



U.S. DOE OFFICE OF INDIAN ENERGY

# INDIAN ENERGY BEAT



News on Actions to Accelerate Energy Development in Indian Country

SPRING 2013

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## Federal Technical Assistance Aims to Accelerate Tribal Energy Project Deployment



The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (Office of Indian Energy) is partnering with other federal agencies and national laboratories to offer Tribes numerous ways to receive no-cost, unbiased technical assistance with renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

### START Round Two

In January 2013, the Office of Indian Energy launched the second round of the Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) Program, which provides federally recognized Indian Tribes with technical assistance to accelerate clean energy project deployment. This year's START Program is focused on the following areas.

### START Alaska Native Community Energy Planning and Projects

Selected Alaska Native entities will receive assistance from DOE and the Denali Commission with community-based energy planning, energy awareness and training programs, and identification and implementation of renewable energy and energy

*Tribes can apply to receive technical assistance from DOE on renewable energy and energy efficiency project planning, development, and financing. Photo by Warren Gretz, NREL 07990*

efficiency opportunities. Alaska Native tribal governments may also be eligible for grant funding that supports renewable energy or energy efficiency projects.

### START Renewable Energy Project Development Assistance

Selected Tribes in the 48 contiguous states, as well as Alaska Native Regional Corporations, will receive customized technical support to help move community- and commercial-scale energy projects closer to implementation.

"Building on our all-of-the-above strategy to deploy every available domestic energy resource, these new technical assistance opportunities will strengthen our partnerships with tribal communities, create good jobs, and protect our planet," said DOE Office of Indian Energy Director Tracey LeBeau.

### START-UP

The Office of Indian Energy also plans to launch a new Tribal START Utility Program called START-UP, which will help Tribes develop their own utility services and increase ownership of local energy assets. See page 2 for more on START-UP.

### Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Project Technical Assistance

In addition to START, Tribes can apply to receive up to 40 hours of clean energy project technical assistance focused on the following priority areas: strategic energy planning, grantee support, transmission/interconnection, project development, finance, and lease agreements.

## HOW TO GET TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Apply for the START Program online at [www.energy.gov/indianenergy/resources/start-program](http://www.energy.gov/indianenergy/resources/start-program).

The deadline is **March 15, 2013**.

Apply anytime online to receive up to 40 hours of free renewable energy and energy efficiency technical assistance from the DOE Office of Indian Energy and Tribal Energy Program at [www.energy.gov/indianenergy](http://www.energy.gov/indianenergy).

# INDIAN COUNTRY ENERGY ROUNDUP

## Conferences and Webinars

DOE works with Tribes to build energy capacity through education and training. Below is a recap of recent conferences and webinars that the Office of Indian Energy has sponsored and/or participated in. Learn more and download presentations at [www.energy.gov/indianenergy/resources/education-and-training](http://www.energy.gov/indianenergy/resources/education-and-training).

### CONFERENCES

#### White House Tribal Nations Conference

The fourth White House Tribal Nations Conference was held December 15, 2012, with the largest attendance to date by invited leaders from the 566 federally recognized Tribes. Attendees had the opportunity to interact directly with the President and his Administration in an effort to strengthen the government-to-government relationship with Indian Country. During the event, the White House released a report on "Continuing the Progress in Tribal Communities," which is available at [http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/wh\\_tnc\\_accomplishments\\_report\\_final.pdf.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/wh_tnc_accomplishments_report_final.pdf.pdf).

In conjunction with the conference, DOE announced a new policy that gives preference to Indian Tribes when DOE facilities contract to purchase renewable energy products or byproducts, based on authorities under the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The policy will spur the development of untapped renewable energy resources on Indian lands near DOE facilities and help Tribes capture the economic benefits. Download the policy guidance document at [www.energy.gov/indianenergy](http://www.energy.gov/indianenergy).

Following the conference, DOE Office of Indian Energy Director Tracey LeBeau, Department of Interior Office of Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs Kevin Washburn, and Department of Agriculture Special Energy Advisor Sarah Bittleman hosted a listening session on energy development in Indian Country with tribal members. The Indian Country Energy and Infrastructure Working Group also met after the conference to discuss the Office of Indian Energy's programs and initiatives for fiscal year 2013.

### WEBINARS

#### Tribal Renewable Energy Webinar Series

Nearly 100 people attended the kick-off of the 2013 Tribal Renewable Energy Webinar Series on January 30, which featured an update on the Office of Indian Energy's START and Education Programs. The second webinar, held on February 27, had more than 250 attendees and focused on a new report from the Office of Indian Energy and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) on tribal renewable energy resource potential. The webinar recordings and slides are available at <http://ww2.wapa.gov/sites/Western/renewables/Pages/default.aspx>. See the list of upcoming webinars in the "On the Horizon" section on page 3.



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR TRACEY LEBEAU

Dear Friends,

Welcome to another issue of our newsletter! Since the last edition, we've participated in several key tribal events, including the White House Tribal Nations Conference in December and both the RES and Indian Gaming conferences in March. The day after the White House Tribal Nations Conference, our Office hosted

a tribal leader listening session in conjunction with the Interior and Agriculture Departments. Members of Tribes involved in energy activities attended and shared their concerns, ideas, and encouragement for continued federal interagency collaboration on a clear Indian Country priority: energy and energy infrastructure development.

During the listening session and at the Indian Country Energy and Infrastructure Working Group meeting the same day, we shared several ongoing and new initiatives for 2013 with tribal leaders. These initiatives include expanding the START Program launched in 2011 with a second round of technical assistance awards. We announced this opportunity in January and look forward to reviewing the applications, due on March 15.

Our decision to continue the START Program for another year was based on how well the first round of START was received by participating tribal communities from Arctic Village, Alaska, to Passamaquoddy, Maine. As we document our experiences and how START support helped those communities move their energy projects and initiatives forward, we see tremendous potential for this second round of START to build on those successes.

In addition, as part of our Office's statutory mission to bring affordable and reliable electrical service to Indian lands and homes, we are launching a new START Utility Program, START-UP, which will provide technical tools to support utility development in Indian Country. To ensure that START-UP addresses top tribal priorities, we plan to issue a Request for Information from Tribes interested developing, acquiring, or expanding utility services in their communities.

This year we are continuing our Tribal Leader Energy Forum series, with the first one focused on opportunities for partnerships between Tribes and military installations to address tribal and military energy security goals. Prior to the forum, we are planning to host a webinar that will provide a real-time opportunity for tribal leaders to hear from the U.S. Department of Defense about military contracting and procurement requirements and discuss the economic viability of renewable energy projects and contracting with Tribes.

Watch our website for more details as they become available, as well as to access our free Tribal Renewable Energy series webinars, new online renewable energy education curriculum, and extensive energy resource library.

I look forward to continuing to work side-by-side with tribal energy leaders in the coming months to make sure Native American and Alaska Native Tribes have the tools and resources they need to foster economic competitiveness and promote tribal self-sufficiency.

—Tracey A. LeBeau

## SHARING KNOWLEDGE DID YOU KNOW...

- American Indian land comprises approximately 2% of U.S. land but contains an estimated **5% of all renewable energy resources**.
- The total technical potential on tribal lands for electricity generation from utility-scale rural **solar** resources is about **14 billion megawatt-hours (MWh), or 5.1%** of total U.S. generation potential.
- The total technical potential on tribal lands for electricity generation from **wind** resources is about **1.1 billion MWh, or about 3.4%** of the total U.S. technical potential.
- The total technical potential on tribal lands for electricity generation from **hydropower** resources is about **14 million MWh, or about 5.1%** of the total U.S. technical potential.

Download a summary of this data and read the full report at [www.energy.gov/indianenergy/resources](http://www.energy.gov/indianenergy/resources).

# WINNING THE FUTURE

## Strategic Planning Opens Doors for Isolated Alaskan Village

**Challenge:** Located on the northwest coast of Kupreanof Island in southeastern Alaska, Kake is a community of fewer than 600 residents struggling with out-migration, loss of employment, and high energy costs, including residential electricity rates of \$0.60 per kilowatt-hour. Kake's energy suppliers are fractured—there is a cooperative utility, but fuel, heating oil, and firewood are delivered by other companies.

**Solution:** Because of its commitment to energy development, Kake was among five Native Alaska communities selected in 2012 to receive technical assistance through the Office of Indian Energy's START Program.

"Kake has been proactive in addressing these challenges by exploring better use of resources, pursuing biomass and wind projects, and looking at hydropower projects," said Dr. Brian Hirsch, senior project leader for START Alaska.

START activities in Kake kicked off with a strategic energy planning workshop held in late 2012. Facilitated by the DOE START team including Lesley Kabotie (Crow), NREL, and other energy planning experts, the workshop strengthened the community's commitment to realizing its energy vision and helped set priorities. In addition to Kake's tribal government, other stakeholders participated, including the housing authority, electric utility co-op, and various local and regional Native corporations.

"The planning process pulled information directly from our community members as well as our partners and gave them ownership of the end product," said Gary Williams, executive director of Kake.

Hirsch agreed. "We were able to get the right players around the room and incorporate their concerns," he said. "By coordinating multiple stakeholders and securing their buy-in, Kake is in a stronger position to capture grant opportunities available at the state and federal level."



Kake Executive Director Gary Williams is committed to addressing the community's energy challenges proactively. Photo from Gary Williams, NREL 24374

### Benefits:

- Kake has received at least one of several grants it applied for and is in strong contention for a sizeable biomass grant.
- Planning activities have resulted in widespread community education and strengthened commitment to energy development.
- Kake has significantly improved its relationship with the local electric utility and other stakeholders.
- Kake has prioritized its energy projects and built consensus on where to spend additional resources.

*"This planning process has really helped focus our energy initiative to a fine tip. It has been phenomenal for our community."*

— Kake Executive Director Gary Williams



Renewable energy development has the potential to reduce Kake's dependence on costly imported fossil fuel while preserving the pristine environment that is so vital to the community's way of life. Photo from Gary Williams, NREL 24372

## BUILDING BRIDGES

### NANA REGIONAL CORPORATION COLLABORATES TO HELP ALASKA NATIVES TACKLE ENERGY CHALLENGES

Alaska is known for its wealth of energy resources. But for the remote Native villages of northwest Alaska, that wealth often seems far from reach as they struggle to absorb the impact of a threefold increase in their energy costs over the past decade. "Rural Alaska is facing an energy crisis that makes rural community and regional economic development very difficult," said Sonny Adams of NANA Regional Corporation at a workshop hosted by the Office of Indian Energy in Anchorage last November.

In an effort to reduce the cost of energy in northwest Alaska while carrying out its mission of providing economic opportunities to its Iñupiat shareholders and protecting NANA lands, NANA is investing in variety of projects focused on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and infrastructure improvements. As a member of the Northwest Arctic Leadership Team, NANA is collaborating with a variety of tribal, regional, and statewide organizations, as well as the Office of Indian Energy, to reduce regional dependence on imported fossil fuels. Learn more about NANA at [www.nana.com/regional](http://www.nana.com/regional).



## ON THE HORIZON

### APRIL 2-4

National Adaptation Forum  
Denver, Colorado

### APRIL 24

Tribal Renewable Energy Series Webinar: *How Power Marketing Administrations Market Power and Work with Tribes*

### APRIL 29-MAY 1

Alaska Rural Energy Conference: *Learning from the Past, Planning for the Future*  
Anchorage, Alaska

### MAY 2-3

Renewable Energy in Alaska Project (REAP) Business of Clean Energy in Alaska Conference  
Anchorage, Alaska

### MAY 21-23

National American Indian Housing Council (NAIHC) Convention and Trade Show  
Chicago, Illinois

### MAY 29

Tribal Renewable Energy Series Webinar: *Regional Transmission Planning*

### JUNE 24-27

National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Mid-Year Conference  
Reno, Nevada

### JUNE 26

Tribal Renewable Energy Series Webinar: *Renewable Energy Project Leasing on Tribal Lands*

# OPENING DOORS

## WEBINAR SERIES ADDRESSES TOP TRIBAL ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

In an ongoing effort to coordinate and align capacity building and technical assistance, the Office of Indian Energy, in conjunction with the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's Tribal Energy Program and Western Area Power Administration, is sponsoring the Tribal Renewable Energy Webinar Series. The free webinars are designed to help Tribes identify ways to promote renewable energy and energy efficiency technology development on tribal lands. See "On the Horizon" on page 3 for upcoming webinars. Register and access presentations from past webinars at [www.energy.gov/indianenergy/resources/education-and-training](http://www.energy.gov/indianenergy/resources/education-and-training).

## EDUCATION PROGRAM HELPS TRIBES PREPARE FOR ENERGY PROJECTS

The Office of Indian Energy is developing renewable energy curriculum to provide tribal leaders and professionals with the knowledge needed to make informed decisions about developing and financing renewable energy projects. The courses can be watched anytime as free on-demand webinars.

### Foundational Courses

- Assessing Energy Resources
- Biomass
- Direct Use for Building Heat and Hot Water
- Electricity Grid Basics
- Geothermal
- Hydroelectric
- Solar
- Strategic Energy Planning
- Wind

### Leadership and Professional Courses

- Project Development Concepts
- Project Development Process
- Project Finance Concepts
- Project Finance Process and Financing Structures

Visit [www.nerlearning.org](http://www.nerlearning.org) to access available courses.

## STORY IDEAS?

*Indian Energy Beat* is a publication of the DOE Office of Indian Energy that highlights opportunities and actions to accelerate energy development in Indian Country. If you have suggestions for feature stories, interviews, or news relevant to Indian energy, please submit your ideas to [indianenergy@hq.doe.gov](mailto:indianenergy@hq.doe.gov).

# LEADING THE CHARGE

## Bright Skies Ahead for Moapa

Change doesn't happen on its own. It's led by dedicated and passionate people who are committed to empowering Indian Country to energize future generations. Leading the Charge is a regular feature spotlighting the movers and shakers in energy on tribal lands.

This edition we spoke with Chairman William Anderson of the Moapa Band of Paiutes, which is breaking ground on the first industrial-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) project in Indian Country—a 250-megawatt (MW) solar farm that will power nearly 120,000 homes in Los Angeles.



Chairman William Anderson

**Name:** William Anderson

**Tribe:** Moapa Band of Paiutes

**Title/Role:** Chairman

### How did you become involved in tribal energy?

Anderson admits he didn't know the first thing about energy. He grew up on the Moapa reservation in southern Nevada but, like so many, he moved on. Then a couple years ago he heard about his Tribe's plan for a major solar PV installation and came back to be a part of it. He ran for council and ended up as chairman.

"I had a crash course in solar," he said. "I had no idea what PV meant or what people were talking about so I had to find out everything I could in a month."

A quick study, Anderson championed his Tribe's plans and soon was negotiating with federal, state, and local agencies as well as private partners to move the project forward.

"I saw the opportunity for our people and decided I'm going to do everything I can to make this project come into being," he said. "We didn't even realize that if it happened, we would be the first."

### Tell us about your Tribe's ground-breaking 250-MW solar generation project.

The Moapa reservation is about 75,000 acres of hot, dry, flat desert, which also happens to have an energy corridor running through it—making it ideal for a large-scale renewable energy project. The PV farm will be sited on a 2,000-acre plot that was meticulously selected to not impact sacred sites, an endangered tortoise species, or an old Spanish trail.

Recently, the project received a long-term power purchase agreement from the City of Los Angeles. The Tribe plans to start construction in June 2013, and by July there will be up to 500 people working on the project, which is expected to be fully operational in two years. Over the long term, the lease could infuse millions in revenue into the reservation of less than 340 residents.

Not one to rest on his laurels, Anderson said his Tribe already is working on a second 150-MW project on 1,000 acres that would include both PV and concentrated solar power generation and will hopefully be up and running in 2017.

In addition, Moapa has applied for a \$2.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development to address the aging and expensive diesel generators that power the Tribe's primary economic engine—its Travel Plaza. According to Sarah Adler, director of Nevada USDA Rural Development, USDA and DOE will seek opportunities to partner in support of the Moapa Tribe's energy initiatives.

"This enables us to reinvest in our community," Anderson explained. "This is just the starting point for our master plan."

### What do you see are the greatest opportunities for Indian Country?

"I think there are endless opportunities for Tribes in renewable energy," Anderson said. "We've set the template for others to follow. We are a small Tribe in the middle of a desert. If we can do this, anyone can."