



August 31, 2023 (photo credit: Susan Winton)



Bi-monthly during higher bloom "season"

Monthly collection rest of the year



June 11, 2023 (photo credits: Briggy Thomas)

Collection of Lake Sample



Collection of Tap Sample





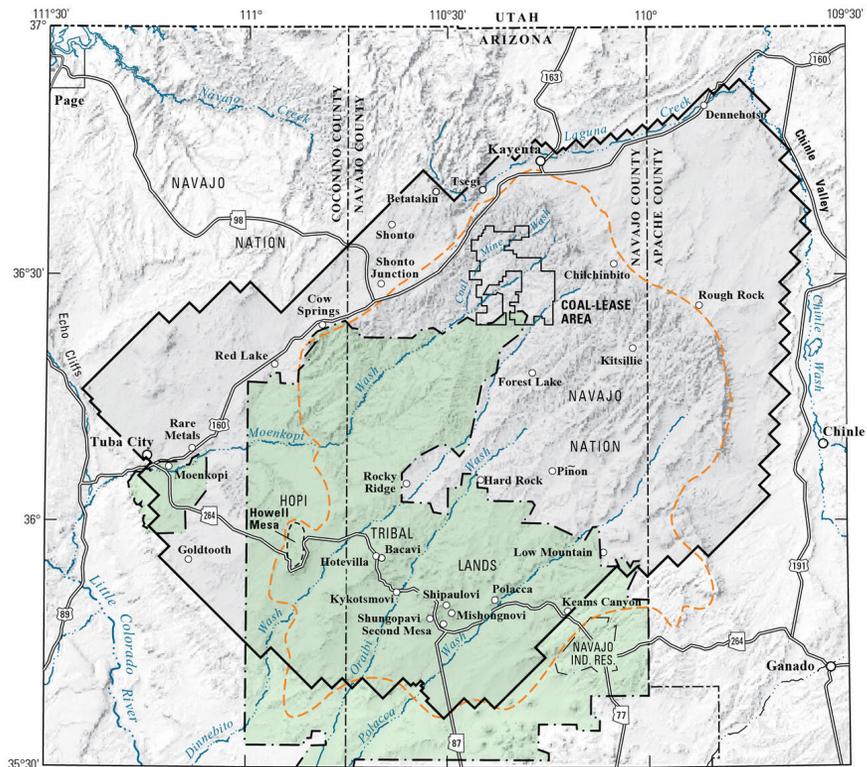
ADVOCATING FOR AND PROTECTING DINÉ LIFEWAYS ON BLACK MESA

Tó Nizhóní Ání, which translates to "Sacred Water Speaks," is a Diné-led nonprofit organization established in 2001. Tó Nizhóní Ání originates from the Big Mountain community on Black Mesa, and in 2005, Tó Nizhóní Ání led efforts to end the industrial use of the Navajo Aquifer - Black Mesa's only source of potable water, from Peabody Coal Company. Today, Tó Nizhóní Ání continues to work to protect the region's water while leading the community transition away from fossil fuels.

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Base from U.S. Geological Survey digital data, 1:100,000, 1980 Lambert Conformal Conic projection Standard parallels 29°30' and 45°30', central meridian -111°30'



- EXPLANATION**
- Boundary of Black Mesa
 - Area of Hopi Tribal Lands within Navajo Nation
 - Boundary of mathematical model—From Brown and Eychaner (1988). The boundary delineates the extent of the N aquifer monitored in the study area.



THE HEINZ AWARDS

Energy justice leader Nicole Horseherder, Diné, of the Navajo Nation, received the Heinz Award for the Environment for her work as co-founder of the nonprofit Tó Nizhóní Ání ("Sacred Water Speaks"). She works to protect the aquifers, streams and land of Black Mesa, Arizona; bring power to Indigenous communities suffering the environmental effects of coal extraction and industry waste; and position the region to transition to and produce renewable energy.

[Read More](#)





TÓ NIZHÓNÍ ÁNÍ WAS FORMED IN THE SPIRIT OF DINÉ ELDERS THAT FOUGHT TO PROTECT BLACK MESA

"THE CREATOR IS THE ONLY ONE WHO'S GOING TO RELOCATE US"



INDIGENOUS-LED

Meet our team



MISSION

Learn more about our organization



NARRATIVES

Hear from the community



DONATE

Help us continue our efforts

"THERE HAVE BEEN A LOT OF CHANGES FROM WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL. SOME PLANTS THAT I USED TO SEE WHEN I WAS YOUNGER AREN'T AROUND ANYMORE. IT DOESN'T RAIN AND SNOW AS IT USED TO, AND WHEN IT DOES, IT DOESN'T LAST VERY LONG. ALL THE SEEPS AND SPRINGS THAT I GREW UP WITH, AND TOOK OUR SHEEP TO, ARE GONE."

-Lorraine Herder, Chíshí Dine'é



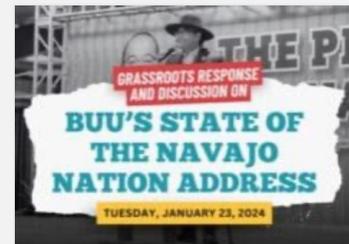
CURRENT NEWS



ACC Turns It's Back On Rural And Tribal Communities In Arizona That Are Reeling Economically From Early



Federal Officials Reject Three Huge Arizona Pump Storage Projects Targeting Black Mesa



Grassroots Response
February 1, 2024



Environmental Day At The Capital 2024
January 31, 2024



STAFF MEMBERS



Nicole Horseherder

Executive Director

Nicole Horseherder, Diné, is from the Black Mesa region of the Navajo Nation. Nicole is one of the original founding members of Tó Nizhóní Ání and has been an active member since its establishment. Nicole is a graduate of the University of Arizona with a Bachelors in Family and Consumer Resources. Nicole received her Master of Arts in Linguistics from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C. Canada. Nicole began her work with Tó Nizhóní Ání as an outreach coordinator and interpreting hydrology and legal documents for Diné communities fighting coal-mine impacts. Today Nicole is leading efforts towards transition away from fossil fuel development in the Navajo Nation. Outside of Tó Nizhóní Ání, Nicole enjoys her time with family, horses, ceremonies, and traveling.



Adrian Herder



Adrian Herder

Media Organizer | adrian@tonizhoniani.org

Adrian Herder, Diné, is from the Black Mesa region of the Navajo Nation and currently resides in Flagstaff, AZ. Adrian served as a volunteer with Tó Nizhóní Ání for seven years before officially joining the team in 2020. Adrian graduated from Northern Arizona University in 2017 with a Bachelor of Science in Fitness & Wellness. Adrian is an accomplished potter and artist, showing his work in several notable shows and art markets. In addition, Adrian has designed many flyers, posters, and logos for businesses and organizations. Outside of Tó Nizhóní Ání, Adrian likes to run, take photos of Diné life, and dedicate his time to making traditional Diné pottery.



Jessica Keetso

Organizer

Jessica Keetso, Diné, is from the Black Mesa region of the Navajo Nation. Jessica was a regular volunteer with Tó Nizhóní Ání before joining the team in 2018. As a volunteer, Jessica helped coordinate events such as the Just Transition Relay. In 2017, Jessica graduated from Northern Arizona University with her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science. Jessica served with the Navajo Nation President's Office and worked with the Energy and Natural Resources team before being hired by Tó Nizhóní Ání. Outside of Tó Nizhóní Ání, Jessica enjoys helping her family, exploring the outdoors, and tending to her garden and chickens.



Percy Deal

Community Liaison

Percy Deal, Diné, is from Big Mountain, located on Black Mesa on the Navajo Nation. Percy has long been an active member of Tó Nizhóní Ání and was also one of the original founding members of the organization. Percy has been deeply involved in the local community and government issues for the last 45 years. Today, Percy continues to use



Jennifer Beaudette

Administrative Assistant | jennifer@tonizhoniani.org

Jennifer Beaudette, Diné, is from Whippoorwill Springs, which is located 10 miles east of Piñon, Arizona, on Black Mesa. She currently resides in Flagstaff, Arizona, where she supports the daily operations of Tó Nizhóní Ání at our Flagstaff office. Jennifer has over 10 years of experience with grant management and bookkeeping. Outside of Tó Nizhóní Ání, Jennifer enjoys nature walks, road trips, riding with friends, and loves spending time with her grandson.



Eleanor Smith

Community Organizer

Eleanor Smith, Diné, is originally from T'iis Názbas, Arizona, near the Four Corners Monument in the Navajo Nation. She and her husband raised their seven children in Shiprock, New Mexico. Eleanor earned her Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts from the University of New Mexico in 2018, then received her Master's in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education from Fort Lewis College in 2022. Faced with an environmentally detrimental helium extraction proposal in her hometown community of T'iis Názbas, she joined the Dooda Helium movement, then helped found the T'iis Názbas Collaborative Coalition and began working for Tó Nizhóní Ání part-time in 2022 as a Community Organizer. Outside of work, Eleanor enjoys spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren, traveling with her husband, sewing, cooking, and reading.



Andrew Atencia

Community Organizer | andrew@tonizhoniani.org

Andrew Atencia is from Flagstaff, Arizona. Andrew just began with Tó Nizhóní Ání, initially as an Intern in the Fall of 2022. He is now a recent graduate of Northern Arizona University with a B.S. in Environmental and Sustainability Studies. Andrew comes from Filipino descent and has found a deep connection with water and land through mountain biking, rock climbing, and backcountry split boarding. He is guided by the indigenous teachings of elders, as well as informed by the issues that threaten the existence of natural spaces. Motivated, disciplined and inspired



ADVISORS



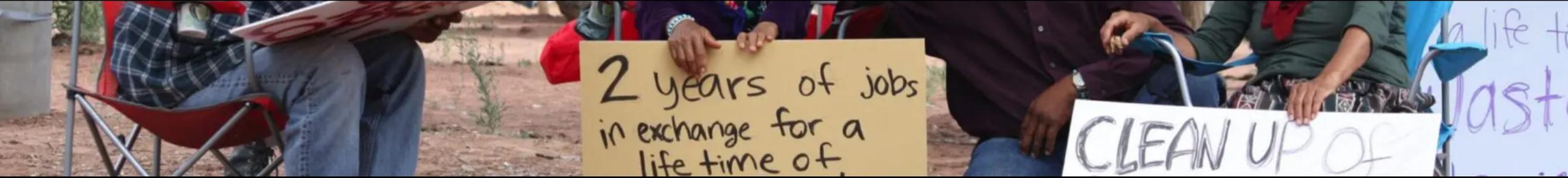
Our advisors play a very crucial role in our organization. Their experiences and expertise help guide us and provide direction for the organization. Below is a list of advisors, past and present:

Current Advisors

- Valencia Edgewater
- Marshall Johnson
- Tony Skrelunas

Past Advisors

- Theodore Badonie
- Leonard Deal (decd.)
- Ram Herder (decd.)
- Alice Nez Horseherder (decd.)
- Lorraine Johnson (decd.)
- Katherine Smith (decd.)
- Max Wilcox (decd.)



BOARD MEMBERS



Rhonda Begay

Nutritionist

Rhonda is Diné and from the Kinyaa'anii clan. Rhonda was born and raised in Teesto, Arizona, and currently resides in Hardrock, Arizona. Rhonda works for the Navajo Nation's Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program providing special supplemental nutrition programming for families with young children.



Dana Eldridge

Organizer

Dana is Diné and from the Tsénjínínií Kin Łitsonii clan. Dana is from the Bishadaas'chii community. Dana is a graduate from Brown University and has dedicated her life to remembering, revitalizing



Dan Herder

Rancher/Retired NGS Employee

Dan is Diné, and from the Tl'izíłani clan. Dan is originally from Howell Mesa and resides in Hardrock, Arizona. Dan is a full-time rancher and spends his days tending to his livestock. As a frontline community member, Dan has seen, firsthand, the impacts of climate change and resource extraction on the indigenous pastoralist lifeways.



Edith Simonson

Shepherd/Weaver

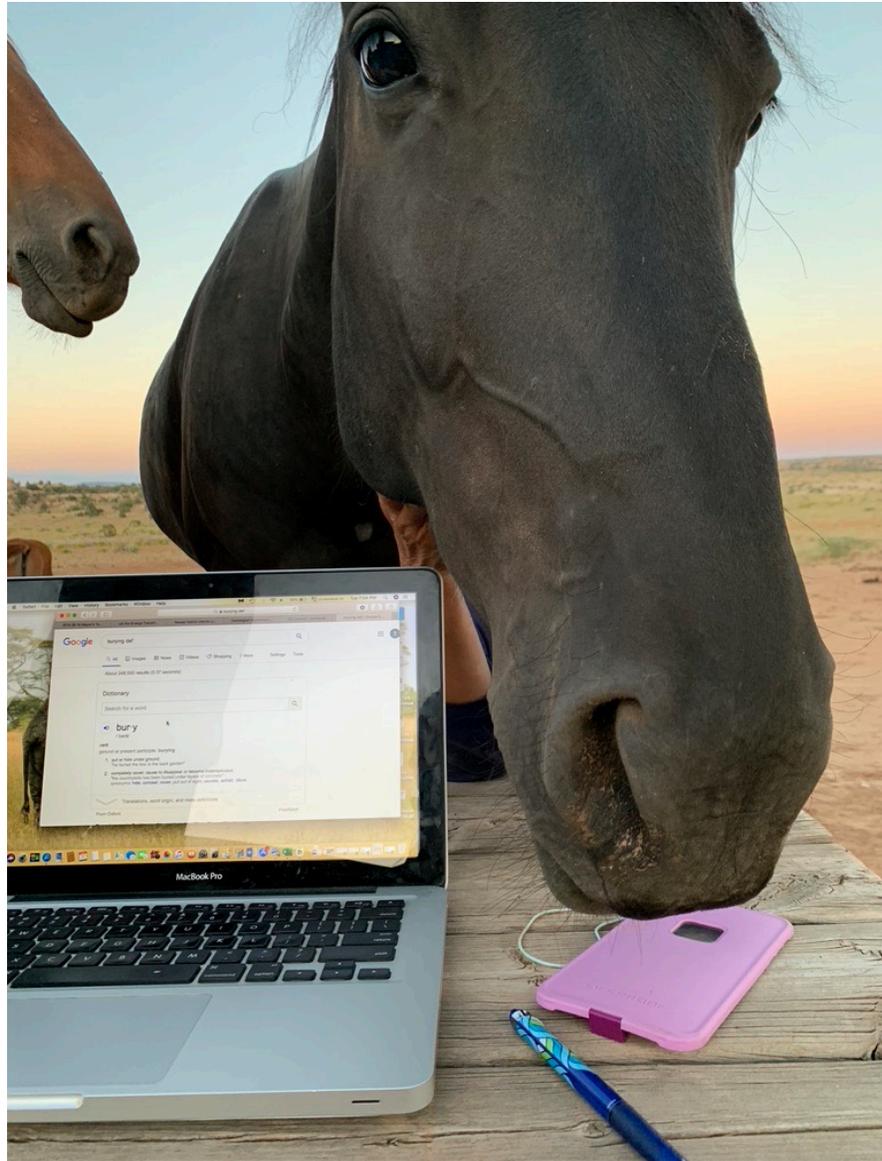
Edith is Diné and from the Chíshí Dine'é clan. Edith was born and raised in the Big Mountain community of Hardrock, Arizona. Edith is a full-time shepherd and Diné weaver. She is one of the few Diné weavers that still processes her wool by hand, using the native vegetation to dye and weave traditional blankets. Edith has seen the impacts of coal mining on the native plants and herbs, which has impacted the traditional economy and way of life.

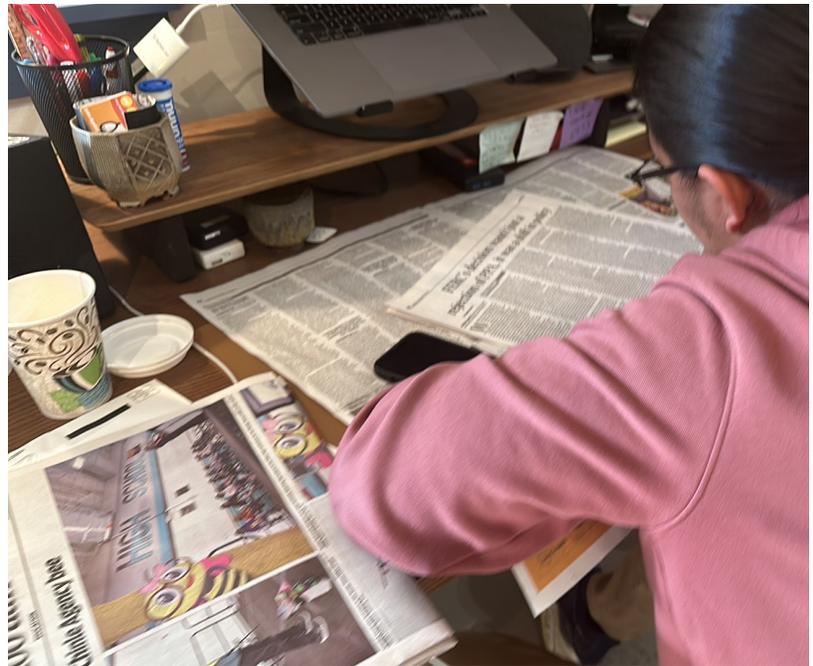


Darrell Marks

Community Organizer/Educator

Darrell is Diné of the White Corn Zuni Edgewater, born for Those Going Home. His maternal grandparents are Many Goats, and his paternal grandparents are Salt. Darrell is a father of three children. Originally





ARIZONA
CORPORATION
COMMISSION
TO FUND JUST
& EQUITABLE
TRANSITION
FOR ARIZONA
COAL-
IMPACTED
COMMUNITIES
NOW



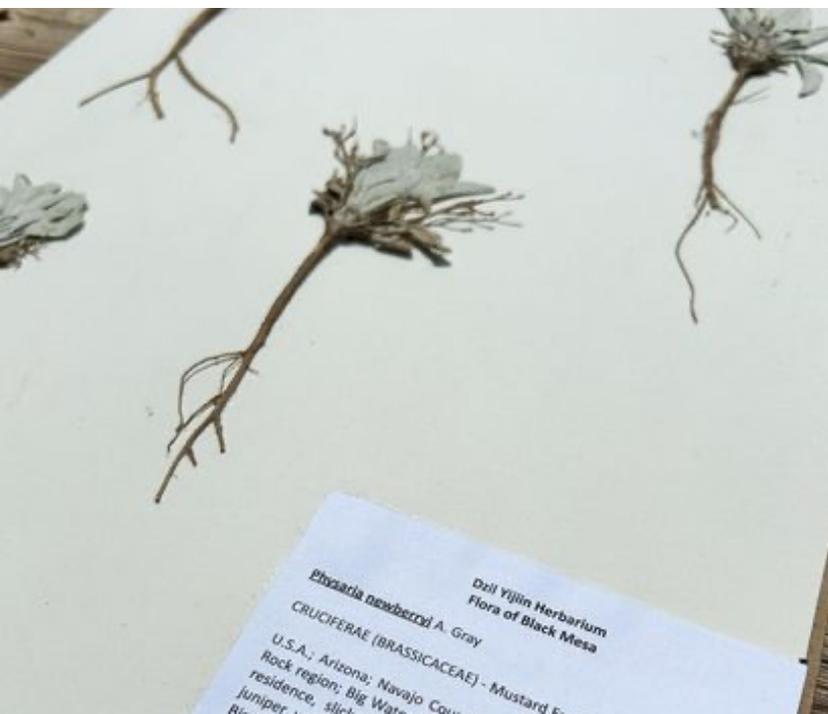
OUR COAL & WATER
POWERED ARIZONA
#JETBlackMesa



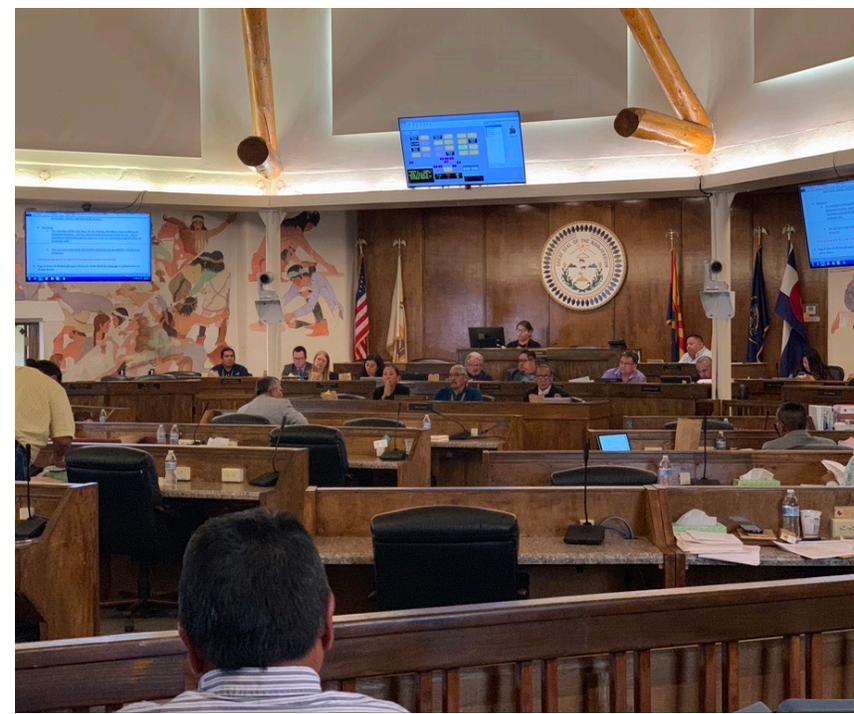
HYDROGEN INFORMATIONAL SESSION

Join us to learn more about your
community's proposed Hydrogen Hub
and the pros and cons of
hydrogen development in Navajo.

Friday, September 29, 2023
10 AM MDT (Rez Time)
@ Tonalea Chapter - Tonalea, AZ



Physaria newberryi A. Gray
Dzil Yijilin Herbarium
Flora of Black Mesa
CRUCIFERAE (BRASSICACEAE) - Mustard F.
U.S.A.; Arizona; Navajo County
Rock region; Big Water
residence; silt-
juniper -
Ri-







Tó Nizhóní Ání "Sacred Springs Speaks"

CAMPAIGNS



WATER IS LIFE

Tó Nizhóní Ání "Sacred Water Speaks" was established in 2000 to address the waste and misuse of precious groundwater by the coal industry on Black Mesa. The Navajo Aquifer has long been the sole source of potable water for the Diné and Hopi living on the Black Mesa plateau in northeast Arizona. The Navajo Aquifer or N-Aquifer is described as ice-age pristine drinking water and surpasses EPA standards. The natural fissures in the earth allow the water to come to the surface as springs and seeps, bringing substance to the people that call Black Mesa home.

Since the 1970s, Peabody Energy has operated both the Black Mesa Mine and Kayenta Mine on Black Mesa. Black Mesa N-aquifer groundwater was used to transport coal from the Black Mesa mine through a slurry line to Mohave Generating Station, 273 miles away. On average, Peabody has

RECLAMATION & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

With the end of coal mining operations on Black Mesa, Tó Nizhóní Ání focuses on rehabilitation efforts: 1) ensuring complete reclamation of coal mined lands and the water source that was used during these operations. 2) The decommissioning and complete clean-up of the power plant site at Navajo Generating Station. In addition, we demand the repatriation of all artifacts and ancestral remains removed when mining operations began on Black Mesa.



JUST & EQUITABLE TRANSITION

As we move forward and transition away from the coal and the fossil fuel economy, Tó Nizhóní Ání is engaging utility owners and giving them the first opportunity to support our efforts to mitigate the economic losses and environmental destruction that our indigenous communities have endured. We are engaging utilities to support a Just and Equitable Transition (JET) which includes providing support to rebuild economies loss from coal plant and mine closures. Our efforts include re-training and jobs for displaced mine and plant workers, replacing coal energy with renewable energy, and securing the support needed to transition the Navajo Economy.





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CLIMATE CHANGE

Tó Nizhóní Ání is working toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the energy sector and ensuring all fossil fuel generation is replaced with clean, renewable resources leading to a low carbon future. We recognize the environmental and economic toll that decades of exploitation and resource extraction by outside interests have had on the Navajo Nation. Crucially, we recognize that the impacts on our water have been tremendous. We are focused on replacing coal energy with renewable energy everywhere on the Navajo Nation to protect the water sources. . We are working with Navajo, State and Federal leadership to achieve that goal.



ABOUT US

Tó Nizhóní Ání is a 501(c)3 organization located on the Black Mesa Plateau in Northeast Arizona on the Navajo Nation. Tó Nizhóní Ání was organized to protect the water source of Black Mesa from Industry use and waste. Our goal is to bring power back to our Indigenous communities impacted by coal while maintaining a balanced environment with the elements of life – water, land, air and sunlight. Tó hoo íiní. Water is life.

SOCIAL MEDIA

-  TWITTER
-  INSTAGRAM
-  FACEBOOK
-  LINKEDIN
-  YOUTUBE

CONTACT US

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SEARCH