



National Association of
State Energy Officials

NASEO Rural Energy Working Group Meeting (NASEO State, Territory, and Affiliate Members Only)

July 17, 2024



Agenda

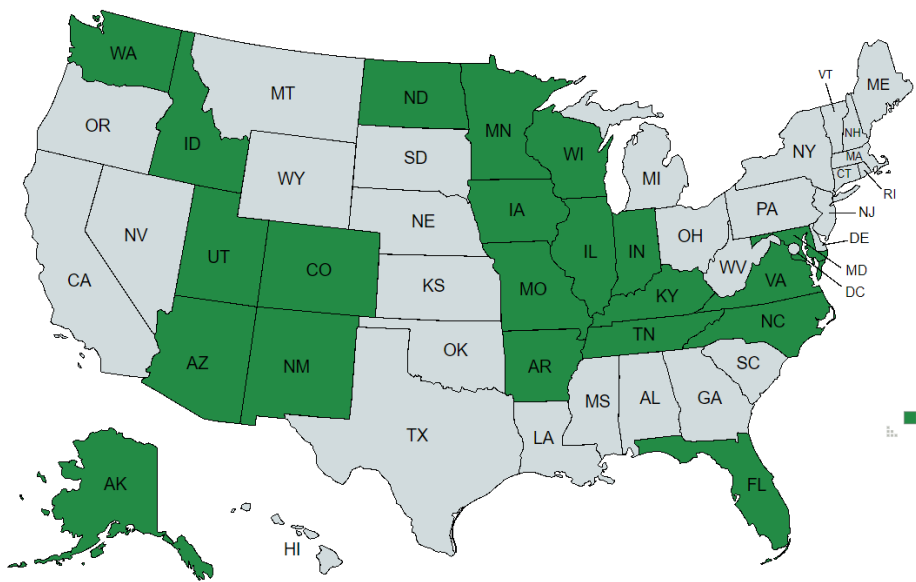
3:00 p.m. - 3:05 p.m. ET: Co-Chair Introduction

3:05 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. ET: Working Group Overview

3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. ET: Working Group Questionnaire Summary

3:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. ET: State Round Table and Discussion

Mission Statement and Overview



As of July 16, 2024: the Rural Energy Working Group membership consists of 39 State Energy Office representatives (across 23 unique State Energy Offices) and 27 NASEO affiliates.



Navigating and addressing rural and remote energy issues is a key priority for State Energy Offices as they seek to advance their states' energy affordability, resiliency, reliability, decarbonization, and economic development goals. Specific topics of interest include the energy-agriculture nexus, clean energy project and infrastructure siting, economic development and workforce opportunities, community engagement, energy program and project development, and partnerships with other state agencies, the federal government, and the private sector. To identify and address these areas, State Energy Offices are setting up programs targeting rural and remote communities, establishing advisory task forces and committees, conducting feasibility studies, and bringing on staff to facilitate energy outreach. The recent influx of federal funding has also provided additional pathways for states to support rural and remote communities in addressing their energy needs.



NASEO Rural Energy Working
Group



Energizing Rural Communities
Prize



Resources

<https://www.naseo.org/issues/rural-energy>

Recurring NASEO Rural Energy Working Group Meeting Topics

- Relevant federal funding opportunities
- State-led activities (new programs, reports, etc.)
- Sector-based discussions around energy efficiency and clean energy innovations:
 - Agriculture
 - Rural small businesses
 - Public buildings, including schools and community centers
- Renewable energy siting and deployment opportunities and barriers
- Equity and community engagement
- Workforce and economic development
- Tribal coordination

Rural WG Questionnaire Responses

38 responses received

Questions:

1. What policies, planning efforts, programs, and/or legislation currently exist in your state for supporting rural and remote communities in accessing clean energy, energy efficiency, carbon sequestration, and other energy-agricultural opportunities?
2. What tool, resources, or educational webinar topics would be helpful for the NASEO Rural Working Group to produce?
3. What are the biggest challenges related to energy currently felt by rural and remote communities in your state?
4. How has your office approached engagement and coordination with rural and remote communities?
5. What federal funding opportunities are you exploring in the rural energy space?
6. Do you have any partners in your exploration of rural energy topics?