

Partnership Project

Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project Targets Gaps in Energy Resilience

Technical Assistance Network Works Alongside Communities to Shore Up Vulnerabilities

Remote, island, and islanded communities across the United States today are confronting an untenable level of risk.

Because of their geographic isolation, these communities face unique energy and infrastructure challenges that leave them particularly vulnerable.

From Alaska to Maine to the Caribbean, these communities are prioritizing energy transitions—sustainable strategies for living in harmony with the rugged environments that have supported and challenged residents for generations. While each community is tackling a specific set of problems dictated by local and regional conditions, all are pursuing high-impact technological solutions to ramp up their resilience—often with limited resources and capacity.

To bridge the gap, the Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP)

offers resources and on-the-ground support for remote, island, and islanded communities seeking to enhance their energy infrastructure and mitigate their risk.

Cross-Cutting Coalition Combines Assets to Compound Impact

The cross-sector initiative builds on the framework developed by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's (EERE's) Energy Transitions Initiative (ETI). Intended to compound the impact of ETI's proven framework, ETIPP leverages DOE's decades of work building resilience in remote, island, and islanded communities worldwide. ETIPP draws upon the cross-cutting support, experience, expertise, and technical assets of four DOE offices, four DOE national laboratories, and five community-based partners.

ETIPP combines DOE's deep energy sector experience with specialized local expertise, tapping into trusted community-based organizations to work alongside competitively selected communities to address energy challenges and build capacity.

"Remote, island, and islanded communities are absorbing the nation's highest energy costs, and are extremely vulnerable to energy disruptions, natural disasters, and climate change impacts," said Kelly Speakes-Backman, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for EERE.

"ETIPP's network of technical assistance providers will work alongside these communities to overcome energy and infrastructure challenges with holistic, clean-energy solutions that ramp up resilience and reduce risk while addressing systemic inequities."

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—Kelly Speakes-Backman,
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary,
Office of Energy Efficiency and
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Proven Framework Prioritizes Community Concerns

ETIPP’s experienced network works collaboratively with communities to proactively identify and implement strategic technological solutions designed to bolster community resilience and reduce economic risk. Working alongside local stakeholders to understand community



The Alaska Native Village of Igiugig installed a RivGen hydrokinetic power (HKP) system in the Kvichak River in 2019. Integrating a second HKP device and battery storage into their microgrid in 2021 will further their resilient energy goals. *Photo from Ocean Renewable Power Company*

energy and infrastructure challenges, priorities, and opportunities, ETIPP’s broad coalition provides technology-neutral technical assistance and offers a full menu of on-the-ground support.

ETIPP technical assistance is tailored to each community’s needs and may include:

- Performing resource and energy assessments
- Establishing an energy baseline through a resilience lens
- Garnering community buy-in through outreach and education
- Exploring financing mechanisms and strategies
- Identifying energy policy and regulatory barriers and opportunities
- Exploring existing and emerging energy technology applications
- Creating a viable road map for technology deployment and identifying a path to sustainability
- Developing and implementing priority energy projects
- Building local capacity to operate and maintain energy infrastructure.

Charting the Course to Energy Resilience

By informing impactful infrastructure investments that support the resilience goals of remote, island, and islanded communities, ETIPP is charting a course for others to follow.



The Lawai Solar Project in Kauai, Hawaii, won Best Storage Application of the Year in 2019 for the world’s largest battery plant paired with solar generation. This 250-kW microgrid will advance Hawaii’s 100% renewable electricity by 2045 goal. *Photo by Dennis Schroeder, NREL 58001*

Sharing and applying lessons learned, innovations, and best practices furthers ETIPP’s broader goal to accelerate and enhance the efforts of all communities to withstand and recover from energy disruptions, improve energy reliability and access, and reduce energy costs.

ETIPP’s inclusive and empowering cross-cutting approach to building resilience can be tailored and scaled to various geographic regions and types of communities.

For more information on ETIPP’s work to advance the development of resilient energy systems in remote, island, and islanded communities, visit: energy.gov/eere/energy-transitions-initiative-partnership-project-what-we-do. ■

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Cover photo: An aerial view of the Native Village of Kivalina, 80 miles above the Arctic Circle at the tip of an 8-mile barrier reef. *Photo by Givey Kochanowski, DOE Office of Indian Energy*

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