



Advancing Energy Development 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 Office of Indian Energy) 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 support ranges from technical resource analysis, development process assistance, and infrastructure evaluation to community-wide energy planning, workforce training, and project financial support.

“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



START team members Bob Springer (far left) and Robi Robichaud of NREL worked with Laura Quaha of the Campo Kumeyaay Nation (second from left) and Melissa Estes of the Campo Environmental Protection Agency to conduct a wind site assessment on the Campo Indian Reservation in San Diego County, California. Photo by Alex Dane, NREL 24370

START Program: Alaska Native Community Energy Planning and Projects

Led by DOE in partnership with the Denali Commission, an independent federal agency, and NREL, START provides technical assistance to select Alaska Native entities that are focused on community-based energy planning, energy awareness and training programs, and identification and implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency opportunities.

START Program: Renewable Energy Project Development Assistance

START teams comprised of DOE and national laboratory experts provide customized technical support to help selected Tribes in the 48 contiguous states, as well as Alaska Native Regional Corporations, move community- and commercial-scale energy projects closer to implementation. This includes working directly with the tribal project team and tribal legal/finance specialists who currently (or will be) in the near future addressing late-stage project development decisions, negotiations, and agreements.

START-UP

Through the tribal START Utility Program (START-UP), the DOE Office of Indian Energy enhances the START Program by helping Tribes develop their own utility services and increase ownership of local energy assets.

More Information

Learn more about START, including previous projects, at energy.gov/indianenergy/resources/start-program.

