



U.S. DOE OFFICE OF INDIAN ENERGY

# INDIAN ENERGY BEAT



News on Actions to Accelerate Energy Development in Indian Country

WINTER 2012

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## Technical Assistance Program Off to a Running

# START



On December 2, 2011, in conjunction with the White House Tribal Nations Conference, the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (DOE-IE) announced the launch of its Strategic Technical Assistance Response Team (START) Program.

Between December 2, 2011, and January 15, 2012, 46 American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes submitted applications to receive technical assistance through the program, which provides Tribes with on-the-ground technical support from DOE and National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) staff to help move tribal energy efficiency and renewable energy projects forward. The applications are being considered through the START selection process, which incorporates expert reviews and outreach to Tribes who present a need for assistance with their community-based energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

The final successful applicants will be selected based on the clarity of their requests for technical assistance and the ability of START to successfully work with each unique project or community. At least three selected Tribes in Alaska will receive technical assistance between March and May 2012, and

up to five selected Tribes in the contiguous United States will receive technical assistance between March and August 2012.

During the months of START Program activity, DOE and NREL experts will work in the two locations. In Alaska, START experts will work directly with community-based project teams to analyze local energy issues and provide assistance with energy projects and cost savings initiatives. This effort will be bolstered by DOE-IE's partnership with the Denali Commission, which will provide further assistance and expertise.

In the lower 48 states, NREL experts will work with the selected renewable energy START projects to evaluate financial and technical feasibility and provide early development technical assistance to better position the projects for financing and construction. This on-the-ground technical assistance is part of a broader DOE-IE effort to make reliable, accurate

*"By leveraging our technical resources and expertise, we will help tribal communities, entrepreneurs and small businesses create jobs, reduce our reliance on fossil fuels, and build a sustainable energy future. Working together, we can strengthen the energy security and economic competitiveness of tribal homes and businesses."*

*—Energy Secretary Steven Chu  
on the START Program, Dec. 2, 2011*

**CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE**

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OFF TO A RUNNING START (CONTINUED)

technical information and skills-based training available to tribal communities throughout the United States.

The primary goal of the START initiative, according to DOE-IE Director Tracey A. LeBeau, is to bring about the next generation of energy development in Indian Country. Through energy project planning, quality training, and technical assistance, "The START program will leverage the early-stage resource characterization and pre-feasibility investments that DOE has made in Indian Country over the years, and unlock the energy resources that exist on tribal lands to help build a 21st century tribal energy economy.

"Working collaboratively with a select group of Tribes and Alaska Native entities, the DOE Office of Indian Energy, NREL, and the Denali Commission will empower tribal leaders to make informed energy decisions and help build capacity to bring tribal energy visions to fruition and get renewable energy projects off the ground," said LeBeau.

Ultimately, these efforts will serve to further the Obama Administration and DOE's shared commitment to provide Native American and Alaska Native communities with the tools and resources they need to foster tribal energy self-sufficiency and sustainability, advancing job creation and enhancing economic competitiveness.

## SHARING KNOWLEDGE Tribal Renewable Resources

Tribal lands comprise 5% of the total land area of the United States and contain approximately 4% of the nation's renewable energy resources. DOE-IE is working with Tribes to unlock the potential of this vast untapped resource.

According to recent studies conducted by NREL, potential clean energy resources in Indian Country include an estimated:

- 409,000 megawatts (MW) of wind
- 4.5 million MW of solar photovoltaics (PV)
- 1.9 million MW of concentrating solar power
- 640 MW of biomass
- 845 MW of small/low hydropower.



Workers attach the blades of a refurbished wind turbine that powers the KILI radio station at the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Photo by Bob Gough, NREL/PIX 15954



## MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR TRACEY LEBEAU

Dear Friends,

Since my last letter, a flurry of activity has been going on here at the DOE Office of Indian Energy. We've embarked on an aggressive effort to connect with tribal leaders on energy needs in Indian Country. In November we joined many of you at the National Congress of American Indians Convention, where we hosted a well-attended Tribal Leader Energy Education Initiative Workshop and received good feedback to develop training curriculum for tribal renewable energy project development and financing.

During the White House Tribal Nations Conference on December 2, 2011, we launched the START Program aimed at advancing clean energy generation in Indian Country. Applications for this technical assistance opportunity were due January 15, and we were pleased to see a good response. We plan to announce selected Tribes in the next month, and then we'll begin on-site technical assistance in the lower 48, as well as Alaska, where we're thrilled to be partnering with the Denali Commission.

We've also launched our Tribal Leader Forum series to engage tribal leaders in pertinent energy discussions with industry and federal agencies. We've already hosted forums on solar energy development in the Southwest and transmission and clean energy development in the West. A forum on conventional energy will be held during RES2012, and one on taxation will take place during the Native America Finance Officers Association Conference March 19–21 in New Orleans.

You can read more about all these activities in this newsletter. I also encourage you to visit our website to access webcast and workshop presentations and learn about upcoming events. As always, we welcome your ideas on how our office can help support your vision for Indian Country's energy future. I hope to see you at one of our upcoming events.

—Tracey LeBeau

## OPENING DOORS

### DOE AWARDS \$6.5 MILLION TO TRIBAL CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS

On February 16, 2012, U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced that 19 tribal clean energy projects will receive more than \$6.5 million to advance clean energy within tribal communities. The projects were competitively selected as a result of a DOE funding opportunity announcement issued last year. They will help tribal communities assess local energy resources, develop renewable energy projects, and deploy clean energy technologies to save money and create job and business opportunities. Learn more and view the list of awarded Tribes at [www.energy.gov/articles/tribal-clean-energy-projects-awarded-65-million-us-energy-department](http://www.energy.gov/articles/tribal-clean-energy-projects-awarded-65-million-us-energy-department).

### USDA REAP PROGRAM FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Tribes working to revitalize their rural economies and create opportunities for growth and prosperity by embracing clean energy may have a new opportunity to reap what they sow.

The Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) is designed to help agricultural producers and rural small businesses reduce energy costs and consumption and help meet the nation's critical energy needs. For 2012, USDA was appropriated funding to support at least \$12.5 million in grants and approximately \$48.5 million in guaranteed loans through REAP. The USDA is accepting applications from Tribal Section 17 Corporations **only** for the following:

- **Renewable energy system and energy efficiency improvement projects.** Deadline for grant applications and combination grant and guaranteed loan applications: **March 30, 2012.** Deadline for guaranteed-loan-only applications: **June 29, 2012.**
- **Renewable energy system feasibility studies.** Deadline for applications: **March 30, 2012.**

For more information, go to [www.rurdev.usda.gov/RD\\_Grants.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/RD_Grants.html).

## DOE, EPA, AND WAPA TEAM UP FOR FREE TRIBAL WEBINAR SERIES

Registration required: [www.repartners.org](http://www.repartners.org)

Times: 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mountain Time

The DOE Office of Indian Energy, the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's Tribal Energy Program, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Green Power Partnership Program, and Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) are presenting the following series of free webinars focused on tribal energy development:

- **February 29, 2012** – Unwinding Transmission Policies
- **March 28, 2012** – Understanding the Interconnection and Transmission Service Queues
- **May 30, 2012** – Today's Energy Supply – Yesterday's Grid
- **July 25, 2012** – Grid Reliability – Impacts to Tribal Renewable Projects
- **September 26, 2012** – DOE Office of Indian Energy's START Program Status Updates

## WINNING THE FUTURE

# Forest County Potawatomi Tribe Cuts Emissions, Promotes Green Growth

**Challenge:** Since adopting its environmental mission statement in November 2008, the Forest County Potawatomi Community has assumed a leadership role in creating a sustainable and healthy world.

In pursuit of its long-term energy goal of reducing its carbon footprint to zero, the Tribe adopted an integrated renewable energy deployment plan that includes the installation of solar, biogas, and biomass energy systems to heat, cool, and power its tribal facilities. The Tribe strives to use locally produced materials and local contractors whenever possible.

**Solution:** In October 2011, thanks to partial funding by a \$2.6 million DOE Community Renewable Energy Deployment grant through the Recovery Act, the Tribe installed a 30-kilowatt (kW) solar PV system on the roof of its administration building in Milwaukee. Installed by a Milwaukee-based contractor, the system features locally manufactured panels.

The next phase of the project will include construction of a 2-MW anaerobic digester and biogas generation facility in Milwaukee that will produce renewable electricity for sale to the local utility and heat for use by nearby facilities. The digester facility, which will be completed in May 2013, will convert high-strength waste from local food processing facilities into biogas, which will fuel two Wisconsin-built GE Waukesha engines.

**Benefits:** The rooftop PV system will produce approximately 35,000 kilowatt-hours of clean electricity annually, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by an estimated 41 tons per year. In addition to

reducing the Tribe's annual greenhouse gas and other emissions, renewable energy projects are helping preserve and increase local jobs for tribal members and others.

To learn more, visit [www.eere.energy.gov/deployment/community/potawatomi.html](http://www.eere.energy.gov/deployment/community/potawatomi.html).

*"The Potawatomi are excited to reach another milestone toward our long-standing goal of reducing our energy use and carbon footprint. We are fortunate that there are companies and organizations right here in Wisconsin that helped make this project happen."*

—Forest County Potawatomi Attorney General Jeff Crawford



The Forest County Potawatomi Tribe's solar system is providing heating, cooling, and electricity to the Tribe's administration building in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Photo from the Forest County Potawatomi Tribe, NREL/PIX 20107

## BUILDING BRIDGES

### Four DOE Offices Come Together for RES2012

For the first time, four DOE offices are joining forces to focus on Indian Energy and energy infrastructure at the 2012 Reservation Economic Summit (RES2012) February 27–March 1, 2012. The Office of Indian Energy; the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's Tribal Energy Program; the Office of Electricity and Energy Reliability; and the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity will provide attendees with information about their programs and the types of assistance available to Tribes. Several breakout sessions will take place during the summit on priority energy areas for Indian Country. View the full agenda at [www.res2012.biz](http://www.res2012.biz).

### ICEIWG Moves Forward with Strategic Planning

The Gila River Indian Community hosted the Indian Country Energy and Infrastructure Working Group's (ICEIWG's) third meeting on January 26, 2012, at the Wild Horse Pass Hotel and Casino in Chandler, Arizona. The meeting began with a two-hour internal session for working group members that focused on developing a working group charter and strategic plan, and recruiting additional members.

The remainder of the day-long meeting was opened up to all tribal organizations, representatives, and others to participate. View ICEIWG meeting agendas and summaries at [www.energy.gov/indianenergy/services-0/indian-country-energy-and-infrastructure-working-group](http://www.energy.gov/indianenergy/services-0/indian-country-energy-and-infrastructure-working-group).

## ON THE HORIZON

### FEB. 27–MARCH 1

26th Annual Reservation Economic Summit (RES2012)  
Las Vegas, Nevada

### FEB. 29

Webinar: Unwinding Transmission Policies  
Sponsored by DOE, EPA, and WAPA

### MARCH 1

DOE Office of Indian Energy Conventional Energy Forum  
Las Vegas, Nevada

### MARCH 6–8

National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Executive Council Winter Session  
Washington, D.C.

### MARCH 20–21

Native American Finance Officers Association Conference  
New Orleans, Louisiana

### MARCH 21–22

International Institute for Indigenous Resource Management Environmental Policy Act Workshop  
Denver, Colorado

### MARCH 22

DOE Office of Indian Energy Taxation Forum  
New Orleans, Louisiana

### MARCH 28

Webinar: Understanding the Interconnection and Transmission Service Queues  
Sponsored by DOE, EPA, and WAPA

# LEADING THE CHARGE

## JIM MANION

Change doesn't happen on its own. It's led by dedicated and passionate people who are committed to empowering Indian Country to energize future generations. Leading the Charge is a regular feature spotlighting the movers and shakers in energy development on tribal lands.



**Name:** Jim Manion

**Tribe:** Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon

**Title/Role:** Jim Manion is the general manager of Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises and is a member of the ICEIWG.

**Areas of expertise:** Manion, who has 30 years of experience, specializes in energy generation and transmission.

**Current projects:** Manion recently completed a reservation-wide comprehensive resource plan for energy development potential and assisted in negotiating a natural gas pipeline right-of-way and a 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line row. He's currently engaged in discussions on the development of a new dual-circuit 500-kV transmission line.

### What are the greatest opportunities for Indian Country?

Energy development can serve Tribes in three ways, according to Manion. The first is it can bring power to communities within Indian Country that currently don't have energy. Second, it can create needed jobs that offer tribal members opportunities to earn incomes sufficient to support their families. And third, it can generate revenue through energy sales, which fosters tribal self-sufficiency.

**What are the biggest challenges?** Bringing leaders together with community members and establishing a common understanding of what a project can do for them and surrounding communities is the toughest challenge, Manion said.

"There are both positive and negative impacts of any project that you bring to a community," he said. "Understanding the difference and managing the negative are essential to ensuring you can advance a project to completion."

**What is the best part of your job?** Manion said working on projects that bring value and future potential to his tribal community is the best part of his job. He enjoys planning and advancing projects that are consistent with his Tribe's values.

# INDIAN COUNTRY ENERGY ROUNDUP

## Forums, Webcasts, and Workshops

DOE-IE works with Tribes to build energy capacity through education and training. Below is a recap of recent forums, webcasts, and workshops sponsored by DOE-IE. Learn more and download presentations at [www.energy.gov/indianenergy/resources/education-and-training](http://www.energy.gov/indianenergy/resources/education-and-training).

### FORUMS

#### Solar Energy Development in the Southwest

The first in a series of DOE-IE-sponsored strategic energy development forums, the Solar Energy Forum was held December 19–20, 2011, in Palm Springs, California, and provided an opportunity for tribal leaders to meet and network with attendees representing other Tribes, industry, utilities, and federal agencies on solar energy deployment efforts in the Southwest.

#### Exploring the Business Link Opportunity: Transmission and Clean Energy Development in the West

Co-sponsored by DOE-IE and DOE's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, this forum took place February 7–8, 2012, in Denver, Colorado, and enabled tribal leaders and executives to receive up-to-date information on transmission development and planning activities in the West; learn about the latest trends in financing clean energy projects; and collaborate on best practices in tribal project partnerships and investments.

### WEBCASTS

#### Overview of Geothermal Energy Development

On January 10, 2012, DOE-IE held a webcast on developing geothermal resources on tribal lands that included an overview of geothermal resources by region; technology options; geothermal leasing and development policies such as resource ownership, water law and rights, leasing, and development at the federal, tribal, and state levels; and financing options and strategies.

### WORKSHOPS

#### Tribal Leader Energy Education Initiative Workshop

Held on November 1, 2011, at the National Congress of American Indians 2011 Convention in Portland, Oregon, the Tribal Leader Energy Education Initiative Workshop focused on DOE-IE's efforts to develop training curriculum on tribal renewable energy project development and financing, including how to build a framework for tribal project development, and ways to identify likely projects.



Travis Stone, Shoshone Bannock Tribe, and Rebecca Kauffman, Southern Ute Alternative Energy Investment Fund, speaking on their Joint Intertribal Wind Project Venture at the DOE Transmission and Clean Energy Forum in February. Photo by Dennis Schroeder, NREL/PIX 20108



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Office of  
Indian Energy

[energy.gov/indianenergy](http://energy.gov/indianenergy)  
[indianenergy@hq.doe.gov](mailto:indianenergy@hq.doe.gov)

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