

Ponca Tribe of Nebraska



Michael Boggs – Energy Planner

Project Earth Lover

Earth



Lover

History

- The Ponca's were a peaceful agricultural tribe located along the Niobrara river in northeastern Nebraska.
- In the early 1870's the Ponca's were forced to leave Nebraska and settle in Oklahoma.
- Almost 10 years later the Ponca's were allowed to return to Nebraska. Those that returned are now considered the Northern Ponca's and those that remained are considered the Southern Ponca's
- During this time period the population dwindled to as little as 200.

History continued

- In 1960 the Ponca Tribe was terminated and no longer federally recognized.
- The Northern Ponca Tribe was once again a federally recognized tribe in 1990.
- Our population has grown to 1,236 registered members
- We have no reservation land, but instead we operate with a service delivery area made up of 15 counties.
- We have 5 office sites and own properties in 2 other counties with our headquarters located in Niobrara, Nebraska.



PONCA TRIBE OF NEBRASKA

Service Delivery Area

SOUTH DAKOTA



IOWA

NEBRASKA

★ Office Sites

■ Service Delivery Area

EECBG

- Establish an Energy Department
- Retrofit Projects
- Recycling Program
- Education

Energy Department

- Energy Planner
- Energy Planning Team
 - Energy Planner, Senior Planner, Executive Director, Deputy Director, Risk Benefits Manager, Maintenance Supervisor, Housing Employee, Tribal Council Members
- Earth Lover Branding



Retrofit Projects

- We looked mainly at the 5 office locations.
 - What needs did each office have?
 - What is the future of each office site?
 - Where could we get the most out of our money?
- Norfolk Office
- Niobrara Office

Retrofit Projects - Norfolk



Retrofit Projects - Norfolk

- Old Christian College purchased about 5 years ago.
- 3 main buildings, gym building, administration building, and dorm
- Focus on the administration building
 - Brick exterior and cinder block interior
 - The building is basically divided into 2 halves
 - Retrofits were done on the North half of the building.

Retrofit Projects - Norfolk

- Replaced the HVAC
 - Reconfigured ductwork
 - New insulation in the ceiling
 - Programmable thermostats
- Insulated the walls from the inside
- Replaced existing lighting with LED
- Replaced old single pane windows with new double pane windows
- Replaced exterior doors on gym building

Retrofit Projects - Niobrara



Retrofit Projects - Niobrara

- Old weigh station building
 - Brick exterior with steel siding
- Insulated the outside of the building underneath the siding.
- Sealed, insulated, and covered existing unused door
- Sealed all missing screw holes
- Insulated the heating and air duct
 - Insulation in the ceiling

Retrofit Projects - Niobrara

- Replaced 9 existing single pane windows.
 - Caulked and sealed all other windows
- Replaced exterior door at the rear of the building

Recycling Program

- Purchased our recycling bins and set them up throughout our 5 office sites



- Main challenge is breaking peoples habits of throwing recyclables away.

Education

- Most important roles of the Energy Planner
- Attend all Tribal gatherings
 - Offer energy saving ideas and methods
 - Encourage better uses of resources
 - Encourage active roles in recycling
 - Encourage members to take an active role in changing their habits and the habits of those around them
- Monthly newsletter
- Earth Lover branding



Education

- Weatherization workshops
 - Held at our office sites
 - Demonstrated how to use the weatherization items in the kits
- Weatherization kits
 - Foam weather stripping, window treatments, caulk, spray foam, foam outlet covers, door sweeps

Benefits of EECBG

- **Finances**
 - Allowed for the establishment of Energy department, retrofits to be done, recycling, community education
- **Way of thinking**
 - Opened our eyes to a new way of doing things
 - Staff level
 - Hopefully on the membership level as well

DOE Grant

- Recently received DOE grant that we entitled our Project Earth Lover



- **Purpose:** to perform an Energy Options Analysis (EOA) to empower Tribal leadership with critical information to allow them to effectively screen energy options that will further develop the Tribe's long-term strategic plan and energy vision.

Plan

- To collaborate with our Energy Team to brainstorm and compile energy producing ideas for the Ponca Tribe.
 - Solar, Wind, Geothermal, Biomass
 - To what scale are we wanting to do these.
 - What methods work best for our locations
- Finalize our Scope Of Work (SOW) for the contractor on the wants and needs of the Ponca Tribe.

Plan continued

- Meet with potential contractors (ongoing)
 - Explain what we are looking for
 - Select the contractor
- Begin our EOA (Jan-Feb)
- Present the findings to Tribal Council and get direction on which way the Tribe wants to go
- Continue to pursue grants that will allow for the continuation of our energy efforts.
- Continue to educate the Ponca members on what we are doing, and encourage energy saving practices

Other Projects

- EPA grant for wind energy feasibility
 - Very beginning stages
 - We will be doing wind monitoring at our Norfolk property to see the feasibility of wind energy at this site.

Contact information

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