



START RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECT DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE

Round Three Call for Applications

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy is now accepting applications for the third round of its Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) Renewable Energy Project Development Assistance Program. Through START, Tribes can get customized technical assistance for furthering the development of community- and commercial-scale renewable energy projects. **Applications are due May 22, 2015**; up to five projects will be selected in late June 2015.

What To Expect

START supports renewable energy projects by providing tribal project teams with technical expertise and unbiased guidance on:

- Verifying economic and technical viability of a project's power and revenue generation
- Developing a communications 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 with appropriate technical guidelines and selection criteria
- Developing operations and maintenance or measurement and verification plans.

"Through the START Program we were able to access expertise to help with site selection, facility design, cost estimation, energy production estimation, and procurement. The program was very flexible, providing expertise in different areas as project needs changed."

—James Jensen, Project Manager,
Southern Ute Alternative Energy, LLC



Selection Criteria

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 that are designated as White House Climate Action Champions and can demonstrate 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
- Established a clearly defined need for expert assistance in moving the project forward toward completion
- Demonstrated a willingness to engage in open information exchange with the START team by completing START Non-Disclosure Agreement posted on the Office of Indian Energy website.

Who Is Involved

The START team is comprised of DOE and national laboratory experts in renewable energy project development and implementation. Selected projects will work with the START team to provide information and develop detailed statements of work for the technical assistance. The START team will primarily work with the tribal project team and tribal legal and finance specialists who are currently or will be imminently addressing late-stage project development decisions, negotiations, and agreements.

Who Can Apply

Eligible applicants for START Renewable Energy Project Development Assistance include Tribes, Alaska Native regional corporations, and formally organized tribal energy resource development organizations.

In addition to this opportunity, the DOE Office of Indian Energy 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 for Alaska START are currently being reviewed and selected projects will be announced in April 2015.

Questions

For more information on the START Program, visit energy.gov/indianenergy/start-renewable-energy-project-development-assistance or contact DOE Office of Indian Energy Program Manager Sarai Geary at 202-287-6886 or sarai.geary@hq.doe.gov.

IMPORTANT DATES

Application deadline:

May 22, 2015 at midnight
Eastern Daylight Time

Review period: May–June 2015

Notification date: Late June 2015

Period of technical assistance:

July 2015–August 2016



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of
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energy.gov/indianenergy
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