GRIC Green Building Project

Althea Walker
Environmental Education & Outreach Specialist
Outline

• GRIC Overview
• Making a Visible Difference Initiative
• GRIC Green Building Project
• Next Steps
Gila River Indian Community

- Established in 1859 by Executive Order
- Consists of two (2) tribes
  - Akimel O’odham (Pima)
  - Pii Pash (Maricopa)
- 7 Districts
- Community Members ~ 22,000
  - ~12,500 on reservation
Gila River Indian Community

- Adjacent to Phoenix Metro Area
- 2 Counties (Maricopa and Pinal)
- ~374,000 Acres
  - ~35,000 Agricultural
Making a Visible Difference

As part of the EPA Making A Visible Difference in Communities Initiative, we’ve been working with the EPA and contractors to further our green building and sustainable development efforts.

- Intended to advance the community’s sustainability goals concerning:
  - Building
  - Housing
  - Transportation
  - Sustainable materials management

- 51 communities
  - Only community in Arizona
GRIC Building Codes & Standards

• Updated our codes 3 times since 1960s
• Current codes:
  – 2006 versions of the International Code Council's codes (I-codes)
    • local amendments
  – 2012 I-Codes (in process)
• Examples of Standards we build to:
  – U.S Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)
  – Traditional methods
Initial Steps

• Introduce contractor to the Community
• Gain foundational knowledge of GRIC processes and infrastructure
• Visit obvious examples of “green” buildings
Kick-off Meeting

• July 2016– Various departments represented
  – GRFD, Tribal Projects, HHC, Cultural Resources, CPAO, Casinos, Pima Leasing, Procurement

• Areas of Interest:
  – Solar feasibility
  – Water/energy conservation
  – Waste disposal
  – Traditional building structures
  – Shade structures
  – Community gardens
  – Thermal regulation
Kick-Off Meeting

• Areas of Question & Concern:
  – Short, medium, long term goals
  – Delegation of work
    – Internal / 3rd party, multiple departments involved
  – Need to streamline process
    – One set of guidelines, more concise process
  – Educating homeowners
    – Process and opportunities available
  – Pros / cons of different sustainable practices
    – cost (monetary and labor), timeframe, importance
  – Incorporate leadership to make sure that Community concerns are top priority
Kick-Off Meeting Takeaways

• Better understand GRIC’s resource managers areas of concern and vision for GRIC

• Allowed us to better understand GRIC’s building code system of adoption; key stakeholders

• Established a relationship with Tribal Projects & Building Safety Division
Inspections & Code Assessment

- Review GRIC codes
- Discussions with Tribal Building and Safety Division
- Site visits
- Draft recommendations
What we learned...

- GRIC builds to LEED standards; has progressive policies
- GRIC has more stringent energy efficiency requirements than the State of Arizona building codes
- GRIC encourages and supports traditional and owner-built homes
- GRIC has a deep commitment to environmental and resource stewardship
- GRIC has well developed, open-minded plan review, permitting and inspection process
Hashan-Kehk District 2 Service Center
Draft Recommendations

• Augment, not replace current codes
• Statement of Administrative Intent (now resolution)
• Promote:
  – Solar Energy Use
  – Water Conservation
  – Earthen Building
  – Light Straw-Clay (sandwich house) and Straw Bale Construction
  – Efficient Outdoor Lighting
• Existing Green Building and incentive programs in Arizona
Next Steps

• Adopt a green building resolution
  – Case Study
  – Draft recommendations
  – Supplemental document to recommendations

• Inspire green building in the Community
Contact Information

Althea Walker
Environmental Education & Outreach Specialist
(520)562-2234
althea.walker@gric.nsn.us
www.gricdeq.org