



Joint Rural and Economic Development Working Group Meeting

Welcome! We'll begin shortly.

October 28, 2024



Agenda

- Welcome and Introductions
- Framing and Relevant Resources
- State Panel Discussion
 - Moderator: Tom Elliott, Energy Analyst, Oregon Department of Energy and co-chair of NASEO Rural Energy Working Group
 - Panelists:
 - Kirstie McPherson, Community and Economic Development Manager, Colorado Office of Just Transition
 - Brayden Connour, Director of Investments, Wyoming Energy Authority
 - Sarah Moehrke, Community Navigator, Oregon Department of Energy
- Full group discussion
- Next steps and close

Background and Introductions

- NASEO Rural Energy Working Group
 - Empowers State Energy Offices to engage rural and remote areas, which often experience disproportionately high energy burden and reliability challenges, by:
 - Facilitating dialogue between state, industry, and federal partners
 - Sharing timely information on state and federal programs and funding opportunities
 - Identifying or developing resources based on guidance from state co-chairs to address State Energy Office priorities
- State Clean Energy-Based Economic Development Working Group
 - Jointly facilitated by NASEO, IEDC, and RESTART
 - Brings together State Energy Offices and state and regional economic development organizations to:
 - Strategize on common priorities
 - Learn from experts
 - Share best practices to promote clean energy-related economic development
 - Support states in maximizing the potential of federal clean energy investments

Framing and Relevant Resources

- Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Coal and Power Plant Communities and Economic Revitalization
 - [TA and Rapid Response Teams](#)
 - [Federal funding hub](#)
 - Virtual workshop: Capacity Building for Energy Assets ([Nov. 14](#))
- [Building Resilient Economies in Coal Communities](#)
- [Rural Partners Network](#)
- [Just Transition Fund](#)
 - Case studies: [Becker](#) (MN), [Allamakee Energy District](#) (IA), [Plenty Doors Development Corporation](#) (MT)
- [IRA Clean Energy Storytelling](#)

Federal Funding Opportunities

- [Rural Energy for America Program \(REAP\)](#): Upcoming Deadlines: **December 31, 2024, and March 31, 2025**
 - Provides guaranteed loan financing and grant funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable and energy efficiency improvements
- [Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas](#) (FY 2025): Concept Papers due **February 27, 2025**
 - Provides support for rural and remote communities to build clean energy projects that benefit their communities
- [Training for Residential Energy Contractors \(TREC\) Competitive](#): Applications due by **January 15, 2025**
 - \$40 million available to State and Territory Energy Offices to train, test, and certify residential energy efficiency and electrification contractors
- [Good Jobs in Clean Energy Prize - Phase 1](#): Applications due **January 31, 2025**
 - \$3 million for coalitions looking to create quality jobs and support an equitable and inclusive clean energy workforce.
- Upcoming:
 - DOE expects to release the second [Transmission Siting and Economic Development](#) funding opportunity in early 2025.

Discussion

- **Overarching question:** How can State Energy Offices, economic developers, state workforce agencies, and other key stakeholders work together to support clean energy-related economic and workforce development opportunities in rural areas?
- Just transition
 - What are some strategies to support workers affected by fossil fuel facility closures? Is your organization involved in or leading these efforts?
 - How can economic developers and State Energy Offices coordinate with each other and other rural partners to support impacted workers and communities?
- Re-training and up-skilling opportunities
 - What are some opportunities to match existing skills with new jobs and support workers for careers, not just a singular in-demand jobs? Challenges to doing so?
 - What are some strategies to make careers in clean energy attractive and ensure similar pay/benefits to fossil fuel jobs?
 - What are some ways to address community-wide economic development considerations (i.e., lost tax revenue and other benefits)? How could community benefit plans help meet unique community needs?

Discussion

- Labor supply challenges
 - With the expected increase in demand for clean energy jobs, how can economic developers, State Energy Offices, and key stakeholders in rural areas collaborate to attract and retain workers in rural areas?
- Barriers to accessing training
 - Where are training centers in your state?
 - What specific barriers might jobseekers in rural areas face in accessing training?
 - Are there partners/stakeholders in rural areas that could help bridge the gap?
- Community engagement
 - What are some best practices (or challenges) when developing a Community Benefit Plan for clean energy projects in rural areas?
 - How can states determine the kind of jobs, infrastructure, and/or benefits the community wants?
 - Who are some trusted messengers and messages in rural context?

Thank you!

NASEO Contacts

State Clean Energy-Based Economic Development Working Group:

- Grace Lowe (glowe@naseo.org)
- Sandy Fazeli (sfazeli@naseo.org)
- Arvand Golbazi (agolbazi@naseo.org)

Rural Working Group:

- Kelsey Jones (kjones@naseo.org)
- Jasmine Xie (jxie@naseo.org)

IEDC Contact

Delaney Luna (dluna@iedconline.org)

RESTART Contact

Robert Jackson (rjackson5@ltu.edu)