

# NCAI CLIMATE ACTION TASK FORCE & ITS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

## CLIMATE ACTION TASK FORCE (CATF)

Led by **FOUR TRIBAL LEADER CO-CHAIRS:**

**CO-CHAIR:**  
Melanie Bahnke  
*President*  
Kawerak, Inc.

**CO-CHAIR:**  
Beverly Cook  
*Chief*  
St. Regis Mohawk

**CO-CHAIR:**  
Leonard Forsman  
*Chairman*  
Suquamish Tribe

**CO-CHAIR:**  
**VACANT**

**PARTICIPANTS:** All NCAI members who attend Climate Action Task Force meetings at NCAI conferences

**MISSION:** Document, inform, and support the climate action efforts of tribal nations and organizations, and identify and advocate for policies and funding designed to empower their ability to engage in effective, sustainable climate action.

### CORE FUNCTIONS:

- Formulate and advocate for tribal consensus-based policies at the federal, state, and international levels that: (1) enhance or otherwise support the ability of tribal governments and organizations to engage in climate action on their own terms, and (2) identify funding opportunities for tribal nations and organizations and expand their eligibility for climate action grants.
- Identify, document, and share tribal climate action best practices and effective strategies to shorten the learning curve of tribal nations and organizations eager to launch or strengthen climate action initiatives.
- Develop and maintain working partnerships with other research/technical assistance entities to ensure tribal nations and organizations have ample, coordinated access to quality data, best practices, and other informational resources necessary to engage in informed, strategic climate action.
- Build a national network of tribal climate action stakeholders (tribal leaders, climate action practitioners, researchers, academic institutions, NGOs, philanthropic funders, etc.) that NCAI and its partners can readily obtain tribal climate action information from – and share information with.
- Serve as an information-sharing and advocacy conduit between tribal nations in the U.S. and international human rights forums. Ensure consensus-based tribal priorities and principles for climate change are heard and properly considered by those forums.

**ADVISES &  
SUPPORTS**

## CATF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

Composed of **22 TECHNICAL EXPERTS AND CLIMATE ACTION PRACTITIONERS:**

**12 REGIONAL  
REPRESENTATIVES**

**6 AT-LARGE  
REPRESENTATIVES**

**2 YOUTH  
REPRESENTATIVES**

**2 ELDER  
REPRESENTATIVES**

### CORE FUNCTION:

- Advise and support the deliberations and work of the Task Force, including: (1) informing and assisting with the development and review of NCAI resolutions on climate action, and (2) synthesizing and sharing the best available information and data about climate change impacts and tribal climate action solutions.