

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Reservation Business Committee

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Fond du Lac Band highlights initiatives to address climate change on tour with State of Minnesota leaders

Tour emphasized opportunities for collaboration between Fond du Lac Band and state agencies during Climate Week 2022



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September 21st, 2022- Yesterday, the Fond du Lac (FDL) Band of Lake Superior Chippewa hosted leaders from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Board of Water & Soil Resources, and Departments of Natural Resources, Employment and Economic Development, Agriculture, and Transportation, to share actions the Band is taking to address climate change. The tour, held on Day 2 of Climate Week, included a visit to the Reservation's resource management center and the solar energy site.

“One of the priorities of FDL is to make sure that as a Tribal Nation, that we are sustainable and appropriate measures are taken to assure that not only what we do today, but what happens in the future will strive to maintain that sustainability. We are honored to share and visit about FDL's energy initiatives with the plethora of state agencies that came today,” said Wayne Dupuis, FDL Environmental Program Manager.

The FDL Band has developed a Strategic Energy Plan to achieve the Tribe's Energy Vision, which was highlighted on the tour. Accomplishments of this plan include:

- Adoption of the Kyoto Protocol with a pledge to obtain 20% of the Reservation's electricity from renewable energy resources.
- A 50% reduction in fossil fuel consumption and 80% reduction in carbon emissions through renewable energy, energy efficiency, and carbon sequestration from FDL Reservation forests.
- Improvements to community vitality and self-reliance through food sovereignty initiatives and activities that promote overall health and well-being.

Additionally, FDL operates a 1 MW solar array at the Black Bear Casino & Resort. Utilizing 3,230 solar panels, the solar field has offset the Black Bear Casino's total energy use by about 10%. Learn more about the [energy plan here](#).

“FDL has been implementing strategies to adapt to climate change for many years. These strategies are efficient, support the local economy, and are centered around the community's knowledge and connection to the natural world,” said Helen Waqui, Director of Tribal Affairs and Diverse Communities for MPCA. “The state can learn

from efforts, like those implemented at FDL, to address challenges a changing climate poses to all current and future generations of Minnesotans.”

<Attached Photos: Photo 1: Wayne Dupuis Educates about the LEED Certified John A. Smith Memorial Building. Photo 2: Group heads out to tour the FDL Reservation>

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About the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Nagaajiwanaang, “Where the Water Stops,” is the name of the homelands of the Fond du Lac Band at the time of the 1854 Treaty. We retained this name in Ojibwemowin for the present-day Fond du lac Reservation that was established under the 1854 La Pointe Treaty. Nagaajiwanaang (Fond du Lac Band) is one of the six Bands of the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe. There are three districts that make up the Fond du Lac Reservation: Bapashkominigong (Cloquet), Gwaaba’iganing (Sawyer), and Ashkibwaakaaning (Brookston). Today, our Band includes over 4,200 members. We have always been, and continue to be, a proud sovereign Ojibwe nation. We uphold all of our rights retained and agreed to within the 1825, 1826, 1837, 1842, 1847, and 1854 Treaties.

About the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is a state agency committed to ensuring that every Minnesotan has healthy air, sustainable lands, clean water, and a better climate.

