



Technical Assistance Opportunity for Tribes: Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) Program for Renewable Energy Project Development Assistance – Round Three

About the Office

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (Office of Indian Energy) is charged by Congress to direct, foster, coordinate, and implement energy planning, education, management, and programs that assist Tribes with energy development, capacity building, energy infrastructure, energy costs, and electrification of Indian lands and homes.

The DOE Office of Indian Energy works within DOE, across government agencies, and with Indian Tribes and organizations to promote Indian energy policies and initiatives. The DOE Office of Indian Energy performs these functions within the scope of DOE's mission, in keeping with the federal government's trust responsibility and tribal self-determination policy, and in support of the government-to-government relationship with Indian Tribes.

The DOE Office of Indian Energy collaborates with Tribes to bring about the next generation of energy development in Indian Country. We provide reliable, accurate information to empower tribal leaders to make informed energy decisions. Through quality training, technical assistance, and energy project funding, we foster tribal energy self-sufficiency and self-determination, promote community economic development and job creation, and advance tribal visions for a sustainable energy future.

START Program for Renewable Energy Project Development Assistance

The Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) Program, which was launched in 2012, is part of the DOE Office of Indian Energy's effort to assist in the development of tribal renewable energy projects. The START team is comprised of DOE and national laboratory experts in renewable energy project development and implementation. Successful applicants are paired with team members who have expertise relevant to the applicant's project development stage and technology type and can provide the knowledge needed to move projects closer to implementation.

In the third round of technical assistance in 2015, the START team will work directly with the selected applicants' project teams and tribal legal/finance specialists who are currently or will be imminently addressing late-stage project development decisions, negotiations, and agreements. Specifically, START Round Three technical assistance supports the implementation of **community-scale and commercial-scale** renewable energy projects by providing tribal project teams with technical expertise and unbiased guidance on:

- Verifying economic and technical viability of project's power and revenue generation
- Developing a communication and outreach strategy, such as developing a strategic communications plan to support the tribal project team in communicating the costs and benefits of the project to the broader tribal community and other stakeholders



- Establishing terms and strategies for negotiating land-lease, energy off-take, and/or power purchase agreements
- Selecting project ownership options, partnership arrangements, and financing structures
- Developing request for proposals (RFPs) with appropriate technical guidelines and selection criteria
- Developing operations and maintenance (O&M) or measurement and verification (M&V) plans.

Basic Eligibility

The START Program is supported by funds appropriated to the DOE Office of Indian Energy under Title V of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Title V directs and authorizes the DOE Office of Indian Energy to provide technical assistance services to “Indian Tribes,” which are defined in Section 2601 of the Act to mean “any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or regional or village corporation as defined in or established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians.”

Eligible applicants for this opportunity include: Indian Tribes, Alaska Native regional corporations, and formally organized tribal energy resource development organizations (please include relevant charter or organizational documentation). These entities will be considered eligible to apply for this START Program opportunity and, if selected, will receive technical assistance for **community-scale and commercial-scale** renewable energy project development (projects with generation capacity that surpasses average electric/heating demand of an individual building or community-owned facility).

NOTE: In addition to this opportunity, DOE launched the third round of the Alaska START Program in December 2014 to assist Alaska Native villages and federally recognized Alaska Native governments with accelerating clean energy projects. Applications are currently being reviewed and selected projects will be announced in April 2015.

Selection Criteria

The DOE Office of Indian Energy plans to select up to five projects from the applicant pool to receive START technical assistance. START assistance is intended to help renewable energy projects that are in later stages of development reach a late-stage development decision point or milestone. Applicants designated as Climate Action Champions under the White House’s competition by the same name who satisfactorily demonstrate through this application that they have a renewable energy project in development that would benefit from START Program assistance will be given preferential consideration. Successful applicants will most likely have:

- Demonstrated that their renewable energy project is aligned with overarching tribal strategic energy goals (documented within a Tribe’s strategic energy plan, comprehensive plan, or economic development plan)
- Provided evidence of transferable, durable site control
- Completed preliminary resource assessment or feasibility studies



- Identified a likely purchaser for the power generated from the project for commercial-scale projects
- Selected or evaluated a commercially available renewable energy technology (this is not a technology demonstration program)
- Established a clearly defined need for expert assistance in moving the project forward toward completion
- Demonstrated an openness for information exchange with START team by willingness to complete [START Non-Disclosure Agreement](#) posted on the DOE Office of Indian Energy website.

Timeline for Selection and Technical Assistance

- **Application deadline: May 1, 2015 (midnight Eastern Time)**
- Review period: May – June 2015
- Date of notification: Late June 2015
- Period of technical assistance: July 2015 – August 2016

Submittal of this application indicates tribal interest in receiving assistance from START. From July 2015 through August 2016, a team of DOE experts will review the applications submitted. Selections will be announced in late June 2015. Selected START awardees will work with the START leads to provide more information and develop detailed statements of work for technical assistance.

How to Apply

Applications are being accepted until May 1, 2015 (midnight Eastern Time). Complete the information below and submit your application using the “Submit this Application” button at the end of this form. The application must be completed in its entirety in order to be considered.

If you have trouble, you may submit the completed PDF form separately to STARTsupport@nrel.gov.

Contact Us

Questions may be submitted to STARTsupport@nrel.gov or IndianEnergy@hq.doe.gov.



APPLICATION FORM

Technical Assistance Opportunity for Tribes Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) Program for Renewable Energy Project Development Assistance – Round Three

Tribe: _____

Names of Representatives

Tribal Leader

Name: _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Tribal Staff Contacts

Name: _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

To be considered for technical assistance, the applicant must answer all questions thoroughly and succinctly in the space provided.

Part One: General Information

1. Population of tribal members: _____

2. Size of tribal land (square miles): _____

3. Project location (address, latitude and longitude, or location map): _____

4. Is the Tribe designated as a Climate Action Champion under the White House competition of the same name? _____



Part Two: Renewable Energy Technology

1. Please identify the purpose of renewable energy project(s) in development (select all that apply):

Revenue generation

Energy security – tribal use of self-generated energy

Reduction in energy costs – displacement of current source of energy

Full electrification

Other, please list _____

2. List the use and size (nameplate capacity in kW or MW) of the community- or commercial-scale renewable energy project(s) in development:

3. What renewable resource(s) will be used (select all that apply)?

Biomass, type _____

Geothermal

Hydroelectric

Solar

Wind

4. Has a specific renewable energy technology (type and/or system-size) been identified? If so please list



Part Three: Project Development Status

For each of the questions below, please provide a brief explanation. Please limit responses to the space provided.

1. Do tribal leadership, tribal members, and the local utility support the project publicly? If not, has an approach been established to bring uncommitted parties on board?
2. Does the project align with goals and objectives set forth within a tribal energy plan, comprehensive plan, or economic development plan? If so, please describe and provide the plan as an attachment to the application submittal. If the Tribe does not have a plan outlining tribal energy goals, is the Tribe willing to develop such a document through participation in a consensus-building workshop with tribal leaders and staff?
3. Are applicable land use agreements finalized? Are permitting requirements and local approvals completed?
4. Has a thorough technical and engineering analysis of the proposed project been completed?
Has monthly energy production been estimated?



5. Has a cost estimate been developed for the project? Is the project considered financially feasible by tribal leadership?

6. Has the project found necessary financing to issue procurement request for proposals to move forward with implementation?

Part Four: Project Assistance

If expert assistance in project development is offered, what type of assistance does the project require to ensure completion? (Note: no financial awards are associated with this assistance.)



Part Five: Tribal Expectations

- Has any member of your project team completed the DOE Office of Indian Energy’s project development and finance training (either via an in-person workshop or available online at www.energy.gov/indianenergy/curriculum)?

Yes. Please provide the following information:

- Participant Name: _____
- Format: _____

Online

- Date of Completion: _____

In-person

- Date of Completion: _____
- Workshop Location: _____

No. If your Tribe is selected to receive START assistance, is at least one member of your project team willing to complete the training within six weeks of notification of selection?

Yes. Please list the team member’s name and contact information if available:

No. Please explain why not: _____

- Please provide the names and contact information for two team members who will commit to biweekly (every other week) calls with the START team throughout the duration of assistance (these may or may not be the same as the Tribal Staff Contacts designated above).

Team Member 1

Name: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

Team Member 2

Name: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____



3. If selected, would your Tribe’s project team be willing to participate in co-located training events and/or lessons-learned workshops with Tribes in a similar stage of project development?

Yes

No. Please explain why not: _____

4. Is your Tribe willing to participate in periodic follow-up meetings (over the phone) at the conclusion of START assistance to report on advances in project development capacity or progress of a specific project (likely every six months for two to three years)?

Yes. Please provide the preferred point of contact for this longer-term commitment (this individual may be the same as one of the contacts designated above, but should be identified now if possible because they are expected to remain engaged with the Tribe in some capacity for at least two years after START assistance is projected to be completed in August 2016):

Name: _____

Title: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

No. Please explain why not: _____

Click the button above to submit, or email application materials to: STARTsupport@nrel.gov

Contact Us: IndianEnergy@hq.doe.gov or www.energy.gov/indianenergy