



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of
Indian Energy



Technical Assistance and Financial Assistance Opportunity for Rural Alaska Native Communities

Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) Initiative for Community Energy Planning and Projects – Round Two

About the Offices

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 and deployment, education, management, and programs that assist Tribes with energy development, capacity building, energy infrastructure, energy costs, and electrification of Indian lands and homes.

The Office of Indian Energy works within DOE, across government agencies, and with Indian Tribes and organizations to promote Indian energy policies and initiatives. The Office of Indian Energy performs these functions within the scope of DOE's mission and consistently with the federal government's trust responsibility, tribal self-determination policy, and 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 and accurate information to empower tribal leaders to make informed energy decisions. Through energy project funding, quality training, and technical assistance, we promote community economic development and job creation, foster tribal energy self-sufficiency and self-determination, and advance tribal visions for a sustainable energy future.

Established in 1998, the Denali Commission is an independent federal agency designed to provide critical utilities, infrastructure, and economic support throughout Alaska. With the creation of the Denali Commission, Congress acknowledged the need for increased inter-agency cooperation and focus on Alaska's remote communities. In the realm of community energy improvements the Denali Commission (Commission) typically serves Tribes, municipalities, and energy cooperatives. The Commission's funding for the START initiative will extend the DOE Office of Indian Energy funding to provide technical assistance to rural Alaska communities including, but not limited to, tribal governments.

In May 2012, the DOE Office of Indian Energy and the Commission entered into a Memorandum of Understanding to develop, coordinate, and implement programs, including the Alaska START program, to support renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in rural Alaska native communities.



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The DOE Office of Indian Energy established the Alaska Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) initiative in 2012 to provide technical assistance to Alaska Native villages in the development of Alaska Native village community energy plans and renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. The Alaska START initiative includes a competitive technical assistance opportunity aimed at:

- Reducing the cost and use of energy for rural Alaska consumers and communities
- Increasing local capacity, energy efficiency, and conservation through training and public education
- Increasing renewable energy deployment and financing opportunities for communities and utilities.

The START initiative is a comprehensive effort examining all energy-related issues in select rural Alaska Native communities, including diesel powerhouses, power distribution infrastructure, utility management, bulk fuel storage, energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, sewer and water energy demands, housing, and other community issues. Led by the DOE Office of Indian Energy, in partnership with the Commission, the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), START Round Two in 2013 will support activities of Alaska Native and community entities that are focused on community-based energy planning, energy awareness and training programs, and identification and implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency opportunities.

Technical assistance will include intensive data collection and analysis, an on-site workshop in the community that will address the above issues and provide technical support to selected projects, and ongoing work with the community to train local “energy champions and energy specialists” and implement energy and cost savings initiatives. To receive technical assistance, the community will be expected to provide necessary energy and cost data and commit to hosting and participating in the START program, including the on-site workshop, and ongoing pursuit of action items identified in any final reports and analysis.

In addition to comprehensive technical assistance, each selected Alaska Native tribal government may be eligible for up to \$250,000 in funding to implement a renewable energy or energy efficiency project.

Basic Eligibility

The START Program is largely supported by funds appropriated to the DOE Office of Indian Energy and Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy under Title V of the Energy Policy Act of 2005. Title V directs and authorizes the Department 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



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special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians." Only **Alaska Native village or village corporation** applicants meeting these criteria will be considered.

NOTE: If you are an **Alaska Native Regional Corporation** interested in applying for technical assistance relating to renewable energy project development assistance, please use the separate application for the DOE Office of Indian Energy's [START Program for Renewable Energy Project Development Assistance – Round Two](#).

Selection Criteria

It is anticipated that up to five (5) Alaska Native village communities will be selected from the applicant pool to receive START technical assistance.

The most likely successful applications will demonstrate:

- Magnitude of achievable energy or cost savings across the Alaska Native village community at completion of technical assistance
- Likelihood of implementation of roadmap activities developed through technical assistance. This will be evaluated by explanation within the application of previous efforts to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy, the existence of an energy goal, and the identification of an Energy Champion
- Commitment from Alaska Native village and community leadership, as well as key community stakeholders, showing support for START technical and financial assistance
- Likelihood of implementation of a renewable energy or energy efficiency project(s). This will be evaluated through existing feasibility or resource assessment studies or identified project designs or descriptions.

Timeline for Selection - Technical Assistance and Financial Assistance

- **Application Deadline: March 15, 2013 (midnight Eastern Time)**
- Review Period: March – April 2013
- Date of Notification: Late April 2013
- Scoping Conferences (via telephone and email): Early May 2013
- Period of On-Site Technical Assistance: Late May – December 2013
- Application for Financial Assistance: September 2013 and, depending upon funding, February 2014

Submittal of this application indicates Alaska Native community interest in receiving technical and financial assistance from the START Program. A DOE and Commission team will identify successful applications in March and April 2013. In early May 2013, the successful applicants will work with DOE, the Commission, and an expert team to identify appropriate activities for technical assistance. In late May 2013 on-site technical



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assistance will begin, with a goal of completion by October 2013, however, some successful applicants may require additional time up to December 2013. Once the technical assistance is completed, successful applicants may be invited to submit a second application for financial assistance, not to exceed \$250,000, for a renewable energy or energy efficiency project.

How to Apply

Applications are being accepted until March 15, 2013 (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 can submit the completed PDF form separately to STARTsupport@nrel.gov.

Contact Us

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



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APPLICATION FORM

Technical Assistance and Financial Assistance Opportunity for Rural Alaska Native Communities: Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) Initiative for Community Energy Planning and Projects – Round Two

Alaska Native Village or Corporation Name: _____

Names of Representatives

Tribal Leader

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Position/Title: _____

Tribal Staff Contacts

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Position/Title: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Position/Title: _____

Village Corporation

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Position/Title: _____



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To be considered for the technical and financial assistance all questions must be answered thoroughly in the space provided.

Part One: Community and Basic Energy Information

1. Population of community (PER 2010 CENSUS): _____
2. Name and ownership structure of electric utility serving your community (e.g., multi-village co-op, tribally owned, municipally owned, etc.): _____
3. Is your electric utility currently eligible to receive Power Cost Equalization (PCE)? Yes No
 - a. If so, is your electric utility currently receiving PCE? Yes No
 - b. List other community facilities that currently receive PCE: _____
4. Please list the most recent retail price for electricity (per kilowatt-hour) and fuel (per gallon):
 Electricity: _____ Diesel Fuel: _____ Heating Fuel: _____ Gasoline: _____
5. Complete the attached spreadsheet that describes existing community and residential facilities energy usage.

Part Two: Alaska Native Community Energy Planning and Infrastructure

1. Please briefly describe the commitment from tribal and community leadership and other key stakeholders supporting the START program partnership and if the community would support the START program's local involvement.

You may include up to three (3) letters of support from various stakeholders, including the community's electric utility, the municipal government, ANCSA village or regional corporation, and other stakeholders. If you include letters of support, please list the entities submitting the letters below.



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2. Has the community established an energy vision and/or plan*?

Yes – Please describe the energy vision or plan, including any specific goals, strategies, and/or projects listed in the vision or plan, and if it is documented in writing (if available, electronically attach a previously written document that serves as the community energy vision and/or plan, or mail in a hard copy to: 15013 Denver West Parkway, RSF/B408-5 Golden, CO 80401).

No – If the community is interested in creating an energy vision and/or plan, please describe what energy elements the community would like to address, what partners might be involved, and provide a proposed timeline.

**An energy vision/plan or energy goal(s) may include: a target percentage of energy savings, a target percentage of renewable energy generation, a specific timeframe to reach a goal, or a broad statement on the value of energy to the community.*

3. Has the community implemented or identified potential opportunities for renewable energy and/or energy efficiency projects? If so, please describe the project(s). Include relevant information such as: the type of renewable energy or efficiency technology, potential generation capacity or savings, and other details relevant to potential project development and financing (provide a copy of any feasibility or resource assessment studies, project plans or designs, or other project documentation).



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12. List any existing regional and/or multi-community partnerships related to energy, housing, and/or environmental education.
13. Communities selected for the START program will be provided with the following types of assistance. For each, please describe what specific technical assistance activities would be most useful for the community's efforts to identify and implement renewable energy generation or energy efficiency.
- I. Strategic Energy Planning and Project Prioritization
 - II. Community Energy Education and Staff Training
 - III. Near-Term Energy Efficiency Improvements for Existing Community Infrastructure/Facilities
 - IV. Developing Grant Applications to Fund Energy Projects

Additionally, please describe the level of support START activities as a whole would receive from community government and stakeholder leadership.

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