In 2017, the Akiachak Native Community partnered with the Cold Climate Housing Research Center and Energy Audits of Alaska to make a plan to improve tribal buildings in the village. Funded by the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy, the 2-year project resulted in an Energy Action Plan for tribal buildings. The plan contains baseline data on the condition and energy use of nine tribal buildings. From this information, a set of recommendations were formulated to improve each building’s energy efficiency and safety. A maintenance plan and funding opportunities were also included in the final Energy Action Plan.

Many of the buildings in the project have energy costs of over $10,000 per year, and following all the recommendations in the Energy Action Plan can result in nearly $40,000 in savings annually. The tribal maintenance manager and building occupants have already begun to act on these recommendations, and the dedicated tribal staff and Tribal Council are now looking towards the next steps to realizing safe, comfortable, and energy efficient tribal buildings.