Partnership for Sustainable Communities

19th Annual Tribal EPA Conference
Pala Band of Mission Indians

Nova Blazej, US EPA Region 9
October 19, 2011
“We’re working to change the way government works, and that means investing tax dollars wisely and well. We want to make sure that when we’re building infrastructure, we’re considering how housing, transportation, and the environment all impact each other.”

-- President Barack Obama, October 21, 2010
Livability Principles

1. Economic Competitiveness
2. Existing Communities
3. Transportation Choices
4. Equitable Affordable Housing
5. Coordinate and Leverage
6. Value Communities
Rural Implementation Group

- Policy Framework: Supporting Sustainable Rural Communities
- Funding ($): Leveraging the Partnership for Rural Communities
- Capacity Building: Focus on tribal grantees and cross-grantee learning
Adopted International Green Construction Code

N.A.T.I.V.E. campus built to IGCC

Developing a Smart Growth Plan

Regional Transportation Planning

Kayenta Township
Local Economic Development

Aerated concrete block
High insulation value

90 Navajo Housing Authority homes
15 Ak-Chin Housing Authority Homes

Navajo FlexCrete
Developing tribal green building codes

Establishing “Regional Review Boards”

Building culturally inspired straw bale housing

Pinoleville Pomo Nation
Large kitchens
East-facing windows
Rounded forms consistent with tradition
Outdoor gathering areas
No financial hardship

Pinoleville Pomo Nation
Tribal Green Building Codes Work Group

- Tribes, NGOs, Federal Agencies
Weatherization + Healthy Homes

- Healthy Homes + Energy Efficiency
- HUD -DOE- EPA Initiative
HUD Sustainable Construction in Indian Country

- Congressionally mandated initiative, completed May 2013
- Review of existing HUD programs
- HUDuser.org

GOALS

1. Identify barriers and opportunities
2. Conduct demonstrations
3. Make training available
HUD Grant Programs for Tribes

- Rural Innovations Funds
- Indian Community Development Block Grant
- Healthy Homes and Lead Technical Studies
- Healthy Homes Demonstration
- Lead Hazard Control Program
HUD Guidance

- **HUD PIH Notice 2008-25**
  Renewable Energy and Green Construction Practices in Public Housing
- Encourages:
  - solar, wind, other renewables
  - green construction and rehab techniques
EPA Resources & Information Sharing

- Smart Growth Implementation Assistance
- Sustainable Communities Building Blocks
- New Partners for Smart Growth Conference
Thank you!