

FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT

**Standing Rock Sioux Tribe
Establishment of Renewable Energy and Energy Development Office (REEDO) to
Serve the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Indian Reservation**



VISION: "The Standing Rock Tribal Government strives to be a more effective, efficient, and visible government providing opportunities for our economy to grow through business development by educating our members, to enhance the health and wellness of the people of Standing Rock."

STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE – TRIBAL COUNCIL



Meeting at the newly established Standing Rock Agency, Fort Yates. ND State Historical Society

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe (SRST) is a federally-recognized tribe and operates under a constitution approved on April 24, 1959 by the Tribal Council. The Tribal Council is comprised of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Secretary, and eight district representatives (elected per district), and six council-man-at-large (elected by reservation-wide vote). The Tribal Council Chairman and Council serve a term of four years. The SRST is not organized under the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act but maintains a government-to-government relationship with the United States. Among its enumerated powers, Article IV of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe's Constitution grants the Tribal Council the power to negotiate with the Department of Interior to promote and protect the health, safety, education, physical and general welfare of the Tribe, to administer charity and other services which contribute to the social and economic advancement of the Tribe and its members. The Tribal Council also has the authority to authorize subordinate boards, committees, or other Tribal Officials to administer the affairs of the Tribe and carry out the directives of the Tribal Council in order to manage, protect, and preserve the property and natural resources of the Tribe, and to administer Tribal funds (SRST Constitution, Article IV Section 1). Each Tribal Council Member is

assigned to one of three committees: Economics; Health, Education, and Welfare; and Judicial. Each Committee meets regularly with program directors with respect to each of their program functions. SRST, as a tribal government, operates through a combination of BIA PL 93- 638 contracted services, grants, direct services, and Tribal enterprises; including two small casinos which generate revenue that is re-invested into Tribal programs through an internal competitive grant process. The Tribal headquarters and Sioux County seat are located in Fort Yates, ND. Fort Yates is the largest of the eight reservation districts.

Mission: "The Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Council is a governing body empowered by the SRST Constitution committed to promoting an environment for the self-sufficiency of all tribal members."

STANDING ROCK SIOUX TRIBE – COMMUNITY & ECONOMICS

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe consists of roughly 8,217 members and the population is closely divided between males and females at 51% and 49% respectively. The Standing Rock Reservation population is over 78% American Indian, with more than 68% of the residents being enrolled members of SRST. The median household income is \$21,625 and the median family income is \$23,922. There are roughly 1,844 families and 2,425 households on the 2.3-million-acre reservation. The Reservation itself straddles the North Dakota/South Dakota state line. Widespread poverty is a major issue at Standing Rock, with both Corson and Sioux counties are "persistent poverty" counties, meaning that 20% or more of their population has lived in poverty over the last thirty years. The average 30-year poverty rate for the two counties is 42%. The cycle of poverty is difficult to address however; SRST has developed the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, which has addressed numerous contributing factors of the poverty cycle.

The SRST economy is highly dependent on government employment which contributes 60% of the jobs on the reservation and nearly 90% of all employment compensation. Federal transfer payments, including social welfare programs such as Social Security Income, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Supplemental Security

Income (SSI) comprise approximately 30% of all income on the reservation, which leaves the reservation economy dependent on and highly susceptible to federal budget cuts. Lack of local employment opportunities leads talented youth and educated adults to leave the reservation to seek jobs elsewhere. Few businesses in the private sector are owned by Native Americans. SRST does own a few tribal businesses, including two casinos which provide business experience and some tribal funding. Poor economic conditions contribute to chronic poverty.

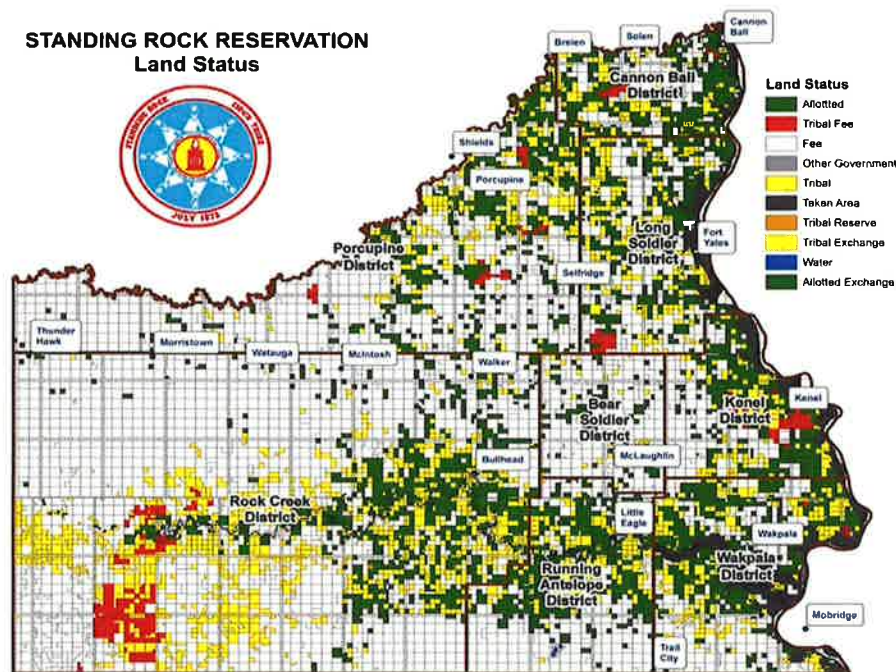
PROJECT SUMMARY

SRST cultural identity demands that Tribal development occur in a sustainable manner and in a manner protective of the Tribe's natural resources to preserve them for following generations. At the same time, the Tribe has a pressing need for both energy developments to meet Tribal needs and as a need for the economic development that energy development will represent.

Under this project, the Tribe will address the staffing, training of staff, and establishment of such an office to allow SRST to meet its goal of sustainable energy development through community education; the Tribe believes that by educating the Tribal populace, Government and people, the Tribe will best be able to choose the types of sustainable development that will best meet Tribal needs.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The federally-recognized Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and the Standing Rock Indian Reservation were established through the Indian Appropriations Act of 1889. The Act broke up the Great Sioux Nation into smaller reservations, two million acres of which formed the Reservation. The total land area within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation is 2.3 million acres. Within the reservation, over 60% of the land is Tribally-owned, either in Trust or Fee status.



*Map: Standing Rock Reservation Land Status,
October 2013*

It is a first principle of SRST cultural identity that natural resources and the environment should be preserved and expanded for the following generations. Also, to follow Natural Law when making any decisions about the environment. Under the SRST Constitution, the government is meant to function to “conserve, develop, and enlarge our lands, water, and resources.” The SRST members and Government recognize that the general welfare, social and economic advancement, the integrity of the Tribe and the well-being of Tribal members depend on adequate access to clean natural resources. Within the SRST culture, energy development needs to be sustainable. Tribal social and economic goals demand greater economic opportunity for SRST members. Development must be sustainable, but development must occur. The Reservation represents a large area of land with natural resources representing the potential for wind, geothermal, solar, biomass, and other renewable energy development. In addition, the Tribe has a growing

need for energy development. Standing Rock Reservation is located in a state that is extremely dependent on fossil fuel energy (coal and oil & gas industries). The Reservation's infrastructure is currently dependent on propane for the heating of buildings, which is by far the most important need for Standing Rock. It is not uncommon for temperatures to be -40 Fahrenheit during the winters.

Responsible governing, within SRST cultural values, requires sustainable development for the good of the SRST community. As the Tribe's unemployment and poverty rates have strengthened and heightened the Tribe's commitment to the development of energy resources to support economic development and employment on the Reservation. However, without adequate research and information dissemination, there is a danger that Tribal members may become favorably disposed toward non-sustainable development. The goal of this Project will help ensure proper information is disseminated to SRST members to allow appropriate consideration of renewable energy development and allow SRST to develop energy resources in a manner befitting both Tribal identity and Tribal economic development. The recommendation of such decisions is made in the Energy Resources Office to Tribal Council Committees.



"Let us put our minds together to see what future we can build for our children." Tatanka Iyotake – Sitting Bull, Hunkpapa Lakota Chief & Medicine Man; ND State Historical Society

As part of the economic and social goals, the Tribe has worked to investigate and expand renewable energy resources through a DOE block grant for wind development, and another wind energy grant from BIA. Under the current wind energy project, the Tribe is conducting a feasibility study on wind resources on the Reservation, performing data analysis and legal assessments for a potential large-scale wind energy facility on the Reservation, and installing one wind turbine. This grant experience, in addition to the above-discussed factors, crystallized the need for a SRST REEDO. The REEDO will assist current SRST functions by managing the wind grant, gathering all data collected under this grant, and reporting to Governmental bodies and Tribal members on the lessons learned under this grant. Moving forward, the REEDO will integrate into current Tribal functioning by managing all energy & mineral-related grants, collecting all energy & mineral-related data for the SRST, and disseminating all energy & mineral related information throughout the Government and through community meetings in each of SRST's eight districts. Pushing forward in renewable energy

investigations and information dissemination will allow the REEDO to meet the current cultural, economic, and social needs for sustainable development.

OBJECTIVES

It is the Tribe's goal to create the Renewable Energy and Energy Development Office within the exterior boundaries of the SRST Reservation to meet the following goals and objectives:

- (i) to spearhead renewable and other energy development to create and maintain Tribal energy sufficiency and encourage Tribal economic opportunity and employment within the exterior boundaries of the Reservation;
- (ii) to serve as a research center and information clearinghouse that gathers and disseminates information to educate Tribal members regarding the benefits of renewable energy development, and thus create an informed populace who may participate in the Tribal decision-making process with regard to energy development;
- (iii) to ensure that energy development occurs in a systematic way that adheres to Tribal values and applicable law;
- (iv) to serve as an advisor to the Tribal government leaders in the development of renewable energy laws, policies, and business decisions.

PROJECT APPROACH

Implementation steps for the project are as follows >>>

Office Member Staffing & Education – A Standing Rock Sioux Tribal member was hired in 2012 to serve as the Energy & Mineral Project Manager. This employee was supervised by the SRST Land Management Director and SRST Executive

Director/Administrative Officer, and reported on a monthly basis to the SRST Tribal Council Economics Committee. The employee received training in renewable energy development, mineral development, and energy development. The REEDO became a subsidiary program under the Land Management Department, which eventually became named "Energy Resources". The Energy Resources Office or REEDO became an advisor to Tribal Council decision-making, a resource for both SRST members & programs. The staff also attended training on Tribal Community Development from Sitting Bull College, and used those resources to assist in community assessments.

Intra-Governmental Coordination – The REEDO is the central resource within the SRST for all renewable energy & energy development projects and proposed projects through scheduled coordination with and outreach to other relevant SRST Tribal Offices and Departments. The REEDO became a working group leader in "Oil & Gas Preparedness Group" through SRST. This group looked into the foreseeable future threat of Oil & Gas Production near or within the Reservation. The Group looked into how SRST could strengthen its laws to make sure that Oil & Gas Development was restricted, or at the very least was in-line with the goals of developing in a sustainable way.

Grant Administration – The REEDO spearheaded any and all Energy – related or Mineral-related grants, included SRST's current DOE Funded projects, Division of Energy & Mineral Funded Projects, and special Tribal-funded projects.

Renewable Energy & Energy Funding Investigations – The REEDO committed to work with other programs to complete Community Engagement Events to Educate community members about Renewable Energy and current Energy sources. During these community events, Community Members were active in explaining needs & wants (dreams) for themselves and/or community in regards to energy. Also, dreams for their communities if they were unable to foresee past their immediate needs. The REEDO was available to assist other SRST Programs with reviewing of grant opportunities and writing if the need was immediate. The REEDO worked along with the Grants

Management Office to explain the current working knowledge of Federal Grants and to help build the current Grants Management Office to oversee fiscal needs of which SRST was responsible. Energy & Mineral Grants were sought out very discriminately, as SRST Leadership wanted us to ask the question, "Is this grant appropriate for SRST?"

THE FINDINGS

Renewable Energy Investigations were completed in all 8 districts within Standing Rock and several "Reservation-Wide" meetings that were held at the Casinos. Our main topic with which we would introduce Renewable Energy was to ask, "What is your dream for Standing Rock?". Common answers for this topic were: running water, a home, a roof that doesn't leak, my family's safety, a school in my community, a convenience store, a gas station, etc. From these answers, you can see why it was difficult to get community members to differentiate, "A Dream" vs. "A Need". As outlined above, SRST is very dependent on Government Assistance, has a high unemployment rate, and is stricken with a high poverty rate. The question then became; how do we get our people to dream of a better tomorrow? What is their dream for their home community? What is their dream for Standing Rock? Once the discussions were changed from, what do you need? We focused on our dreams or our wants. Common responses were: Wind turbines, living off-the-grid, living sustainably, community gardens, recycling, new infrastructure in all communities, community transit buses, solar panels, sustainable farm steads, more jobs, movie theatres, shopping centers, etc.

RENEWABLE ENERGY FUNDING INVESTIGATIONS

Funding Investigation were completed, but as the years went on, so did the goals of new administrations. SRST needed to become more fiscally responsible and to make better financial decisions. SRST decided that we were no longer going to apply for funds, just to apply for funds. We were going to scrutinize each possible funding source and ask the question "is this right for Standing Rock?" Is the project right for Standing Rock in the here and now? Does it make sense? Do we need it? What is our responsibility? Is it doable? How does this help future generations?

In recent years, we have become very proud of the fiscal responsibility which we now have. And, in turn, funding investigations now had a need, what do we want for our future? How are these projects helping us? If we pursue more renewable energy projects, will we still be able to develop in a sustainable way? Are these projects helping us move forward? What is the cost to us? Will we be owners? Are we merely the middle man? Are we merely landowners?

THE SOLUTION

Through years of working with SRST Tribal Council and its members, it became increasingly apparent that SRST is in desperate need of a Comprehensive Land Management Plan and a Long-Range Strategic Plan, which would unify & harmonize management action applied to tribal natural resources. A plan, which would serve as a tribal policy document, based on the vision the tribe has for its resources, a planning avenue for sustaining the tribe's vision & resources of value, to describe management activities to be undertaken by resource managers and partners, and to be an umbrella plan for all resource planning & management.

SRST has always valued its decision-making process. Tribal Council will always ask, "How do the decisions made today effect our people seven generations from now?" A strategic plan, would provide this insight for the comprehensive management of the reservation's resources. We have always believed that if you protect, preserve and conserve, the Natural Resources and the Natural Law, then the people will be taken care of. This policy document that we envision, should have a systematic way of planning & development approach that is consistent and not dependent on individuals and politics. It will also provide the framework for each department's leadership with which to base planning decisions and to manage departments into the future. A document that we can foresee will need to be revised and refined as times change.

CONCLUSION

The REEDO is still active and is used as a resource for tribal members and recommendations sought by Tribal Council. A resolution is currently underway to route all Energy Projects, that wish to use the name of SRST, through the REEDO Office. The REEDO continues to work with our tribal departments on future projects and development, and is also working on private funding projects to develop renewable energy projects within Standing Rock.

The Standing Rock Nation has come a long way. We are currently working on Reservation-Wide Strategic Planning and how to implement the needs and wants for the people. We are a people that have survived years of atrocities, with the after-effects and challenges to cope with the disadvantages that history has left behind. But today, through education and the asking of questions, the people of Standing Rock have become empowered. SRST now asks, Is this right for us? Every day is another day for improvement, healing and continued survival.