

Enhanced Collaboration with State and Local Energy Institutions

State and local energy programs and policies are developed and implemented across a range of agencies and institutions. While EERE is working with some of these institutions on an *ad hoc* basis, a far greater level of coordination and communication could be achieved which would significantly advance collaborative state and federal efforts and achieve shared goals more rapidly. The breadth of major state and local energy interests include:

- State and Local Energy Technology Institutions (ASERTTI)
- State Energy Offices (NASEO)
- Land Grant Universities (NASULGC)
- State Low Income Heating Assistance Program Offices (NEADA)
- Governors Energy Advisors and Policy staff (NGA)
- State Legislators (NCSL)
- State Utility Regulators (NARUC)
- Federal Power Marketing Agencies (including BPA, TVA, WAPA)
- Local/Municipal Energy Agencies (including NACO, ICMA, NLC)
- Regional Energy Efficiency Advocacy and Outreach Organizations (MEEA, NEEA, NEEP, etc.)
- Private Utilities
- Municipal and Rural Utilities (APPA)
- Regional Governors' Organizations (WGA, CONEG, SSEB, etc)
- State Weatherization Directors (NASCSPP)
- Local Low Income Weatherization Delivery, Advocacy, and Outreach Agencies (NCAF, etc.)

There is some overlap among the above organizations and the constituents that they represent. However, in general, they have different roles, capabilities, and resources. These state and local institutions together invest more than \$1 billion of state and local ratepayer and taxpayer resources annually – as well as tremendous human resources. These institutions are also unique EERE stakeholders in that they share EERE's "public interest" clean energy goals and motivations. EERE can better draw upon these resources and support regional and national efforts by developing a new and more inclusive approach to collaboration across a range of applied research, technology transfer, deployment and education efforts.

Director of State and Local Collaboration. Rather than creating a complex model or planning process to address this need and opportunity, a more pragmatic approach would be to establish and empower a Director of State and Local Collaboration to work with this set of partners. One of the primary roles of this position is to both serve as a point of contact for these institutions and a voice within EERE regarding their capabilities, activities, and interests.

This Director position would be within the EERE office responsible for other state and local government programs and activities, and should be afforded ready access across technology programs. This should be a senior career position that offers greater continuity for state and local stakeholders. The Office of Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs could house the position, but EERE should determine the most appropriate office and approach.

As an initial activity, the Director of State and Local Collaboration would organize a state and local working group with state and local representatives (not organizational staff) from the above organizations. The aim would be advancing collaboration to achieve shared national and regional goals more effectively. Specifically, The Director would:

- Use limited seed funds for initiating collaborations that support EERE goals;
- Work with and thru EERE Program Managers, project offices, and National Laboratories;
- Act as a facilitator and catalyst for short- and long-term collaborations and partnerships;
- Work across a range of applied research, technology transfer, and deployment activities all aimed at moving technology to the market;
- Interact with the State Energy Advisory Board; and
- Facilitate communication and information exchange among states and EERE on a national and regional basis.