

Diné Binaanish Yá'át'éehgo Nooséét

# navajo green jobs growing harmoniously

## mission

To help foster a Green Economy on the Navajo Nation with sustainable green jobs for all.

## goals

- Continue Community Education and Engagement.
- Implement a Navajo Green Business Incubator.
- Integrate Green Curriculum into Schools and Universities.



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## about us

In the spring of 2008, Diné Binaanish Yá'át'éehgo Nooséél (Navajo Green Jobs), formerly Navajo Green Economy Coalition was formed to organize a Green Jobs Initiative for the Navajo Nation. The Coalition is made up of Navajo citizens and supporters who want to help transition and diversify the Navajo economy to one that is long lasting, sustainable, and healthy. We are Navajo mothers, fathers, students, community members, veterans and grandparents. In addition, Navajo Green Jobs consists of several organizations throughout the Navajo Nation including but not limited to the following: the Speaker of the 21st Navajo Nation Council, Black Mesa Water Coalition, Sierra Club, New Energy Economy NM, Grand Canyon Trust, New Mexico Youth Organized, Diné Policy Institute, and Diné C.A.R.E.

## navajo nation council

The Navajo Nation Council made history during its 21st Summer Session July 20-24 by passing groundbreaking green jobs legislation. The Council voted 62-1 to establish a Navajo Green Economy Commission, a five-person commission that will seek funding and oversee the approval of small-scale green projects such as wool mills, farmers markets, and home weatherization. The Council also voted to create a Navajo Green Economy Fund, which creates an account for receiving federal, state, local, and private funds to make these green projects possible.

Over forty supporters of the legislation, many of them in their late teens and twenties, wearing green t-shirts and waving green flags. The supporters marched into Council session on Tuesday, July 21, to make their presence known and to demand Council delegates' attention. As passage of the legislation became evident, the supporters stood and cheered enthusiastically. At a press conference following the vote, Delegate Jonathan Nez remarked on the power the young supporters had in making this effort possible. "Your legislation shows that grassroots people can persuade their lawmakers. I see a lot of young people getting involved in their government here; it's a component that's missing from the Navajo Nation government."

The Navajo Green Economy Coalition worked with Navajo Nation Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan, chief sponsor of the legislation, for over a year to secure delegates' support and educate members of the community about the importance of promoting green jobs on the Navajo Nation. After the legislation was tabled in April during the Council's Spring Session, members of the Coalition worked with the Speaker's legislative staff and other delegate sponsors to clarify the intent of the legislation and spread the word about the vast opportunities that would become available once the Commission and Fund are established.



*Navajo Green Jobs at Tuba City Fair.*

## what is a green job?

Green jobs are well-paid jobs created by sustainable businesses and/or industries that are low or non-polluting. Green jobs respect traditional Diné culture and Mother Earth.

## navajo green jobs mean:

A sustainable and healthy economy that respects Diné culture and Mother Earth by using local products and renewable forms of electricity in the home or at a place of business.

Creating jobs with fair wages, good working conditions and opportunities for training and growth.

Offering opportunities to create green community projects and businesses for individuals, families and Chapters through the planning process and/or through community ownership.

A transition that is in balance with our tribal values after depletion of our natural resources and with the global climate crisis.

Being supportive and collaborative with groups that support a Navajo Green Economy

Examples of Navajo Green Businesses:

A weaver's cooperative

A farmer's market

A weatherization business

Build wind and solar systems