

Revised SAKU Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Caddo Nation and EightTwenty Launch SAKU: Innovative Solar Energy Venture for Native Tribes

BINGER, OK, September 20, 2024 - The Caddo Nation, in partnership with EightTwenty Solar, today announced the launch of SAKU, a groundbreaking joint venture aimed at empowering Native tribes through sustainable solar energy solutions. SAKU, which means "sun" in the Caddo language, represents a significant step forward in tribal economic development and environmental stewardship.

As the December 31, 2024 deadline to obligate American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds approaches, and with additional opportunities provided by the Inflation Reduction Act, SAKU offers tribes a unique opportunity to invest in sustainable infrastructure and energy independence. The company provides comprehensive solar energy solutions tailored specifically for the needs of Indian Country, including project design, implementation, and assistance with federal incentives.

"We have a historic level of funding in Indian country that we want tribes to be able to take advantage of," said Zackeree Kelin, Vice Chairman of the Caddo Nation Economic Development Authority. "With ARPA funds and the incentives provided by the Inflation Reduction Act, SAKU allows tribes to invest in their sustainability, their programs, and their infrastructure, while also contributing to the physical resilience of their communities."

SAKU's launch comes at a crucial time when tribes are looking for ways to leverage federal funding for long-term benefit. The company's turnkey approach addresses the specific needs and regulations of tribal nations, offering a pathway to energy independence and economic growth.

"SAKU solar is how we say sun in Caddo. We created this joint venture with EightTwenty to teach other tribes how to invest in solar, helping them reduce energy costs and cut down on emissions," said Chairman Bobby Gonzalez of the Caddo Nation. "It's not just about

installing solar panels – it's about investing in our sovereignty and our future while taking full advantage of the opportunities presented by ARPA and the Inflation Reduction Act."

The Caddo Nation is already demonstrating SAKU's potential with its new state-of-the-art child care and community center. Built by the tribe's own construction company, Arrowood Kakinah, and powered by SAKU's solar installation, this project showcases the benefits of tribal self-sufficiency and sustainable development.

Adam Luck, Chief Sales Officer at EightTwenty, emphasized the company's unique position: "Our in-house solutions and W2 employee model allow us to maintain high quality and consistency in our products and customer experience. We're excited to bring this level of service to Indian Country through SAKU, helping tribes navigate the complexities of ARPA funding and Inflation Reduction Act incentives."

SAKU invites Native tribes and businesses to join in this transformative journey towards energy independence and sustainable economic development. For more information or to book a consultation, visit go-saku.com.

About SAKU:

SAKU is a joint venture between the Caddo Nation and EightTwenty Solar, dedicated to powering Native tribes through solar energy. Offering comprehensive solar solutions tailored for Indian Country, SAKU aims to promote energy independence, reduce costs, and foster economic growth in tribal communities.

About the Caddo Nation:

The Caddo Nation is a federally recognized tribe indigenous to Oklahoma, with a rich cultural heritage and a commitment to sustainable development and tribal sovereignty.

About EightTwenty Solar:

EightTwenty is a leading solar energy company based in Oklahoma City, specializing in the design and implementation of commercial and nonprofit solar projects.

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