By utilizing advanced technologies, such as Premier SIPS, the project architect was able to impressively integrate both cultural and environmental responsibility into the tribal project to meet the goals set by the Puyallup Tribal Housing Authority... “space that reflects culture”.

Project Profile:
Puyallup Tribal Longhouse

The Puyallup Longhouse was designed with the goal of creating a community center and beautiful, relevant and affordable housing for members of the Puyallup Tribe struggling with the challenges of increased urbanization, high unemployment and low income. The design embraces the tribe’s culture and follows the concept of traditional longhouses where family, friends and community members interacted to perform such daily activities as singing, dancing, weaving and carving. Modern technologies supplemented the natural design strategy and led to homes that are much more energy efficient than current Washington State energy code.
The buildings in which we live, work, and play protect us from Nature’s extremes, yet they also affect our health and environment in countless ways. The Puyallup Tribe started building green to provide healthier, sustainable and more resource-efficient Native American communities. Research and experience increasingly demonstrates that when buildings are designed and operated with their life cycle impacts in mind, they can provide great environmental, economic, and social benefits.

This LEED Platinum certified housing project is a culturally and environmentally responsive new model for the Puyallup Tribe in the Pacific NW. It’s located on the Puyallup reservation on a hill overlooking the Puget Sound tide flats, which were traditional Puyallup tribal lands. The buildings are designed to emulate the rectangular, shed roofed form of a traditional Coast Salish longhouse using a variation of the modern townhouse courtyard building. Structural Insulated Panels with excellent air sealing for a well-insulated envelope, triple pane windows and ground source heat pumps for both domestic hot water and hydronic heating are some of the sustainable features.

The innovative longhouse project is the first Native American building to be certified LEED Platinum.

The Premier SIPS Solution:

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: Premier SIPS help HUD reach the goal of developing, operating, and maintaining affordable rental and homeownership housing for Native American Reservations

ENERGY EFFICIENT STRUCTURES: Structures regularly save up to 60% on heating and cooling costs, significantly preserving fossil fuels

FAST INSTALLATION: Large prefabricated panels are easy to install. Training of framing crews is minimal, saving thousands on labor costs and building ‘dry in’ time.

HEALTHY: Superior indoor air quality with reduced infiltration of outside pollutants, which can benefit those with respiratory ailments

ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE: SIPS produce 30% less job-site waste than traditional construction

EASY TO OPERATE: Tight building envelope reduces HVAC mechanical equipment sizes and related heating and cooling over the life of each building

Puyallup Tribal Longhouse
Tacoma, WA

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TIGHTER ENVELOPE SIPS create a tighter envelope significantly reducing air infiltrations and outside pollutants, creating exceptional indoor air quality and a healthier environment

WARRANTY Peace of mind with a warranty. Huge advantage as traditional framing methods offer no warranty

FAST CLOSE IN Buildings remain affordable with faster framing time due to no need for separate on-site framing and insulation work

Project Details
Architect: Environmental Works | Seattle, WA
Contractor: Marpac Construction | Seattle, WA
Project Size: 10-unit Townhouse, 1 & 2 bedroom
Premier SIPS Used: 8,400 Sq. Ft. of 8” wall panels, 6,800 Sq. Ft. of 12” roof panels