



# FOCUS ON TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

## Environmental Responsibility

Oneida Nation is home to over 27,000 Wisconsin residents encompassing portions of eastern Outagamie and western Brown counties. With reservation land spanning over 65,000 acres, Oneida Nation values its resources and aims to be good stewards of sustainability. With many facilities within the Oneida Nation, the mission of this community focuses on alleviating energy inefficiencies and pursuing opportunities to conserve its environmental impact.



## Hands-on-Support

Established over 15 years ago, Oneida Nation's energy team comprises representatives with knowledge and insight from multiple disciplines within the organization and the facilities department, including:

- Automotive and Fleet Manager
- Facilities Director
- Public Transit Manager
- Director of Public Works
- Gaming Facilities Director
- Project Managers
- Electrical Department Manager
- General Manager
- Retail General Manager
- Engineering Department
- HVAC/Energy Controls Manager
- Retail Fuel Specialist
- Environmental Director
- Operational Analyst

Many of the on-site positions are staffed by community residents who have gone on to pursue careers in electrical, HVAC, and engineering. Oneida Nation provides on-the-job training experience these individuals need to be successful in their roles.

## Project Coordination

At the end of each year, the facilities department meets to assess upcoming projects and puts together a needs-based list. By working in phases, the group determines which tasks deserve the highest priority and puts effort toward tackling those projects first. The overall goal is to complete upgrades with energy-efficient equipment and return any energy savings to future projects.

Oneida Nation is becoming more proactive regarding alternative forms of energy and has even received a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant to design a solar field and battery storage facility. Wisconsin Public Service has been assisting Oneida Nation during the planning phase. If funded as anticipated, the project will be completed in 2025. These renewable resources will go toward critical care facilities, such as the Nursing Home, Community Health Center, Elder Services and Apartments, and Daycare Center.



*We wear many hats within facility maintenance and planning. Having a dedicated Energy Advisor to assist on projects and facilitate the paperwork process makes it easier for us to pursue energy efficiency upgrades that will provide our community with optimal operations.*

**Ray Olson**  
**Energy/Controls Manager**  
**Oneida Nation - Public Works**

## Award of Excellence

In 2019, FOCUS ON ENERGY® honored Oneida Nation with the Energy Efficiency Excellence Award for its commitment to energy conservation. Oneida Nation has partnered with Focus on Energy on several projects over the years, including a variable volume and controls project and LED lighting conversions with motion sensors at the Turtle School and Norbert Hill Center. These upgrades created a comfortable space for students and staff to learn, and helped the tribe save more than \$55,000 per year in energy costs.

## Recapturing Energy Savings

Most recently, Oneida Nation underwent an equipment upgrade in 2022 at the Packerland One-Stop. This shop, with a high revolving number of visitors, operates every day of the week. As a smoking-friendly facility, bringing in lots of outside air is necessary. An energy recovery ventilation (ERV) system is a type of mechanical equipment that uses a heat exchanger combined with a ventilation system to precondition incoming outdoor air. Oneida Nation's existing system was around 15 years old and was not reclaiming heat anymore. Replacing the equipment would:

**Improve Indoor Air Quality. • Reduce Load on HVAC System. • Lower Energy Bills by 50%.**

After working with the Energy Advisor and mechanical system contractor, they discovered replacing the entire unit would be more cost-effective. This equipment upgrade will provide a comfortable environment for the thousands of visitors the shop serves while operating more efficiently.

## Starting an Energy Team

No matter how big or small your facility is, you can turn energy efficiency into a strategic advantage. Starting an energy team can help you achieve an additional 20%-30% in cost savings by digging deeper into how your building systems operate and identifying equipment deficiencies.

Focus on Energy offers free resources, technical expertise, training opportunities, financial incentives, project ideas, and much more. Visit [focusonenergy.com/toolkit](https://focusonenergy.com/toolkit) to learn how to start an energy team and develop an energy policy. Consult with your local Energy Advisor at [focusonenergy.com/ea-map](https://focusonenergy.com/ea-map).

**Contact Focus on Energy to get started! | 800.762.7077 | [business@focusonenergy.com](mailto:business@focusonenergy.com)**

### REDUCING ENERGY WASTE ACROSS WISCONSIN

Focus on Energy, Wisconsin utilities' statewide program for energy efficiency and renewable energy, helps eligible residents and businesses save energy and money while protecting the environment. Focus on Energy information, resources, and financial incentives help to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that otherwise would not be completed.

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