

Annual
REPORT
2024



POWER FOR THE PEOPLE

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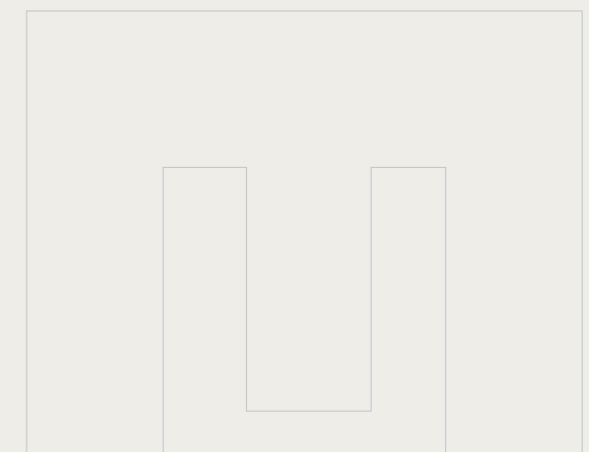
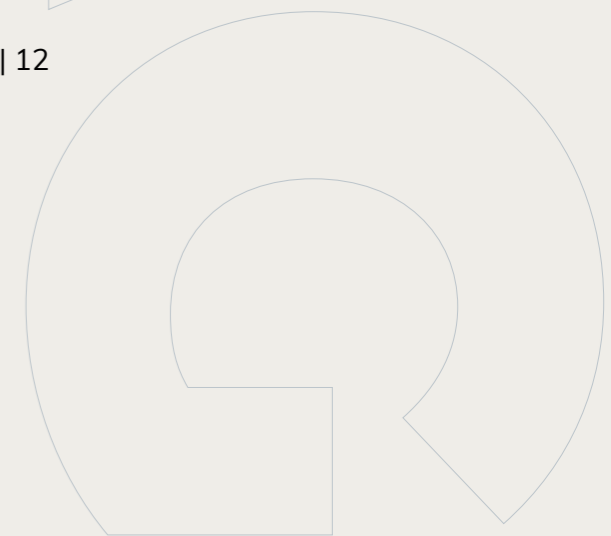
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Letter from the CEO

Joseph McNeil Jr.
CEO



Hau, chante waste nape chiyuzapelo

(Hello, I shake your hand with a good heart).

SAGE had a record year in 2024. We hit major milestones on our projects, like the Anpetu Wi Wind Farm and the Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Network. We took significant steps toward our next generation of projects. We presented and participated at numerous events, made headlines across the region, and achieved historic milestones in energy ownership. But what I'm most proud of isn't what we've done; it's how we've done it.

SAGE represents a new phase as the Standing Rock Nation shifts from economic exclusion to energy ownership. Our community takes part in every step of our visioning, planning, and action processes because we know how important it is for our community. We partner with our young people, guided by our Elders' wisdom, to embrace this next phase of self-determination for Standing Rock, and allow what we're doing with SAGE to inspire our people in every aspect of their lives.

Everything SAGE does generates self-sufficiency and prosperity for our people and leads the way for others. SAGE is the first Indigenous-owned Public Power Authority, but we don't expect to be the last. We're committed to sharing the "SAGE model" with other Tribes looking to benefit their communities.

But if 2024 set records for all the right reasons, 2025 has already presented new challenges. The shifting federal landscape is affecting the financing of our projects. You'll notice throughout this report that we've placed an asterisk next to grants secured in 2024 that are now at risk. In the face of new obstacles, we are more committed than ever to bringing our vision to life as we remain steadfast in our commitment to renewable energy and seeing our Standing Rock Nation thrive.

We are grateful to our partners for joining us on our mission, and we look forward to everything we can accomplish together.

Pilamayaye (Thank you),



About SAGE

SAGE Development Authority is a federally chartered Section 17 Corporation 100% owned by the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe



Mission

SAGE provides renewable and sustainable energy resources in balance with Natural Law to recognize the interconnectedness of all living things.

Values

WISDOM: Respect for the balance of all living things and the connection between the Earth and spirit worlds.

RESPECT: Honor the 4 Winds, Grandmother Earth, and practice environmental regeneration.

CARING/COMPASSION: Make decisions that benefit future generations and protect sacred places.

FORTITUDE/BRAVERY: Uphold local control, ownership, and Standing Rock Sioux Tribe law.

GENEROSITY: Ensure fair pricing, equitable returns, and community support.

HUMILITY: Lead through listening, learning, and community building.

HONESTY: Maintain fiscal responsibility and adhere to accounting standards.

SAGE's Primary Goals

- 1 Development** of the Tribe's renewable energy resources to benefit future generations
- 2 Promoting** the Tribe's economic development and ensuring effective investment of profits into the community
- 3 Enabling** the Tribe to be self-sufficient and to enable self-determination through ownership in key projects





Completed all requirements to maintain Anpetu Wi's status in the interconnection queue

Installed 7 EV chargers and received 5 EVs for Standing Rock

Acquired 12 months of wind data from Met Mast Towers

Created 6 paid apprenticeships with our Community Solar partner

Obtained over 80% of the private land to build Anpetu Wi

Hired 2 additional full-time employees

Installed solar panels on 80% of Standing Rock district buildings

Hosted 50 impact investors, 30 federal agency representatives, and other key stakeholders during our May site visit

CURRENT PROJECTS

Anpetu Wi Wind Farm

Single Wind Turbine

Electric Vehicle Charging Network

Community Solar

FUTURE PROJECTS

Business Service Center

Museum and Cultural Center





Anpetu Wi Wind Farm

Phase | Pre-Development

SAGE’s inaugural utility-scale project at 235 MW, the Anpetu Wi Wind Farm, is a landmark project in our commitment to clean energy, job creation, and economic prosperity within the region. This project is poised to become the first and only utility-scale Native-led wind farm in the United States. With a historic Developer Service Agreement (DSA) that enables Standing Rock to retain ownership and maximize revenue of the wind farm. Anpetu Wi is a transformative energy project paving the way for other communities. The wind farm is also anticipated to produce 988,128 MWh of renewable energy per year, equivalent to 136 thousand homes’ electricity use for 1 year.

Details

Impacts

Represents the first Native-owned utility-scale energy project in the United States:

Projected Environmental Impacts

- 24.7 TWh total clean energy generation
- 17.2 MMT carbon emissions savings
- 136,000 homes powered per year

Projected Social and Economic Impacts

- \$525M total project costs
- \$954M total electric sales revenue
- \$336M total returns generated

Community Impacts

- Projected to create 2,042 construction jobs and 29 permanent operational jobs



SAGE enters into groundbreaking Developer Service Agreement for Anpetu Wi Wind Farm

The Developer Partnership Reimagined

Anpetu Wi has drafted a groundbreaking contract with a major developer to enter into a fee-for-services agreement that will maintain SAGE's position as the owner of Anpetu Wi. The agreement also includes a workforce development Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that codifies our commitment to bringing jobs and economic growth to our community. This agreement positions SAGE to retain unprecedented ownership, governance, and revenue from Anpetu Wi. This revenue will enable SAGE to be a lead investor in our future projects.

Interconnection

The interconnection process—the procedure by which energy projects connect to the physical energy grid—remains one of the most significant barriers for community-led projects. This process requires large financial security deposits to remain in good standing with the interconnection queue, often with only 15 days' notice. These financial hurdles, coupled with complex technical requirements, create substantial challenges for frontline communities seeking to develop and own energy assets.

With the support of our partners, SAGE has successfully navigated the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) interconnection queue since 2020 and remains in good standing with all financial and non-financial benchmarks met.

Land Control

SAGE has enlisted Baker Tilly to serve as the project manager for land control strategy, Nexus Energy Solutions to secure fee land leases, Bartlett and West to assist with Allotted and Tribal Trust Land control, Dentons and Stoel Rives as legal counsel to draft lease agreements. In 2024, SAGE obtained over 80% of the private land needed in the Area of Interest.

Wind Resource Development

SAGE has contracted Simon Wind to analyze wind data and improve project planning. In the past year, we have measured long-term wind speeds with Met Mast Towers (MMT) to refine turbine placement strategies, and complete a preliminary wind assessment for turbine arrays.





Single Wind Turbine

Phase | Pre-Development

The installation of a 1.7-5.0 MW Single Wind Turbine will provide a substantial portion of the Standing Rock Nation's electricity load while accelerating our transition to renewable energy, advancing Standing Rock's energy self-determination and resilience goals, and subsidizing energy costs for Elders.

Over the life of the project, the Single Wind Turbine will prevent the release of nearly 6 million pounds of CO₂, which is the equivalent of around 3 million pounds of coal burned or 500 homes' electricity use for 1 year.

Details

Impacts

- Prevents the release of nearly 6 million pounds of CO₂
- Subsidizes monthly energy costs for Elders

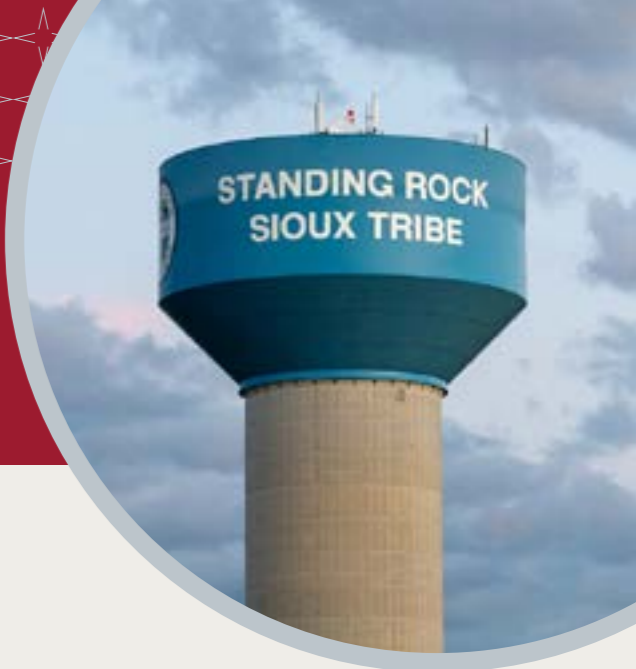
Notable Accomplishments

- Awarded and allocated a DOE reimbursable grant* to fund the project in 2024
- Appointed Emerald Renewable Energy Developers Inc. as Project Manager
- Drafted the initial scope of project timeline, milestones, and fundraising needs to inform project planning

Next Steps in 2025

- Finalize the size of the turbine based on pricing and available models
- Apply to the SPP interconnection fast track
- Conduct environmental and cultural reviews in compliance with the NEPA
- Secure private grants, recoverable grants, and catalytic debt to meet the 26% federal cost share

* Grants secured in 2024 that are now at risk.





Electric Vehicle Charging Network*

Phase | Installation

This past year, SAGE unveiled its inter-Tribal EV Charging Network partnerships and showcased the vehicles delivered to the Standing Rock Nation as part of the \$13.4M Electric Nation project. Electric Nation is a Native Sun Community Power Development project in partnership with SAGE and the American Lung Association to implement the Upper Midwest Inter-Tribal EV Charging Community Network.

This project will provide a broader charging network that runs from Red Lake, MN, to Standing Rock, ND, with plans to expand into other Native Nations across rural Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. As part of this work, SAGE has installed a total of 7 electric charging stations across the Standing Rock Nation.

* Grants secured in 2024 that are now at risk.

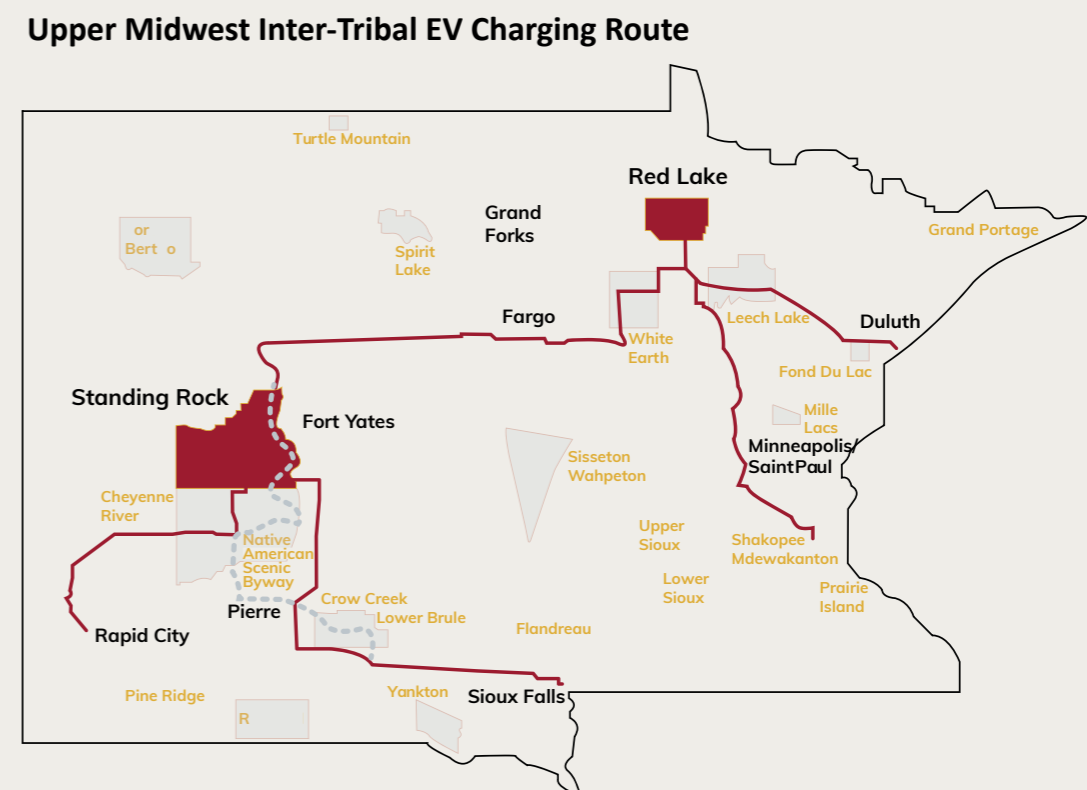
Details

Impacts

- Introduces EV infrastructure to the Upper Midwest and encourages clean mobility
- Installs 7 EV charging stations across Standing Rock
- Distributes all-electric vehicles to Tribal fleets
- Distributed 5 Ford F-150® Lightning® all-electric trucks and 1 all-electric van to SAGE, Grand River Casino, Standing Rock Transit, and Prairie Knights Casino

Next Steps in 2025

- Install 2 to 3 more charging stations.





Community Solar Network*

Phase | Installation

These installations are the first steps in a community-scale solar project aimed at integrating sustainable energy solutions across all 8 districts of the Standing Rock Nation.

In 2024, SAGE completed the installation of 10 solar arrays strategically located across the Nation at community and Headstart buildings. Targeting these locations will directly provide revenue savings to communities to redistribute to our programs. With these solar arrays in place, these strategic locations can spend money that would have gone toward electric bills on key initiatives.

SAGE launched a paid apprenticeship program to coincide with the solar installations in a powerful commitment to community empowerment and sustainable growth. This initiative is designed to equip community members with essential skills and create job opportunities within the renewable energy sector. These installations have provided 6 paid apprenticeships with opportunities to work on additional projects within the region.

* Grants secured in 2024 that are now at risk.

Details

Impacts

- Installs photovoltaic (PV) systems, also known as solar arrays, to generate total of 100kW of solar energy on 10 district and headstart buildings
- Allows key organizations to spend their funding on important programing instead of electricity bills
- Provides workforce development for apprentices to develop solar installation skills
- Installed 10 10kW solar arrays at 10 key locations across Standing Rock
- Created 6 paid apprenticeships as solar installers for Standing Rock community members
- Installed solar arrays on 7 out of 8 district buildings and 2 out of 7 Headstart buildings, a significant benchmark on our road to energy self-sufficiency

Next Steps in 2025

- Apply for Elective Pay Investment Tax Credits to increase revenue and reinvest in SAGE projects
- Continue community solar installations across remaining districts
- Explore funding opportunities as they become available



Workforce Development

Through fostering talent and providing hands-on experience, SAGE is dedicated to nurturing a robust workforce for the future of sustainability in Standing Rock and in the region. In addition to the community solar apprenticeships and the workforce development MOU for Anpetu Wi, SAGE is creating a curriculum for workforce development related to renewable energy. It's one more example of how we are using renewable energy projects as a way to bring economic growth to Standing Rock and beyond.



In the Community

SAGE's work in the community included:

- Hosting a site visit in Standing Rock Nation, bringing together 50 impact investors, 30 federal agency representatives, and additional stakeholders
- Attending local powwows
- Extensively engaging the community in our launch of the visioning phase for a Business Service Center
- Hosting events, including the Standing Rock Community Art Show, designed to spotlight the many ways we tell our story in our own voice



The SAGE Team

SAGE is building a talented board and staff who are dedicated to SAGE's 2020-2025 strategic plan to promote long-term energy independence and economic growth for the Standing Rock community.



Photo from left to right:
Joseph McNeil, Melody Red Tomahawk, Sierra Burke,
Earth Hadjo, John Hollow Horn, and Shelby Zahn
(not pictured Fawn Wasin Zi and Janakate Walker)

STAFF

Joseph McNeil Jr, CEO

Fawn Wasin Zi, Project Director

Melody Red Tomahawk, Operations Director

Shelby Zahn, Office Manager

Earth Hadjo, Digital Asset Manager

Sierra Burke, Grants and Stewardship Manager

John Hollow Horn, Project Coordinator

Janakate Walker, Project Coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wilberta Red Tomahawk, Chairwoman

Phyllis Young, Vice Chair

Tasha Peltier, Secretary

Chad Harrison, Treasurer

Charles Bailey, Board Member

Dave Archambault II, Business Advisor

Tim Mentz Sr, Cultural Advisor

Thank You

We get closer to our goal of energy independence every day, and we couldn't do it without your support. Our partners are an integral part of achieving our vision and sharing the SAGE model with other Tribes and underserved communities.

As we look forward to yet another unprecedented year, your support will be more important than ever. **Thank you.**







SAGE

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