



NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AMERICAN INDIANS

CLIMATE ACTION TASK FORCE

Background:

At the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Executive Council Winter Session in February 2019, NCAI President Jefferson Keel announced the launch of NCAI's online [Climate Action Resource Center](#), and the pending establishment of the NCAI Climate Action Task Force (CATF). CATF will be composed of leaders of tribal governments, intertribal organizations, and other key partners. It will work with tribal nations to develop and advocate for consensus-based policy priorities designed to support their climate action efforts.

NCAI staff drafted the following CATF mission and core functions for the Task Force to review, revise, and finalize at its inaugural meeting at NCAI's Mid Year Conference in Reno, Nevada in June 2019.

Defining "Climate Action" (working draft):

For the purposes of this document and the work of the Task Force moving forward, "climate action" is broadly defined as:

any steps taken by tribal nations and Native organizations through laws, policies, comprehensive plan development and implementation, data collection and analysis, and other programmatic activities to (1) mitigate against the existing impacts of climate change, (2) adapt environmental and natural resource management policies and practices to respond to climate change, and (3) decrease/reverse the severity of climate change impacts to ensure climate resilient tribal lands, natural resources, and communities for many generations to come.

CATF Mission (working draft):

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

Core Functions (working draft):

- 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 Native organizations to engage in climate action on their own terms, and (2) identify funding opportunities for tribal nations and Native organizations and expand their eligibility for climate action grants.
- Identify, document, and share tribal climate action best practices and effective strategies with Indian Country in order to shorten the learning curve of tribal nations and Native organizations committed to launching or strengthening climate action initiatives.

- Develop and maintain working partnerships with other research/technical assistance entities to ensure tribal nations and Native 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 gain 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 (United Nations, OAS, etc.). Ensure consensus-based tribal priorities and principles for climate change are heard and properly considered by those forums.

NCAI Resolutions on Climate Change:

http://www.ncai.org/attachments/Resolution_JrErzAACqPaWxntIxBKKfFrmKwMuclRBTvcRBMgMXveKNryvGW_DEN-18-029%20Final.pdf

http://www.ncai.org/attachments/Resolution_NCDmKFSvrETdIUtFZxWeVSayYSqcrfaNBHJfrncWyVPNIcBAXU_MOH-17-053.pdf

http://www.ncai.org/attachments/Resolution_RQIEDgHAWYpzQLoUKEdwjuxDCxyGCwKeLQhGWLAKzxTUAUehsK_PHX-16-058%20final.pdf

http://www.ncai.org/attachments/Resolution_czhUSooldKktyaluKpXbSDxPhNkIRIFOKjawDjPOTHMNPVvhWIM_SD-15-007.pdf

http://www.ncai.org/attachments/Resolution_NZdlSoySpGDwyQAPQHLWnPZLOBFtqiQXqWoQXOVmdKCaPLkzSgm_SD-15-024.pdf

http://www.ncai.org/attachments/Resolution_KBVjcwaiJCjeQUFqVqzKSvLrPxZwyvHiojRgapDGKVrolhCFV_R_EN-13-020%20final.pdf

http://www.ncai.org/attachments/Resolution_PtWCVHczyQrUQiguCLuVzwnliETJSpbIIQGBRiAEIhaFCvUxbSq_S_AC-12-065.pdf