



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-6000

ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR
POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD's) Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R), in partnership with Office of Native American Programs (ONAP), has just launched a new, congressionally mandated effort to support and increase sustainable construction in Native communities. By building sustainable housing, tribes can provide members with homes that are healthier, and more comfortable, durable, and energy efficient.

HUD is seeking tribes and tribally designated housing entities (TDHEs) that may be interested in participating as demonstration projects for sustainable construction in Indian country. There are two types of demonstration projects: completed sustainable projects and those in the planning or early construction phases.

First, a tribe or TDHE with a completed sustainable construction project may be eligible to be featured in a best practice case study. This case study will highlight the sustainable construction practices carried out by the tribe or TDHE and will be made widely available to other tribes to benefit from local adaptation of these best practices.

Secondly, tribes or TDHEs at the beginning of a residential new construction or rehabilitation project (i.e. the planning or early construction phases) and interested in incorporating sustainable construction practices into the project may be eligible for technical assistance and possible inclusion in a best practice case study. Free technical assistance will be available to help incorporate sustainable construction practices into the construction or rehabilitation projects. This technical assistance will be tailored to the cultural, geographic, and climate considerations of the demonstration project. Areas of technical assistance include, but are not limited to:

- Cultural sustainability
- Material and construction practices
- Site analysis
- Energy efficiency strategies/renewable energy resources
- Water efficiency strategies

Construction and all other funding costs remain the responsibility of the participating communities. The technical assistance services will supplement architecture and engineering services to expand or broaden the project's sustainable potentials.

A web page has been created for this initiative. To learn more about this exciting opportunity, visit www.huduser.org/portal/native_american/sustainable_construction.html. You may also contact Mike Blanford, HUD PD&R, at michael.d.blanford@hud.gov or at 202-402-5728.

We would be glad to talk to you about this effort, or answer any questions you may have about this new initiative.

For your information, we are sending a copy of this letter to both the tribal council and TDHE, and hope to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Raphael W. Bostic, Ph.D.
Assistant Secretary for Policy
Development and Research