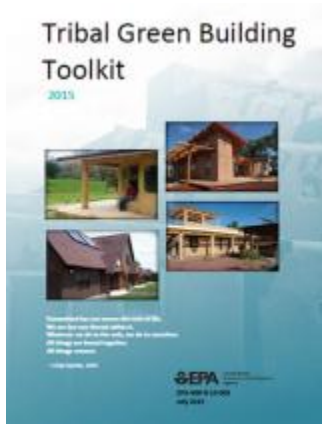


# Tribal Green Building Code Guidance



## Tribal Green Building Ordinance, Code Language and References

This Tribal Green Building Codes guidance provides examples of tribal green building ordinance and code language as well as code references. More detailed information on Tribal Green Building, including prioritization checklists and code resources, is available in [EPA's Tribal Green Building Toolkit](#).

- [Tribal Green Building Codes](#)
  - [Code Contents](#)
  - [Adopting Tribal Codes](#)
  - [Codes, Standards, Rating Systems](#)
  - [State and Local Codes](#)
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## Tribal Green Building Codes

Tribes, as sovereign nations, have broad opportunities to redefine the purpose, scope, goals, and design of their systems to guide and manage construction on tribal lands.

Where no building codes are in force, tribes may have reduced control, or be subject to the application of codes that do not support sustainable and healthy building practices.

Building codes in general have definite benefits when properly developed and implemented, including:

- Health and safety
- Environment
- Tribal Culture and Community Development
- Tribal Sovereignty/Self-Sufficiency
- Economic

Compared to historical tribal green building practices, little exists today. However, opportunities exist and continue to evolve to support more sustainable tribal housing. For example, the [Native American Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act \(NAHASDA\)](#) passed by Congress in 1996 provides tribes the flexibility to adopt and use their own building codes in NAHASDA-funded programs.

Acknowledging the great diversity of tribes' goals for sustainable building, this guidance is a resource for tribes, wherever they are along the spectrum; from adoption or adaptation of existing building codes and standards, to fundamentally different or innovative approaches to building.

This [Tribal Green Building Administrative Code Example](#) can be used as a template for technical code selection (i.e., building, electrical, plumbing, etc.) to be adopted as a comprehensive building code.

For additional examples, the Native American Rights Fund, National Indian Law Library maintains a [web-based catalog listing tribes that have adopted building codes](#) with link to those codes.

### [Pinoleville Pomo Nation Tribal Green Building Code](#)

This performance-based building code developed by the tribe is in accordance with

human safety and environmental standards, as well as the social and cultural values of the Tribe, and includes guidance for straw bale construction, gray water system design and cultural esthetics.

### **[The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon Tribal Building Code Ordinance](#)**

In addition safeguarding life and property, a purpose of this building code is to encourage the use of innovative materials and techniques consistent with cultural historic or indigenous designs and methods.

### **[Swinomish Tribal Building Code](#)**

Adopted Title 12 – Building and Construction, Chapter 1 Swinomish Building Code (adopts State of Washington Energy, Indoor Air Quality and Stormwater Codes).