

Overview

Energy efficiency and renewable energy are a win-win for state and local governments and K-12 schools. Energy infrastructure investments create vibrant and healthy communities, provide a secure, reliable source of energy for homes and businesses, and produce well-paying, local jobs. **As centers for American competitiveness, state and local governments are valued partners to the U.S. Department of Energy.** Their energy innovations help power the nation's economy. The *Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs Office's (WIP)* mission is to enable strategic investments, including emerging technologies such as energy efficiency and renewable energy, and to support innovative practices across the U.S. by a wide range of government, community, and business stakeholders, in partnership with state and local organizations. WIP supports DOE's strategic objective to lower energy bills while expanding cost-effective energy choices for all Americans. As part of WIP, the **Partnerships and Technical Assistance Team (P&TA) serves at the nexus of state and local governments to catalyze lead-by-example programs** by:

- Developing tools and solutions to barriers facing state and local governments;
- Convening and creating peer exchanges to showcase public-sector leadership and effective public-private partnerships; and
- Providing information from leading technical experts.

Supporting State and Local Governments with Their Energy Priorities

P&TA supports the energy priorities of state and local governments to save taxpayer dollars, make full use of domestic energy resources, boost local economic development and job creation, cut energy waste, improve energy independence and security, and further the development of energy infrastructure. P&TA cultivates diverse partnerships, provides technical assistance, and assists state and local governments to help them:



Develop an Energy Plan



Pay for Energy Initiatives



Design and Implement Energy Programs



Access and Use Energy Data

Strengthening American Communities

Within DOE, P&TA leads strategic initiatives to replicate the successful models of public sector leaders to maximize money and energy savings across the nation. For example:

The *Better Buildings Challenge (BBC)* aims to help Americans reduce the energy burden of commercial, institutional, and multi-family buildings and industrial plants by achieving **20% or more in energy savings**. BBC has more than **310 partners**, including 76 public sector partners led by the P&TA Team (7 states, 44 local

WHAT ARE THE RESULTS SO FAR?

Public sector Better Buildings Challenge partners are having a tremendous impact:



Energy Saved:
45 trillion Btus



Dollars Saved:
\$420 million



Avoided Carbon Emissions:
2.9 million tons



Water Saved:
1.5 billion gallons

Cumulative results through 2016

governments, and 25 K-12 school districts). Partners overcome market barriers to energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies through sharing best practices, facilitating peer exchange, and accessing technical assistance resources.

The *Better Communities Alliance (BCA)* provides local governments with integrated expertise, resources, and peer-networking opportunities from across the government, nonprofit, philanthropic, and private sectors. Over 40 local governments from more than 20 states **representing more than 43 million Americans** are partners in this initiative.

The *Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure of the Future (SWIFt) Accelerator* assists state, regional, and local agencies to **improve the energy efficiency of water resource recovery facilities by at least 30 percent** on their path to more sustainable infrastructure of the future. SWIFt includes more than 100 water resource recovery facilities 27 signatory partners, which include 18 states, 7 local governments, and 2 regional organizations.

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Saving Taxpayers Energy and Money

-  The *Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC) Accelerator* achieved public sector energy efficiency **investments of more than \$2 billion** in three years. DOE worked with 25 partners, including 18 states, 6 cities, and 1 school district to **streamline the ESPC process, empower the market with project data, and resolve individual barriers** to these contracts. Eight solutions to common ESPC barriers are available on the Better Buildings Solution Center in the *ESPC Toolkit*.
-  From 2014-2016 the *Outdoor Lighting Accelerator (OLA)* garnered a commitment to **upgrade 1.3 million street lights** that once achieved will save partners an estimated \$48 million/year. Working with 25 total partners that included three states, 16 cities, and 6 regional energy networks. High-performance outdoor lighting best practices are available in the *Outdoor Lighting Toolkit* on the Better Buildings Solution Center.
- Through **public-private financing partnerships** that extend the impact of otherwise limited public budgets, communities have upgraded aging infrastructure, created healthier schools, and saved homeowners money. For example, responding to market uncertainty around **Residential Property Assessed Clean Energy (R-PACE)**, P&TA established market standards through the *Best Practice Guidelines for Residential PACE Financing Programs* publication. Technical assistance is helping to grow market confidence and reduce transaction costs associated with energy efficiency and renewable energy financing.
- The **State Energy Program (SEP) and Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)** also enhance energy security and maximize the benefits of energy efficiency through technology implementation. P&TA collaborates with SEP and WAP to disseminate successful model solutions, including:
 - ➔ Iowa hired **regional energy managers** to help local governments create energy plans and complete hundreds of energy efficiency upgrade projects;
 - ➔ Nevada established the **Public Facilities Retrofit Program** to accelerate adoption of ESPC by state and local governments. From 2012 to 2015, local entities initiated \$35 million in ESPC projects. Another \$23 million in projects is in development with local governments and school districts; and
 - ➔ Illinois created a robust *Trade Ally Program* to advance public sector participation in efficiency projects.

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Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy

State & Local Spotlight

April 2017



Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy News and Events for State and Local Leaders

A monthly update from EERE's Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs Office (WIP) for state, local, and K-12 officials featuring resources to advance successful, high-impact, and long-lasting energy efficiency and renewable energy partnerships, programs, and projects.

State & Local News

New Mississippi Implementation Model Showcases Building Performance Strategies and Energy Efficiency Projects
Mississippi will see a 15% reduction in electricity consumption and 18% natural gas savings in Institutes of Higher Learning (IHL) by 2020.

With support from a State Energy Program Competitive Award, the Mississippi Development Authority launched an effort to develop a strategy for assessing the performance of buildings and prioritizing energy efficiency retrofit projects. Eager to achieve savings across the entire public building portfolio, Mississippi compiled auditing and retrofitting best practices into manuals that are available to IHLs, state agencies, and local governments. [Read more.](#)

Virginia's Arlington County Saves 34% in Annual Energy Use with New Vehicle Facility

Arlington County recently retrofitted its Equipment Bureau, a full-service vehicle maintenance and repair facility, which manages and maintains the county's fleet of 1,200 vehicles. This energy intensive facility operates at least 18 hours a day and spans more than 50,000 square feet. [Read more](#) on how the energy efficiency upgrades saved the county nearly 34% in energy savings and \$22,000 in annual utility costs.

California Communities Achieve Significant

Featured Publication Kentucky Energy Program's Strategies for Significant Energy Savings

Kentucky's Stimulating Energy Efficiency Action program is opening the door for big energy savings potential. The program sought participation of more than 80 stakeholders associated with utilities, industry, local business, trade organizations, housing associations, and more to develop recommendations for promoting energy conservation in the state. The state was able to determine and follow six critical steps to success. Currently Kentucky is implementing those strategies to reap significant energy benefits over time.

[Read more.](#)

Sharing Best Practices

State and local governments are a wealth of relevant energy efficiency and renewable energy information. P&TA maintains the following platforms to share state and local government best practices:

- **State and Local Solution Center** is a *one-stop shop* of impactful public sector resources.
- **State and Local Spotlight** is WIP's monthly *newsletter* for state, local, and K-12 officials that provides updates on relevant news, resources, and events for over 8,000 subscribers.
- Public sector partners receive recognition at the annual *Better Buildings Summit* of stakeholders across key sectors, including approximately 175 state and local government leaders.
- Technical assistance webinars are held throughout the year to leverage subject area expertise with peer-to-peer exchange and *archived* on the State and Local Solution Center. ■

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