximately within a 5 mile radius of one another.

# Project Locations



Administration office



Environmental, Housing,  
& Energy Project Offices

# Project Locations



12 Low Income Housing Units

Government, Health & Social Services Offices

# Project Locations



Education, ICWA, &  
Transportation Offices



Ya Ne Dah Ah School

# Project Participants

- CVTC will hire a full-time Project Manager for the *Uk'e koley* Project. The *Uk'e koley* Project Manager will report to the Environmental Stewardship Department Director, who reports to the Executive Director, who reports to the governing body, Chickaloon Village Traditional Council.

# Project Participants

- We will also hire contractor(s) to complete technical portions of the feasibility study such as the energy audit, pollution audit and renewable energy system installation plan.
- The contractors will also be responsible for providing informal training to the Project Manager on multiple aspects of the renewable energy feasibility assessment.

# *Objective One:*

- Conduct an energy audit documenting current energy consumption and heating loads including a pollution audit to measure carbon dioxide emissions associated with our current energy systems by the end of the second quarter of the grant.

## *Objective Two:*

- Determine the energy systems best suitable for our needs based on the availability of natural renewable energy resources in our region by the end of the fourth quarter of the grant.

## *Objective Three:*

- Develop a written plan to install renewable energy systems in all of our Tribally-owned buildings by the end of the second quarter of year two of the grant.

## *Objective Four:*

- To train the *Uk'e koley* Project Manager through formal and informal methods to build the capacity of the Tribe to manage our new green energy systems.

# Relevant Background Information

- Taking care of the environment is the Athabascan way; it is as much a part of our culture as drumming and dancing. We were originally a nomadic people following the herds, moving from site to site making sure that the land and environment was left with no visible ‘unnatural footprint’. We are in a new age, where the ‘unnatural footprint’ is that of a carbon footprint.



We installed a tracking solar panel system in 2003 to help with our school's power needs and to plant the seed of renewable energy in our children's minds.

# Relevant Background Information

- As we, as a Tribe, strive to regain our traditional ways, fighting to revitalize our language and culture, we are also fighting to take our place as environmental leaders within our community. We want to teach our people, our children and our community how to thrive, as we did for thousands of years, leaving no “unnatural footprint” behind.



We built a “Green” four-seasons greenhouse in 2006 with in-floor heating, powered by 3 solar panels and a wind generator.

# Relevant Background Information

- This philosophy has helped to shape the vision and goals of our Tribe. To continue to teach our values to our Tribal citizens and the larger community, we need partners who support our vision for a future with no unnatural footprints.

# Conclusion

- We hope you will join us on our path to create “*Uk’e koley*”, meaning “*no footprint*” or “That which has no tracks”. We want to leave a legacy for our future generations. For us, this is a legacy of renewable energy.

► I would also like to thank the Department Of Energy, the Tribal Energy Program, and all their staff for all their support.