

YAVAPAI-APACHE NATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DEVELOPMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE ENERGY PLAN
FOR THE
YAVAPAI-APACHE NATION (YAN)

RFP NO.: YAN-SIC-2026-01
YAN STRATEGIC INITIATIVES AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT
RFP ISSUANCE DATE: November 16, 2026

Introduction

The Yavapai-Apache Nation (YAN or Nation) is a federally recognized Tribal Nation located in the Verde Valley of Central Arizona. The Nation is dedicated to serving its citizens, preserving its cultural heritage, strengthening Tribal sovereignty, and responsibly stewarding its lands, facilities, infrastructure, and resources to advance the long-term social, cultural, economic, and environmental well-being of the community.

Energy planning is a vital component of the Nation's broader efforts to improve infrastructure resilience, reduce long-term operating costs, support community-serving facilities, strengthen enterprise operations, and advance energy self-determination, including improved emergency preparedness and long-term climate adaptation strategies. Through this Request for Proposals, the Nation seeks qualified professional consulting services to assist in the development of a comprehensive Yavapai-Apache Nation Energy Plan that is technically sound, implementation-focused, and aligned with the Nation's priorities, operational needs, and long-term governance.

Purpose of the RFP

The purpose of this Request for Proposals (RFP) is to seek qualified professional consulting services to assist in developing a comprehensive Energy Plan for the Yavapai-Apache Nation, including detailed technical assessments, governance analysis, and implementation strategies necessary to support the Nation’s long-term energy sovereignty and resilience. The selected consultant will help the Nation evaluate current energy conditions, identify opportunities for energy efficiency and renewable energy, conduct analyses of facilities and enterprises, assess the feasibility of solar microgrids, evaluate the potential establishment of a Tribal Energy Utility, and explore energy governance pathways, including regulatory, operational, and financial considerations relevant to Tribal, federal, and utility frameworks. Additionally, the consultant will develop a phased implementation roadmap aimed at promoting long-term energy resilience, cost savings, and energy self-determination, with clear prioritization criteria, funding-readiness steps, and recommended timelines.

The final Energy Plan is intended to serve as a practical planning, funding, and implementation document that can guide future energy investments, grant applications, infrastructure planning, workforce development, and decision-making by YAN Leadership and designated Tribal staff, and to support coordination with utilities, regulatory agencies, enterprise operations, and external funding partners.

Project Background

The Yavapai-Apache Nation is advancing a comprehensive energy planning initiative to strengthen Tribal sovereignty, improve long-term energy resilience, reduce long-term

utility costs, and support the responsible stewardship of Tribal lands, facilities, infrastructure, and resources, including enhanced emergency preparedness, Continuity of Operations Planning, and long-term climate adaptation considerations. As a sovereign, federally recognized Tribal Nation, YAN is committed to serving its citizens, preserving its cultural heritage, and pursuing projects that support the long-term social, cultural, economic, and environmental well-being of the community.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) seeks qualified professional consulting services to support the development of the Yavapai-Apache Nation Energy Plan. The Energy Plan will provide a strategic framework for evaluating the Nation's current and future energy needs, identifying opportunities for renewable energy development, assessing energy resilience and cost-savings strategies, and establishing actionable priorities that align with YAN's governance, economic development, infrastructure, environmental stewardship, and community well-being goals, while also supporting funding readiness, regulatory coordination, and long-term Tribal energy sovereignty.

The selected consultant will be expected to conduct a thorough review and analysis of YAN's existing energy conditions, including Tribal government facilities, enterprise facilities, utility service considerations, current and potential renewable energy assets, critical infrastructure needs, energy cost factors, emergency preparedness considerations, and future development priorities, with clear documentation of data sources, assumptions, and any limitations related to utility data access or facility access. This analysis should help the Nation identify practical and phased strategies for improving energy efficiency, expanding renewable energy opportunities, reducing long-term energy costs, and strengthening energy reliability across Tribal operations, enterprise operations, and community-serving facilities.

A major component of this work will include a full energy audit of YAN's Cliff Castle Casino and Hotel, conducted in coordination with Casino leadership and subject to applicable security, access, and operational protocols. This audit should evaluate current energy use, utility consumption patterns, major building systems, operational energy demands, peak load considerations, opportunities for energy efficiency improvements, renewable energy integration potential, and cost-saving measures that may support ongoing casino and hotel operations. The audit should provide actionable recommendations that may include building system upgrades, lighting improvements, HVAC optimization, energy management controls, demand reduction strategies, solar feasibility, battery storage opportunities, and other efficiency or resilience measures appropriate for large Tribal enterprise facilities.

The project will also include a solar microgrid analysis to determine the feasibility, cost, benefits, and implementation considerations for solar and battery storage systems

serving critical Tribal facilities, enterprise facilities, community assets, and future development areas, including an assessment of utility coordination requirements, interconnection constraints, and any regulatory considerations relevant to Arizona Public Service (APS) or other service providers. The analysis should consider existing infrastructure conditions, priority facility needs, system repair or upgrade opportunities, utility interconnection requirements, potential microgrid configurations, operations and maintenance considerations, funding and financing pathways, and the ability of renewable energy systems to improve continuity of operations during outages, emergency events, or high-demand periods.

The project will also evaluate the potential development of a Tribal Energy Utility or related Tribal energy governance structure, clearly identifying legal, regulatory, financial, and operational considerations and recommending pathways for phased implementation. This portion of the work should examine the legal, regulatory, financial, operational, and administrative considerations necessary for YAN to exercise greater control over energy planning, generation, distribution, resilience, and long-term energy management. The analysis should help the Nation understand practical pathways for establishing a Tribal Energy Utility, including possible governance models, staffing needs, revenue considerations, operations and maintenance requirements, partnership opportunities, and phased implementation steps.

The selected consultant will work closely with YAN Leadership, the YAN Strategic Initiatives and Communications Department, additional Tribal staff, Bonneville Environmental Foundation staff, and other necessary stakeholders throughout the planning process, with regular coordination meetings, documented decision logs, and clear communication protocols established during project kickoff. Coordination with these parties will be essential to ensure that technical analysis, facility assessments, stakeholder input, and implementation recommendations are aligned with the Nation’s priorities, operational needs, and long-term energy goals.

The final Energy Plan should be technically sound, implementation-focused, and reflective of the Nation’s sovereignty, priorities, enterprise needs, and community goals. The plan should support future grant applications, capital planning, contractor selection, solar project development, workforce development, infrastructure investment, enterprise energy savings, and long-term energy self-determination for the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

RFP Schedule and Key Dates

The following schedule is provided for planning purposes. The Yavapai-Apache Nation reserves the right to modify the RFP schedule, project kickoff date, or project completion date as needed, including adjustments required due to Tribal approval

processes, utility coordination timelines, or unforeseen project conditions. Project kickoff and completion dates are anticipated and may be adjusted based on final consultant selection, contract negotiation, Tribal approval processes, and project needs, provided that any approved schedule modifications are documented in writing.

Key Date	Date / Timeframe
RFP Release Date	November 16, 2026
Optional Pre-Proposal Meeting / Site Visit, if applicable	None scheduled. If needed, details will be issued by written addendum.
Deadline for Request for Clarification/Information	November 30, 2026
Responses to Questions / Addendum Issued	On or before December 4, 2026
Proposal Submission Deadline	December 14, 2026, by 5:00 p.m. Arizona time
Proposal Review / Interviews, if applicable*	December 15, 2026 – January 8, 2027
Selected Consultant Notified	January 11, 2027
Contract Negotiation / Business Licensing / Tribal Approval Period**	January 2027
Anticipated Project Kickoff	February 2027
Anticipated Project Completion	January 31, 2028

**With the option for virtual interviews if requested by the Nation.*
***Subject to the Nation's internal approval timelines and any required Council actions.*

The anticipated contract term is approximately twelve (12) months, beginning in February 2027 and concluding no later than January 2028, unless otherwise approved by the Nation in writing.

Scope of Work

The Scope of Work is organized under objectives that will be compiled into the final deliverable: a comprehensive, technically sound, and actionable Yavapai-Apache Nation Energy Plan. The selected consultant shall complete all tasks necessary to evaluate current energy conditions, conduct facility and enterprise energy audits, assess existing and future solar energy systems, analyze solar microgrid feasibility, evaluate a Tribal Energy Utility and energy governance pathways, identify funding and financing options, support workforce development strategies, and develop a phased implementation roadmap for the Nation, while coordinating closely with Tribal departments, enterprise leadership, and utility representatives as directed and authorized by the Nation. The selected consultant shall complete all tasks unless adjustments are otherwise negotiated and agreed upon in writing by the Nation prior to contract execution, including any proposed phasing or alternative scope adjustments recommended by the consultant.

The work described in this Scope of Work is intended to be completed as a planning, assessment, and pre-feasibility effort within the available project budget. Unless specifically authorized in writing by the Nation, the scope does not include final engineering design, stamped drawings, construction documents, formal utility interconnection applications, legal drafting, creation of a Tribal Energy Utility entity, formal environmental review, cultural resource surveys, biological surveys, permit applications, or procurement-ready construction specifications. The selected consultant shall clearly document assumptions, limitations, data gaps, and recommended follow-on work necessary to advance priority projects toward implementation.

OBJECTIVE 1: Energy Vision, Goals & Baseline Assessment

Task 1.1 Energy Mission & Vision Development

Facilitate engagement with the Tribal Council, designated Department leads, and other relevant representatives of the Nation to establish a shared energy vision and define the goals, values, and priorities that will guide all planning decisions.

- Conduct and facilitate a kickoff meeting and planning session with the Tribal Council and designated department leads
- Document the energy vision statement, guiding principles, and the Nation's energy priorities
- Identify and document decision-making processes and internal approval pathways for energy projects

Deliverable: Energy Vision & Goals Summary

Task 1.2 Current Energy Profile & Data Collection

The consultant shall analyze applicable utility tariffs, rate structures, demand charges, seasonal cost patterns, net metering or export limitations, interconnection requirements, utility service agreements, utility account classifications, and opportunities for rate optimization or cost reduction.

The consultant shall review a minimum of twelve (12) months of utility billing data, where available, for Tribal government buildings and community-serving facilities. For Cliff Castle Casino and Hotel, the consultant shall review a minimum of twenty-four (24) months of utility billing data, where available, due to the scale, operational complexity, peak demand considerations, and enterprise energy use characteristics of the facility. All documentation is subject to availability of complete utility records and any required authorizations.

Deliverable: Tribal Energy Usage Baseline Report, including Utility Billing, Rate, Tariff, and Energy Cost Analysis.

Task 1.3 Project Management, Coordination, and Stakeholder Engagement
The consultant shall coordinate regularly with YAN Leadership, the YAN Strategic Initiatives and Communications Department, additional Tribal staff, Bonneville Environmental Foundation staff, utility representatives, as approved by the Nation, and other necessary stakeholders throughout the planning process, with regular progress meetings and documented logs.

The consultant shall facilitate project meetings, provide progress updates, document decisions, maintain a project schedule, track deliverables, and ensure that technical findings are reviewed with the Nation before being finalized. The consultant shall also support clear communication between technical analysis, facility assessments, stakeholder input, and implementation recommendations.

Deliverable: Project Management and Stakeholder Engagement Summary, including meeting notes, decision logs, progress updates, and a final summary of stakeholder engagement activities.

OBJECTIVE 2: Tribal Buildings & Facility Energy Audits

Task 2.1 Energy Audit: Tribal Buildings & Facilities, including the Cliff Castle Casino and Hotel

The consultant shall conduct energy audits of YAN buildings and facilities, with a specific and detailed audit focus on the Cliff Castle Casino and Hotel, conducted in coordination with Casino leadership and subject to applicable security, access, and operational protocols. For Cliff Castle Casino and Hotel, the consultant shall conduct an ASHRAE Level II-equivalent audit at a minimum. The audit shall evaluate utility consumption, demand charges, major building systems, HVAC, lighting, kitchen and food service loads, gaming and hospitality operations, domestic hot water, building controls, envelope conditions, peak demand drivers, and opportunities for energy conservation, cost savings, renewable energy integration, battery storage, and resilience improvements, including identification of required temporary metering or Building Automation System (BAS) data access if needed.

For other Tribal government buildings and community-serving facilities, the consultant shall conduct a screening-level or ASHRAE Level I-equivalent assessment unless specific facilities are identified by the Nation for more detailed review during project kickoff. The purpose of these assessments is to identify major energy use characteristics, visible efficiency opportunities, potential operational improvements, and candidate projects for future detailed study or implementation.

For priority measures identified through the audit, the consultant shall provide enhanced cost, savings, simple payback, operational, and implementation detail sufficient to

support future grant applications, capital planning, or follow-on engineering. The audit is not intended to serve as a full investment-grade audit unless separately authorized by the Nation in writing. Priority measures shall be identified in consultation with the Nation based on estimated cost savings, implementation feasibility, capital requirements, resilience benefits, funding potential, and consistency with the Nation's energy priorities.

Deliverable: Tribal Buildings & Facilities Energy Audit Report, including a dedicated Cliff Castle Casino and Hotel Energy Audit Summary with prioritized Energy Conservation Measures.

OBJECTIVE 3: Renewable Energy Resource Assessment

Task 3.1 Renewable Resource Mapping & Technical Potential

Assess the renewable energy resource potential on Tribal lands to identify viable generation sites and technologies, including documentation of cultural, environmental, and land-use constraints identified by the Nation.

- Document solar, wind, and other comparable resources on Tribal lands using National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) data and tools, including PVWatts, solar resource data, wind resource maps, and other applicable federal or industry-standard datasets.
- Identify potential development sites considering proximity to loads, grid infrastructure, and cultural/environmental constraints
- Evaluate the feasibility of battery storage, microgrid configurations, and standalone systems

Deliverable: Renewable Resource Assessment Map & Technical Potential Summary

Task 3.2 Existing Solar System Assessment

The consultant shall identify, review, and assess existing YAN solar energy systems, including system condition, operational performance, maintenance history, repair needs, production issues, inverter and equipment condition, ownership structure, warranty status, and opportunities for system repair, recommissioning, expansion, or integration into future microgrid strategies, with clear documentation of required site access and any missing system records.

The assessment should identify whether existing systems are performing as intended, whether repairs or upgrades are needed, and whether existing systems can support the Nation’s broader energy resilience, cost-savings, or solar microgrid goals.

Deliverable: Existing Solar System Conditions, Repair, and Integration Assessment.

Task 3.3 Solar Microgrid Pre-Feasibility Analysis

The consultant shall evaluate the feasibility of solar and battery storage microgrid systems for critical Tribal facilities, enterprise facilities, community assets, and future development areas, including APS interconnection considerations, regulatory constraints, and operational requirements. The analysis shall include critical load identification, facility load profiles, outage resilience needs, system sizing, battery storage requirements, preliminary site layouts, interconnection considerations, ownership and operations and maintenance assumptions, utility coordination needs, cost estimates, lifecycle cost analysis, potential savings, resilience benefits, and phased implementation options.

The analysis should identify priority locations where solar microgrid systems may provide the greatest benefit to YAN operations, emergency preparedness, community-serving facilities, enterprise operations, and long-term energy self-determination.

The solar microgrid pre-analysis shall be conducted at a planning and pre-feasibility level. The scope shall include conceptual system sizing, priority-site screening, high-level cost estimates, preliminary resilience benefits, ownership and operations and maintenance considerations, and recommended next steps. The scope does not include final engineering design, stamped drawings, construction documents, detailed electrical design, utility interconnection applications, procurement-ready specifications, or construction-level cost estimates unless separately authorized by the Nation in writing.

Deliverable: Solar Microgrid Pre-Feasibility Analysis and Implementation Summary.

OBJECTIVE 4: Tribal Energy Utility Formation & Utility Relationship Strategy

Task 4.1 Tribal Energy Utility Formation: Feasibility & Structuring Analysis

Research and analyze options for forming a Tribal utility entity to manage energy distribution and generation assets on behalf of the Nation, including legal, regulatory, financial, and operational considerations requiring coordination with the Nation's legal counsel.

- Review and summarize existing tribal energy utility models across Indian Country (tribally-owned utilities, Tribal Energy Resource Agreements (TERAs), tribal cooperatives)
- Analyze legal, regulatory, and jurisdictional considerations for establishing a tribal energy utility under tribal law and applicable federal frameworks
- Outline governance structure options, staffing requirements, and operational responsibilities
- Identify high-level steps, timeline, and estimated costs to form a tribal energy utility entity
- Assess implications for existing utility agreements, easements, and service territory

The Tribal Energy Utility analysis shall be conducted as an options and pathway analysis. The analysis shall identify governance options, organizational models, high-level regulatory considerations, staffing needs, operational responsibilities, cost considerations, and recommended phased implementation steps. The scope does not include legal drafting, creation of a utility entity, formal regulatory filings, negotiation of utility agreements, or preparation of binding governance documents unless separately authorized by the Nation in writing.

Deliverable: Tribal Energy Utility and Energy Governance Options Analysis

OBJECTIVE 5: Tribal Building Energy Standards

Task 5.1 Energy Building Standards Development

Develop a set of tailored building energy standards and recommendations that can be considered for new construction and major renovation projects on the Nation's buildings and facilities, including solar-ready design, EV-charging readiness, and resilience-oriented design considerations.

- Review and summarize model energy codes (IECC, LEED, ASHRAE 90.1, etc.) and Tribal-adapted standards and examples from other Tribes
- Develop energy performance guidelines for new construction (insulation, windows, HVAC efficiency, lighting, solar-ready wiring, etc.)

Deliverable: Tribal Building Energy Standards Guide (recommendations-based)

OBJECTIVE 6: Project Identification, Scoping & Prioritization Roadmap

Task 6.1 Energy Project Identification & Preliminary Scoping

Identify potential energy projects across the Nation's facilities and lands with preliminary project scopes, including documentation of assumptions, constraints, and required future studies.

- Compile potential projects from audit findings, the Nation's input/request, and technical assessment
- Categorize by type: efficiency upgrades, renewable generation, storage, grid infrastructure, and Tribal utility
- Develop a preliminary project scope, estimated annual savings or revenue, and estimated timeline needed for each potential project
- Develop a simple checklist identifying applicable and necessary permits, interconnection requirements, and regulatory steps

Deliverable: Energy Project Inventory with preliminary scopes and cost/savings estimates with prioritization matrix

Task 6.2 Project Prioritization & Phased Energy Roadmap

Develop and apply a structured prioritization matrix to rank projects and build a phased implementation roadmap aligned with available financing, Tribal capacity, and energy goals.

- Develop a prioritization matrix, developed with Tribal input, incorporating criteria such as cost-savings, energy sovereignty impact, feasibility, funding-readiness, community benefit, and implementation complexity
- Develop an Energy Project Roadmap illustrating a phased approach to Energy Plan implementation

Deliverable: Prioritization Matrix + Phased Energy Roadmap

Task 6.3 Environmental, Cultural, Land-Use, and Permitting Screening

The consultant shall include a high-level environmental, cultural, land-use, and permitting screening for proposed renewable energy, battery storage, microgrid, and utility infrastructure projects. This screening shall identify known constraints, required future studies, applicable approvals, potential cultural or environmental sensitivities, utility interconnection steps, land-use considerations, and regulatory pathways that may be necessary before project implementation.

This screening is intended to support responsible project planning and help the Nation understand the steps necessary to move priority projects from concept to implementation.

The scope does not include formal environmental review, cultural resource surveys, biological surveys, NEPA documentation, engineering studies, permit applications, or agency filings unless separately authorized by the Nation in writing.

Deliverable: Environmental, Cultural, Land-Use, and Permitting Screening Summary

OBJECTIVE 7: Financing Landscape, Funding Readiness & Implementation Support

Task 7.1 Federal, Philanthropic & Private Financing Landscape

The consultant shall identify funding-readiness requirements for priority projects, including required studies, preliminary engineering needs, site control considerations, environmental review requirements, cultural review considerations, cost estimate requirements, match requirements, grant timelines, application competitiveness, and documentation needed to support future funding applications, including identification of high-probability funding sources.

The financing analysis should distinguish between near-term funding opportunities, medium-term project development opportunities, and long-term financing pathways that may support energy efficiency upgrades, solar development, battery storage, microgrid implementation, utility infrastructure, workforce development, and Tribal Energy Utility formation.

Deliverable: Financing Landscape and Funding Readiness Matrix.

OBJECTIVE 8: Workforce Development & Tribal Capacity Building

Task 8.1 Tribal Workforce & Energy Career Pathway Analysis

Identify workforce development opportunities tied to the Energy Roadmap projects, including recommended training partnerships, apprenticeship pathways, and contractor training provisions.

- Identify energy-related jobs created or supported by each roadmap project (construction, O&M, utility management, energy auditing)
- Identify training programs available to support energy-related tribal workforce development
- Recommend tribal hiring and training provisions for contractor agreements

Deliverable: Workforce Development Strategy

OBJECTIVE 9: Monitoring, Evaluation & Plan Metrics

Task 9.1 Monitoring & Evaluation Framework

Develop a practical Monitoring & Evaluation framework that enables tribal staff to track progress against the Energy Plan's goals, measure project impacts, and report outcomes to the Tribal Council and prospective funders, including recommended data collection tools and reporting templates.

- Define a monitoring & evaluation framework with key performance indicators covering energy costs and roadmap progress

Deliverable: Monitoring & Evaluation Framework

RFP Deliverables

The final deliverable of this RFP is a comprehensive and actionable Yavapai-Apache Nation Energy Plan that compiles all work products, technical assessments, facility audits, energy use findings, renewable energy evaluations, solar microgrid pre-feasibility analysis, Tribal Energy Utility and energy governance analysis, financing strategies, workforce recommendations, and implementation roadmaps developed throughout the planning process, including clearly documented assumptions, data sources, and any limitations affecting analysis or recommendations.

The selected consultant may prepare the following deliverables as technical memoranda, report sections, appendices, or standalone work products, as appropriate and approved by the Nation. The intent is to avoid duplicative reporting and ensure that all work products are efficiently compiled into the final Yavapai-Apache Nation Energy Plan.

At a minimum, the selected consultant shall provide the following deliverables, with draft versions submitted for review prior to finalization and all revisions documented in a change-tracking log:

1. **Project Kickoff Work Plan and Stakeholder Engagement Plan**, including communication protocols, decision-making pathways, and a finalized project schedule
2. **Energy Vision, Goals, and Baseline Assessment Report**, including documentation of Tribal Council review and any approval or direction provided by the Council (Nation staff will work with Consultant to obtain Tribal Council reviews, direction, and approvals), utility billing, utility authorizations, rate, tariff, energy cost analysis, and recommended next steps for improving data completeness
3. **Facility and Enterprise Energy Audit Report**, including a dedicated Cliff Castle Casino and Hotel audit section, required access protocols, temporary metering needs, and any limitations encountered during facility assessments
4. **Existing Solar and Renewable Resource Assessment**, including recommended repair actions, cost estimates, and integration pathways for future microgrid development
5. **Solar Microgrid Pre-Feasibility Analysis and Implementation Summary**, including APS interconnection considerations, regulatory constraints, and recommended phasing
6. **Tribal Energy Utility and Energy Governance Options Analysis**, developed in coordination with the Nation’s legal counsel and including recommended governance structure and integration
7. **Tribal Building Energy Standards Guide**, including solar-ready, EV-ready, and resilience-oriented design recommendations

8. **Energy Project Inventory and Phased Implementation Roadmap**, including preliminary scopes, cost/savings estimates, prioritization matrix, and phased roadmap, including future studies and permitting considerations
9. **Financing, Funding Readiness, and Workforce Strategy**, including identification of high-probability funding sources, recommended application strategies, recommended training partnerships, apprenticeship pathways, and contractor training provisions
10. **Monitoring, Evaluation, and Performance Metrics Framework**, including recommended data collection tools, reporting templates, and performance indicators
11. **Draft and Final Yavapai-Apache Nation Energy Plan**, draft to be submitted to Nation for review, and incorporation of all approved revisions and accompanied by an executive summary for Tribal Council use

The consultant shall provide draft deliverables for YAN review prior to finalization and shall incorporate reasonable comments, corrections, and direction provided by the Nation.

RFP Deliverable Schedule

The anticipated contract term is approximately twelve (12) months, beginning in February 2027 and concluding no later than January 31, 2028, unless otherwise approved by the Nation in writing. The selected consultant shall provide draft deliverables for YAN review prior to finalization and shall incorporate reasonable comments, corrections, and direction provided by the Nation, with all revisions documented in a change-tracking log and discussed during scheduled progress meetings. The proposed schedule below may be refined during contract negotiation and project kickoff, provided the final Energy Plan is completed no later than January 31, 2028, unless otherwise approved by the Nation in writing.

Deliverable	Estimated Timing
Project Kickoff Work Plan and Stakeholder Engagement Plan	Within 30 days of contract execution
Energy Vision, Goals, and Baseline Assessment Report	Early project phase
Facility and Cliff Castle Casino and Hotel Energy Audit Report	Mid-project
Existing Solar and Renewable Resource Assessment	Mid-project
Solar Microgrid Pre-Feasibility Analysis and Implementation Summary	Mid-to-late project phase

Tribal Energy Utility and Energy Governance Options Analysis	Mid-to-late project phase
Tribal Building Energy Standards Guide	Mid-to-late project phase
Energy Project Inventory and Phased Implementation Roadmap	Late project phase
Financing, Funding Readiness, and Workforce Strategy	Late project phase
Monitoring, Evaluation, and Performance Metrics Framework	Late project phase
Draft Yavapai-Apache Nation Energy Plan	Prior to final review
Final Yavapai-Apache Nation Energy Plan	No later than January 31, 2028

Proposal Requirements

Proposals should be clear, complete, and organized in a manner that allows the Yavapai-Apache Nation to evaluate the proposer's qualifications, technical approach, project understanding, schedule, and cost, and should follow the structure outlined below to ensure consistent evaluation across submissions. At a minimum, proposals shall include the following components:

1. Cover Letter signed by an authorized representative of the proposer, including the primary contact person, title, phone number, and email address, and acknowledging receipt of any addenda issued by the Nation.

2. Firm Profile describing the firm's history, areas of expertise, organizational capacity, office location(s), and ability to complete the work within the required timeline, including disclosure of any potential conflicts of interest and a description of quality-control procedures.

3. Project Understanding describing the proposer's understanding of YAN's energy planning goals, facility and enterprise energy needs, renewable energy opportunities, microgrid considerations, Tribal Energy Utility evaluation, and implementation priorities, including any anticipated data limitations or access constraints and proposed mitigation strategies.

4. Technical Approach and Work Plan describing how the proposer will complete the required tasks and deliverables, including project management, facility assessments, data analysis, stakeholder coordination, technical review, quality control, and final plan development, with a clear description of assumptions, required site access, utility coordination needs, and any proposed phasing of tasks.

5. Project Schedule showing major tasks, meetings, draft deliverables, review periods, and final deliverable dates. The schedule must demonstrate the ability to

complete the final Energy Plan no later than January 31, 2028, and must identify critical path items, dependencies, and any schedule risks.

6. Key Personnel and Resumes identifying the project manager, technical leads, energy auditors, renewable energy specialists, utility/regulatory specialists, financial analysts, and any subcontractors assigned to the project, including each individual's role, relevant experience, and percentage of time allocated to the project.

7. Relevant Project Experience demonstrating experience with Tribal energy planning, facility energy audits, renewable energy feasibility, solar and battery storage analysis, microgrid planning, Tribal Energy Utility or energy governance analysis, and comparable public-sector or Tribal projects, including project summaries, dates, and outcomes.

8. Experience Working with Tribes and/or Native American Communities, including examples of culturally appropriate engagement, Tribal sovereignty considerations, Tribal procurement coordination, and work with Tribal leadership, staff, enterprises, or community-serving facilities, and a description of how the proposer will incorporate culturally respectful practices into this project.

9. References for at least three comparable projects, including client name, project description, contact person, phone number, and email address, with authorization for the Nation to contact references.

10. Cost Proposal providing a detailed project budget by task, labor category, hourly rate, estimated hours, direct costs, travel costs, subcontractor costs, and total not-to-exceed amount, including assumptions, exclusions, and any proposed alternative phasing or cost-saving approaches.

11. Assumptions, Exceptions, or Requested Clarifications identifying any assumptions, exclusions, or proposed modifications to the RFP requirements, which must be clearly stated and justified to allow the Nation to evaluate their impact.

12. Tribal Preference Documentation, if applicable, including documentation supporting eligibility for Tribal Preference under applicable YAN policies or requirements, with reference to the governing Tribal Preference ordinance or policy.

13. Business License Acknowledgement. The proposer shall acknowledge that, if selected, the proposer will be required to obtain a valid Yavapai-Apache Nation Business License pursuant to Part II – Business Licenses, Section 303 of the Yavapai-Apache Nation Transaction Privilege Tax and Licensing Act. The selected consultant must obtain the required Business License prior to the resulting agreement being submitted to the Yavapai-Apache Nation Tribal Council for final approval. The applicable Business License Application is provided as Appendix A to this RFP.

Proposal page limit: Proposals should not exceed thirty-five (35) pages, excluding resumes, references, required forms, and Tribal Preference documentation. The Nation reserves the right to waive minor irregularities or request clarification when doing so is in the best interest of the Nation.

Contractor Qualifications

Minimum Qualifications

- Demonstrated experience developing Tribal energy plans, public-sector energy plans, or comparable energy planning documents, including examples of completed plans and documented outcomes or implementation results.
- Demonstrated facility and building energy auditing experience for commercial, government, enterprise, hospitality, or institutional facilities, with specific experience conducting ASHRAE Level II or Level III audits.
- Technical experience with solar energy systems, battery storage, renewable energy feasibility analysis, and microgrid planning, including familiarity with APS interconnection processes and distributed energy resource (DER) modeling tools.
- Experience analyzing utility billing data, utility tariffs, rate structures, demand charges, and annual energy expenditure trends, with demonstrated ability to identify cost-saving opportunities and rate optimization strategies.
- Experience developing implementation roadmaps, project prioritization matrices, cost estimates, and funding or financing strategies, including experience preparing materials for federal or state grant applications.
- Demonstrated project management capacity to complete a multi-disciplinary energy planning project within the required schedule, including experience managing complex stakeholder coordination and maintaining detailed project schedules and decision logs.
- Ability to coordinate with Tribal leadership, Tribal departments, enterprise staff, utility representatives, nonprofit partners, and other necessary stakeholders as authorized by the Nation, with demonstrated experience working in culturally sensitive environments and respecting Tribal sovereignty.

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience working directly with Tribal Nations and/or Native American communities, including examples of culturally respectful engagement and successful project outcomes.
- Experience evaluating Tribal Energy Utility formation, Tribal energy offices, utility authorities, or related energy governance structures, with demonstrated familiarity with federal Indian energy law and regulatory frameworks.

- Knowledge of relevant Indian energy law, Tribal sovereignty considerations, federal Indian law, and Tribal energy policy, including experience coordinating with Tribal legal counsel.
- Familiarity with Arizona Public Service policies, tariffs, interconnection processes, and service requirements, including experience conducting Distributed Energy Resources or microgrid feasibility studies within APS territory.
- Experience conducting energy audits for casino, hotel, resort, entertainment, commercial kitchen, or large enterprise facilities, with demonstrated ability to comply with casino security protocols and operational constraints.
- Experience identifying federal, state, philanthropic, and private funding or financing sources for Tribal energy projects, including preparation of competitive grant applications and funding-readiness documentation.
- Experience supporting Tribal workforce development, contractor training provisions, or energy-related career pathway planning, including partnerships with training organizations or apprenticeship programs.

RFP Evaluation Criteria

The Nation reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive irregularities in the submittal, and may request clarification or additional information from any proposer when doing so is in the best interest of the Nation. The Nation's selection of the consultant will be based on the overall best value provided by the consultant to the project. This RFP does not represent an offer to contract with the Nation, and a valid contract will exist only when approved by the Nation's governing body, the Tribal Council. Selection will be based on the following evaluation criteria. Only complete proposals prepared and submitted in accordance with this RFP will be considered.

Evaluation Criteria	Weight	Scoring Considerations
Experience of the firm in providing similar services for similar projects	20%	Demonstrated experience completing comparable tribal energy planning, facility energy audits, renewable energy feasibility, microgrid analysis, Tribal utility, or implementation roadmap projects.
Qualifications and experience of key personnel	20%	Relevant qualifications, resumes, technical expertise, project roles, availability, and experience of the proposed project manager, technical leads, auditors, analysts, and subcontractors.
Experience working with Tribes and/or other Native American communities	15%	Demonstrated understanding of Tribal sovereignty, Tribal governance, culturally appropriate engagement, Tribal procurement, and experience working with Tribal leadership, departments, enterprises, or Native communities.

Scope of Work / Technical Approach / Project Understanding	20%	Overall responsiveness to the RFP, including quality, completeness, feasibility, and clarity of the proposed technical approach, project understanding, work plan, methodology, schedule, schedule feasibility, critical path and schedule risks, deliverables, stakeholder coordination strategy, and understanding of YAN's energy planning priorities.
Fee	10%	Reasonableness, clarity, and cost-effectiveness of the proposed fee in relation to the proposed scope, staffing, deliverables, project schedule, and overall value to the Nation.
Tribal Preference	15%	Evaluation points assigned in accordance with applicable Nation Tribal Preference policies and documentation provided by the proposer.
Total	**100%**	

Submission Instructions

Proposals may be submitted by email or by regular mail. All proposals, regardless of submission method, must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. Arizona time on December 14, 2026. Proposals received after the submission deadline may be rejected at the sole discretion of the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

Email submissions shall be submitted in PDF format and sent to:

- Treyson Fullmer, Yavapai-Apache Nation Director of Strategic Initiatives and Communications
- Email: tfullmer@yan-tribe.org

The email subject line should read: "Yavapai-Apache Nation Energy Plan RFP Proposal_FIRM NAME."

Hard-copy submissions shall be addressed to:

Yavapai-Apache Nation

Attn: Treyson Fullmer
Director of Strategic Initiatives and Communications
Yavapai-Apache Nation
2400 West Datsi Street
Camp Verde, AZ 86322
United States

Mailed proposals must be received by the submission deadline. Postmarks will not be accepted as proof of timely submission. Proposers are responsible for ensuring that proposals are received by the Nation before the deadline. The Nation is not responsible

for technical issues, failed email delivery, incomplete transmissions, courier delays, or other delivery failures.

Questions, Clarifications, and Addenda

All questions and requests for clarification must be submitted in writing to the Yavapai-Apache Nation Strategic Initiatives and Communications Director no later than November 30, 2026. Questions received after the deadline may not be answered.

Responses to questions, clarifications, or any amendments to this RFP will be issued in writing by addendum and distributed to all known proposers on or before December 4, 2026. No oral interpretation, clarification, or modification of this RFP shall be binding unless confirmed through a written addendum issued by the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

Contact information:

- Name: Treyson Fullmer - Director of Strategic Initiatives and Communications
- Email: tfullmer@yan-tribe.org

Standard RFP Terms and Conditions

Reservation of Rights:

The Yavapai-Apache Nation reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, waive minor irregularities, request clarification or additional information, conduct interviews, negotiate with one or more proposers, modify or cancel this RFP, or award a contract as determined by the Nation to be in the best interest of the Nation. Issuance of this RFP does not obligate the Nation to award a contract or pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a proposal. A valid contract shall not exist between the Nation and Consultant except as may be approved by the Nation's Tribal Council by written Council Resolution.

No Guarantee of Award:

The selection of a proposer does not guarantee execution of a contract. Any final agreement shall be subject to successful contract negotiation, required Tribal approvals, funding availability, and compliance with applicable YAN laws, policies, and procedures, issuance of a valid Yavapai-Apache Nation Business License to the selected consultant, and all required Tribal approvals, including final approval by the Yavapai-Apache Nation Tribal Council.

Yavapai-Apache Nation Business License Requirement:

Pursuant to **Part II – Business Licenses, Section 303 of the Yavapai-Apache Nation Transaction Privilege Tax and Licensing Act**, as adopted by Tribal Council Resolution No. 120-15, any Person engaging in business on the Yavapai-Apache

Nation Reservation shall obtain a business license from the Nation and comply with all applicable licensing requirements.

The selected consultant shall be required to submit a completed Yavapai-Apache Nation Business License Application to the appropriate Nation office, provide all required supporting information, and pay all applicable license fees in accordance with the Nation's Transaction Privilege Tax and Licensing Act.

As a condition of contracting with the Yavapai-Apache Nation, the selected consultant must obtain a valid Yavapai-Apache Nation Business License prior to the resulting professional services agreement being submitted to the Tribal Council for final approval.

Selection of a consultant, issuance of a notice of selection, or commencement of contract negotiations shall not constitute authorization to conduct business on the Reservation or commence work under this RFP. No work shall begin until all applicable licensing requirements have been satisfied and the resulting agreement has received all required approvals from the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

The Business License shall be maintained in good standing for the duration of the agreement and renewed as required by applicable Yavapai-Apache Nation law.

The applicable Yavapai-Apache Nation Business License Application is included as **Appendix A** to this RFP.

Business License Fees and Maintenance:

The selected consultant shall be responsible for all fees associated with obtaining and maintaining a valid Yavapai-Apache Nation Business License for the duration of the project and any resulting agreement. The fee for a new Business License Application is $100.00. Payment shall be submitted to the Yavapai-Apache Nation Finance Department by cash, check, or money order, with checks or money orders made payable to the Yavapai-Apache Nation, in accordance with the instructions provided on the Business License Application.

The consultant shall be solely responsible for ensuring that its Business License remains current and valid throughout the entire term of the agreement. If renewal is required during the project period, the consultant shall complete the applicable renewal process and pay the $50.00 renewal application fee.

Failure to obtain, maintain, or timely renew the required Business License may constitute noncompliance with the terms of the agreement and may result in suspension of work or other action as permitted under the agreement and applicable Yavapai-Apache Nation law.

Cost of Proposal Preparation:

All costs associated with preparing, submitting, or presenting a proposal shall be the sole responsibility of the proposer. The Nation shall not be responsible for reimbursing any proposal preparation, travel, interview, or negotiation costs.

Confidentiality and Data Protection

The selected consultant may receive access to utility bills, facility information, enterprise operating information, infrastructure data, maps, financial information, and other sensitive information. The selected consultant shall protect all information provided by the Nation and shall not disclose, publish, share, or use such information for any purpose outside the contracted work without prior written authorization from the Nation. Consultant will be required to sign a confidentiality agreement to be included in any contract issued pursuant to the RFP.

Upon completion or termination of the agreement, the consultant shall, at the Nation's direction, return or securely destroy confidential Nation information, except for records required to be retained by applicable law or expressly authorized by the Nation in writing.

Ownership of Work Product

All final reports, data summaries, maps, models, analyses, meeting materials, draft deliverables, final deliverables, and other work products prepared for this project shall become the property of the Yavapai-Apache Nation, subject to any mutually agreed limitations regarding proprietary tools, pre-existing materials, or third-party data.

All final deliverables shall be provided in searchable PDF format and, where applicable, in editable/native electronic format, including Word, Excel, GIS, modeling, and presentation files developed specifically for the project, subject to any mutually agreed limitations concerning proprietary software, pre-existing materials, or third-party licensed data.

Conflict of Interest

Proposers shall disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflicts of interest, including relationships with utilities, developers, contractors, vendors, financing entities, or other parties that may benefit from recommendations made through the Energy Plan. The Nation reserves the right to determine whether a conflict of interest disqualifies a proposer or requires mitigation as may be defined by the Nation in its sole discretion.

Compliance with Laws and Tribal Requirements

The selected consultant shall comply with all applicable Yavapai-Apache Nation laws, policies, procurement requirements, facility access requirements, and applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations. Nothing in this RFP or any resulting

contract shall be construed as a waiver of the Nation's sovereign immunity. The Nation's laws will govern interpretation and enforcement of any agreement issued pursuant to this RFP, and the Agreement will define dispute resolution.

Insurance and Site Access

The selected consultant may be required to provide proof of insurance, comply with site access requirements, follow safety protocols, coordinate facility visits in advance, and comply with any additional requirements established by the Nation, Cliff Castle Casino and Hotel, utility providers, or other facility representatives. The insurance requirements will be defined in any agreement issued pursuant to this RFP.

Data Availability and Consultant Responsibility

The Nation will provide available information reasonably necessary to support the project, which may include utility billing data, facility information, prior reports, maps, and stakeholder contacts. The consultant shall be responsible for identifying data gaps, requesting needed information in a timely manner, and documenting assumptions when complete data are not available.

Right to Request Clarifications or Interviews

The Nation may request written clarifications, supplemental information, presentations, or interviews from one or more proposers. The Nation is not obligated to interview all proposers and may use interviews or clarifications to support final selection.

Public Communications

The selected consultant shall not issue press releases, public statements, project announcements, marketing materials, or external communications regarding the project without prior written approval from the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

APPENDIX A

YAVAPAI-APACHE NATION BUSINESS LICENSE APPLICATION

The following Yavapai-Apache Nation Business License Application is provided for the selected consultant's use in satisfying the business licensing requirements applicable to any agreement resulting from this RFP.

Unless otherwise directed by the Nation, proposers are not required to obtain a Yavapai-Apache Nation Business License as a condition of submitting a proposal. However, the selected consultant shall be required to obtain a valid Yavapai-Apache Nation Business License prior to the resulting agreement being submitted to the Tribal Council for final approval and shall be responsible for maintaining a valid Business License throughout the entire duration of the project and resulting agreement.

The fee for a new Business License Application is $100.00. The fee for a renewal application is $50.00. Payment may be made by cash, check, or money order, with checks or money orders made payable to the Yavapai-Apache Nation. The completed application and applicable payment shall be submitted to the Yavapai-Apache Nation Finance Department in accordance with the instructions provided on the application.

All costs and responsibilities associated with obtaining, maintaining, and renewing the required Business License shall be the sole responsibility of the consultant.

In the event of any inconsistency between the information provided in this Appendix and applicable Yavapai-Apache Nation law, policy, or licensing requirements, the applicable Nation law, policy, or requirement shall govern.

The Business License Application and associated licensing documentation are administrative requirements and are not included in the proposal page limitation established by this RFP.

YAVAPAI-APACHE NATION
2400 West Datsi Street
Camp Verde, AZ 86322
Phone(928)567-3649 Fax(928)567-3994

OFFICE OF THE TREASURER
Application for Yavapai-Apache Nation Tribal Business License

Business Name: _____

Business Address:
(Physical and Mailing) _____

_____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ Email: _____

Business Type (Sole Proprietor, Partnership, LLC, Corp., etc.): _____

Owner (Name of Sole Proprietor, Partnership, LLC, or Corp., etc _____

Owner's Address: _____

_____

_____

Owner's Phone No.: _____
Owners/Manager's

_____
Name email address

Description of Business Activities: _____

Business Start Date: _____

If this is a license renewal and no information has changed since your last application was submitted, please fill in the name of the business above and write "No Change." Then submit this form along with the appropriate payment.

_____

I hereby certify that the information provided in this application is true and complete and I understand that the license authorized by the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

_____ _____
Signature of Sole Proprietor, General Partner, or Corporation/LLC Officer Date

_____
Print or type name and title of signer

FEES DUE with Application: New Application $100 and Renewal Application $50 (Pay by cash/check, or money order made payable to the Yavapai-Apache Nation). Return application form and payment to Yavapai-Apache Nation Finance Department.