

**Commercial-Scale Renewable Energy Project Development and Finance Workshop
September 1–3, 2015
Tuesday to Thursday**

National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
Research Support Facility (RSF), Room 320 Beaver Creek
15013 Denver West Parkway
Golden, CO, 80401

AGENDA

Learning Objective: Understand the process for and potential pitfalls of developing commercial-scale renewable energy projects. Determine how the development of a commercial-scale renewable energy project could further a Tribe's goals.

Anticipated Results: Attendees will be comfortable discussing renewable energy project development possibilities with project developers and project financing options with potential investors. Potential tribal roles will be clear and participants will better understand the five-step project development and financing process.

Tuesday, September 1, 2015

- 8:00 and 8:15 a.m.** **2 Shuttle Services from Denver West Marriott**
- 8:00–9:00 a.m.** **Registration and Breakfast**
- 9:00–9:30 a.m.** **Welcome**
U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy Program Manager – Sarai Geary
Context: Project Scale—Commercial vs. Community vs. Facility
NREL Welcome – Liz Doris
- 9:30–10:00 a.m.** **Introductions and Logistics – Sherry Stout, NREL**
- 10:00–10:15 a.m.** **Summary of Tribal Leadership Forum – Sarai Geary, DOE Office of Indian Energy**
- 10:15–10:30 a.m.** **Break and Networking**
- 10:30–11:00 a.m.** **Renewable Energy Project Development and Finance Framework: The Five-Step Process – Jason Coughlin, NREL**
- 11:00–11:30 a.m.** **Guest Speaker: Jana Ganion –Blue Lake Rancheria**
Jana will discuss the Tribe's goal to achieve 100% self-sustainability, their successes, and their latest projects.
- 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.** **Lunch (NREL provides)**



- 12:30–1:15 p.m. **Step 1: Identifying Project Potential: Markets and Initial Site Considerations – Sherry Stout and Megan Day, NREL**
- 1:15–1:45 p.m. **Siting Exercise: Learn about items to consider when identifying an appropriate site for a commercial-scale renewable energy project.**
- 1:45 –2:00 p.m. **System Advisor Model (SAM) Tool Demonstration – Janine Freeman, NREL**
- 2:00–2:15 p.m. **Break and Networking**
- 2:15–2:45 p.m. **Guest Speaker: Fawn Wasin Zi – Standing Rock Sioux**
Fawn leads the Tribe’s Renewable Energy and Energy Development Organization in South Dakota. To determine the Tribe’s market for a commercial-scale project, she conducted a wind feasibility study for a 50- to 150-megawatt wind energy project. Fawn will discuss the process, lessons learned, and findings.
- 2:45–3:00 p.m. **Technical Assistance Overview – Sherry Stout and Colton Heaps, NREL**
- 3:00–3:30 p.m. **Business Structures, Tribal Sovereignty, and Tribal Policy Issues for Commercial Projects**
Doug MacCourt, DOE Office of Indian Energy
- 3:30–3:45 p.m. **Day 1 Wrap-Up, Review Tomorrow, and Evaluations**
- 3:45–4:00 p.m. **Shuttle Service to Denver West Marriott**



Wednesday, September 2, 2015

- 8:30–8:45 a.m.** **2 Shuttle Services from Denver West Marriott**
- 8:30–9:00 a.m.** **Registration and Breakfast**
- 9:00–9:15 a.m.** **Review of Day 1/Agenda Review – Sarai Geary, DOE Office of Indian Energy**
- 9:15–10:15 a.m.** **Step 2: Project Options: Final Site Selection and Tribal Role Options**
Tribal Roles – Colton Heaps, NREL
Business Structures – Doug MacCourt, DOE Office of Indian Energy
Intro to Finance and Procurement – Colton Heaps, NREL
Permitting/Interconnection – Dave Narang, NREL
- 10:15–10:30 a.m.** **Break**
- 10:30–11:00 a.m.** **Guest Speakers: Moapa Band of Paiutes – Terry Bowles, Daren Daboda, and Steve Maize**
- 11:00 a.m –12:00 p.m.** **NREL Panel Presentation on Commercial-Scale Renewable Technologies**
 Subject matter experts (SMEs) from NREL will provide a brief market update on various technologies. Next, SMEs will be available for “Table Topics,” where workshop attendees can ask questions.
Wind – Tony Jimenez
Solar – Dan Olis
Biomass, Combined Heat and Power, and Waste-to-Energy – Randy Hunsberger, Greg Tomberlin, and Anelia Milbrandt
Grid Integration – Dave Narang
- 12:00–1:00 p.m.** **Lunch (NREL provides)**
- 1:00–2:00 p.m.** **Guest Speaker: Florence Francis, General Services Administration (GSA) Purchasing**
 Learn about tribal eligibility for deep discounts on equipment and services.
- 2:00–2:30 p.m.** **Guest Speaker: Mesa Grande Band’s solar project using GSA purchasing for a 140-megawatt wind energy project. (Unconfirmed)**
- 2:30–2:45 p.m.** **Break and Networking**
- 2:45–3:45 p.m.** **Step 3: Project Refinement: Project Financing Structures**
Travis Lowder and Jason Coughlin, NREL



- 3:45–4:15 p.m.** **Tribal Sustainability to Commercial Solar – Nelson Cody, Navajo Leupp Chapter**
Nelson will describe how his work on Leupp’s sustainable macro systems has led to a Strategic and Regional Energy Plan that includes plans for a commercial-scale solar project.
- 4:15–4:30 p.m.** **Day 2 Wrap-Up and Evaluations**
- 4:30 p.m.** **Shuttle Service to Denver West Marriott**



Thursday, September 3, 2015

- 8:30 and 8:45 a.m.** **2 Shuttle Services from Denver West Marriott**
- 8:30–9:00 a.m.** **Registration and Breakfast**
- 9:00–9:15 a.m.** **Review of Day 2/Agenda Review – Sarai Geary, DOE Office of Indian Energy**
- 9:15–9:45 a.m.** **Guest Speaker: Margaret (Margie) Schaff, Attorney at Margaret Schaff and Associates, LLC**
Margie will speak about off-taker agreements—what you need to know to set the stage for a successful energy user relationship.
- 9:45–10:15 a.m.** **Step 4: Project Implementation – Sherry Stout, NREL**
- 10:15–10:30 a.m.** **Break and Networking**
- 10:30–11:30 a.m.** **Step 5: Project Operations & Maintenance (O&M)**
Solar O&M Tool – Andy Walker, NREL
Biomass O&M – Chris Gaul, NREL
Wind – Michael Jason Fields, NREL
- 11:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.** **Lunch (Provided)**
- 12:30–1:00 p.m.** **Guest Speaker: Division of Energy and Mineral Development**
Tribal Energy Development and Available Grants
- 1:00–1:30 p.m.** **Jeopardy!**
Training Wrap-up and Evaluations
- 1:30–1:45 p.m.** **Break and Networking**
- 1:45– 3:00 p.m.** **NREL Campus Tour – Rachel Romero, NREL**
- 3:00–3:15 p.m.** **NREL Shuttle Service to Denver West Marriott**

