Advancing Next-Generation Energy in Indian Country

What is START?

The Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) Program is a U.S. Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (DOE-IE) initiative to provide technical expertise to support the development of next-generation energy projects in Indian Country.

The START Program seeks to spur clean energy project development by providing Tribes with tools and resources needed to foster energy self-sufficiency, sustainability, and economic competitiveness. With the support of technical experts from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), START assists tribal leadership with project development and financing and helps tribal communities strategically plan their energy future.

What does START do?

Emphasizing long-term and meaningful impact in Indian Country, START addresses a variety of renewable energy technologies, as well as the diverse spectrum of tribal communities across the United States. START project and community-based assistance is delivered to federally recognized Native American and Alaska Native governments through clean energy project development support for Tribes in the 48 contiguous states and community-wide energy planning, workforce training, and project support in Alaska.

> *"START will help Native American and Alaska Native communities increase local generation capacity, enhance energy efficiency and conservation measures, and create job opportunities in the new clean energy economy."*
>
> *—Director Tracey A. LeBeau*
> *DOE Office of Indian Energy*

Julie Bovey, First Wind; Tracey A. LeBeau, DOE-IE; Neil Kiely, First Wind; and Bob Springer, NREL, tour First Wind's new Rollins project near Lincoln, Maine, during a START visit in the area. *Photo from First Wind*

Where is START?

START-supported projects and communities were selected through a competitive application process. Between December 2, 2011, and January 15, 2012, 46 American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes submitted applications to receive on-the-ground technical support through START. Technical assistance activities are scheduled for summer and fall 2012.

START Program: Alaska

Alaska Native governments will be paired with DOE, NREL, and other Alaska-based experts who have clean energy deployment experience relevant to the selected Tribe's project development stage and technology. The selected Alaska Native communities will receive assistance with conducting community-based planning and training and implementing a variety of clean energy projects, including energy storage infrastructure, renewable energy deployment, and housing energy efficiency. Alaska START technical assistance will be bolstered by DOE-IE's partnership with the Denali Commission, an independent federal agency.

START Program: 48 Contiguous States

The selected Tribes in the 48 contiguous states will be paired with DOE and NREL technical experts who have clean energy deployment experience relevant to the Tribe's project development stage and technology. The technical experts will work directly with community-based project teams to evaluate financial and technical feasibility and provide early development technical assistance to get these projects better positioned for financing and construction.

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