



Technical Assistance Opportunity for Tribes: Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) Program for the Development of Renewable Energy Projects

About the Office

The Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (IE) 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.

IE works within the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), across government agencies, and with Indian Tribes and organizations to promote Indian energy policies and initiatives. IE 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.

IE 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.

Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) Program for the Development of Renewable Energy Projects

The Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) program is part of the DOE-IE effort to assist in the development of tribal renewable energy projects. The START is comprised of DOE and national laboratory experts in renewable energy project development and implementation. Successful applicants will be paired with relevant experts to their project development stage and technology type to enable the experts to provide knowledge and move projects closer to implementation. The START will work directly with the tribal community-based project team and tribal legal/finance specialists to further develop market feasibility; due diligence research, analysis, and documentation; and early pre-development work to prepare site control, verify resource, pre-qualify off-take agreements and strategy, and produce a permitting plan.

The planned result of the technical assistance provided by the START will be a prepared pre-development package that can be used in support of a request for proposals (RFP) process and/or similar and appropriate due diligence effort, financing, and construction of the renewable energy project on tribal lands and/or with tribal participation.

Selection Criteria

DOE-IE 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:



- 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); and
- A clearly defined need for expert assistance in moving the project forward toward completion.

If you are an Alaska Native Entity, please use the separate application for [Alaska START](#) technical assistance.

Timeline for Selection and Technical Assistance

- **Application Deadline: January 15, 2012 (midnight Eastern Time)**
- Review Period: February 2012
- Date of Notification: March 2012
- Period of Technical Assistance: March-May 2012

Submittal of this application indicates tribal interest in receiving assistance from the START. A DOE and expert review team will identify finalists from the applications submitted. In January and February 2012, the finalists will work with the START leads to provide more information and develop detailed statements of work for technical assistance. In late February, the review team will select the successful applicants from the statements of work based on clarity of the need and likelihood that the investment of the START will assist in actual project development. Technical assistance is expected to be completed between March and May 2012.

How to Apply

Applications are being accepted until January 15, 2012 (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: IndianEnergy@hq.doe.gov.

Contact Us

Questions can be submitted to IndianEnergy@hq.doe.gov.



APPLICATION FORM

Technical Assistance Opportunity for Tribes: Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) Initiative for the Development of Renewable Energy Projects

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:
 - a. Revenue generation
 - b. Energy security – tribal use of self-generated energy
 - c. Reduction in energy costs – displacement of current source of energy
 - d. Full electrification
 - e. Other, please list _____

2. List the use and size (nameplate capacity) of the renewable energy project(s) in development:
 - a. Residential (single family) use? _____ kW or MW (check one)
 - b. Residential (multi-family) use? _____ kW or MW (check one)
 - c. Commercial property use? _____MW
 - d. Community-scale (supporting the community more broadly) _____MW
 - e. Utility-scale (sold to a utility as wholesale power) _____MW

3. What renewable resource(s) will be used?
 - f. Biomass, type _____
 - g. Geothermal
 - h. Hydroelectric
 - i. Solar
 - j. Wind

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



Part Three: Project Development Status

For each of the questions below, please provide a brief explanation. Please limit responses to the space provided.

1. Do tribal leadership, tribal members, and the local utility support the project publicly? If not, has an approach been established to bring uncommitted parties on board?

2. Are applicable land use agreements finalized? Are permitting requirements and local approvals completed?

3. Has a thorough technical and engineering analysis of the proposed project been completed?
Has a monthly energy production been estimated?

4. Has a cost estimate been developed for the project? Is the project considered financially feasible by tribal leadership?

5. 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 and design is offered, what type of expert assistance does the project require to ensure completion? (Note: no financial awards are associated with this assistance)