



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

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 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.

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 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 relevant experts to their project development stage and technology type, who provide the knowledge needed to move projects closer to implementation.

START Round Two in 2013 will work directly with the tribal project team and tribal legal/finance specialists who are currently or will be in the near future addressing late-stage project development decisions, negotiations, and agreements. Specifically, START Round Two 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 with:

- Verifying economic and technical viability of project's power and revenue generation
- 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.



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 IE 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 surpass average electric/heating demand of an individual building or community-owned facility).

NOTE: If you are an **Alaska Native village** interested in applying for the DOE Office of Indian Energy’s START Initiative for Community Energy Planning and Projects, please use the separate application for [START Technical Assistance and Financial Assistance Opportunity for Rural Alaska Native Communities](#).

Selection Criteria

The DOE Office of Indian Energy plans to select 3 to 5 projects from the applicant pool to receive START technical assistance. While a wide variety of stages of renewable energy projects will be considered, the most likely successful applicants will have:

- Demonstrated the 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)
- Evidence of transferable, durable site control
- Completed preliminary resource assessment or feasibility studies
- Identified a likely purchaser for the power generated from the project
- Selected or evaluated a commercially available renewable energy technology (this is not a technology demonstration program)
- 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 Office of Indian Energy website.



Timeline for Selection and Technical Assistance

- **Application Deadline: March 15, 2013 (midnight Eastern Time)**
- Review Period: March – April 2013
- Date of Notification: Late April 2013
- Period of Technical Assistance: May – October 2013

Submittal of this application indicates tribal interest in receiving assistance from START. From March through April 2013, a DOE and expert review team will review the applications submitted. START selections will be announced in late April 2013. Selected START awardees will work with the START leads to provide more information and develop detailed statements of work for technical assistance, to begin late May 2013 and be completed by October 2013.

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.



APPLICATION FORM

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

Tribe: _____

Names of Representatives

Tribal Leader

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Tribal Staff Contacts

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

To be considered for the technical assistance, all questions must be answered 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): _____



Part Two: Renewable Energy Technology

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

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-scale or commercial renewable energy project(s) in development: _____

3. What renewable resource(s) will be used?

Biomass, type _____

Geothermal

Hydroelectric

Solar

Wind

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





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 expert assistance does the project require to ensure completion? (Note: no financial awards are associated with this assistance)

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