



NASEO Electricity Program Quarterly Newsletter July 2023

Upcoming Events

Virtual:

- *NASEO Grid Resilience Call*, July 21, 2023, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET. Speakers from the Tennessee Office of Energy Programs will provide an overview of their 40101(d)-application approach and objectives; Oak Ridge National Lab will provide information regarding data and technical assistance resources. If your office serves as the governor-designated state agency for 40101(d) and you have not yet registered for this call, please contact Catherine Reed at creed@naseo.org.
- *NASEO Rural Working Group Webinar: Agriculture and Carbon Sequestration: Challenges and Opportunities*, August 15, 2023, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. ET. **To register, click [here](#).**
 - Following the webinar, please join NASEO for a states-only meeting of the Rural Working Group from 4:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET. **If you represent a State Energy Office, please register [here](#) to participate.**
- *NASEO-NARUC Advanced Nuclear State Collaborative Webinar: Facilitating Equitable Community Engagement to Support the Deployment of Advanced Nuclear*, August 17, 2023, 1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. ET. **To register, click [here](#).**
- *NASEO Virtual Workshop: Building the Clean Hydrogen Workforce*, August 29, 2023, 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET. **To register, click [here](#).**

In-person:

- [NASEO Workshop and Site Visit: Carbon Management and Coal Conversion: State Policy, Program, and Project Development Opportunities](#), August 9-10, 2023, Pittsburgh, PA. Please email Kelsey Jones (kjones@naseo.org) for more information and to register.
- [Save the Date: NASEO-NARUC Microgrid State Working Group Workshop + Site Visit](#), October 3-4, 2023, Silver Spring, MD.

Announcements

Below is a selection of recent announcements. For a more comprehensive listing of funding opportunities, notices of intent, and requests for information, check out [NASEO's Infrastructure Act Resource Hub](#).

DOE Announces Additional \$50 Million Funding Opportunity through the Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas Program

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Clean Energy Deployment (OCED) issued a [Funding Opportunity Announcement \(FOA\)](#) announcing an additional \$50 million available through the Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas (ERA) Program funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). This program supports community-based energy projects in rural and remote areas across the country, defined as cities, towns, or unincorporated areas with populations of not more than 10,000 inhabitants. To eliminate barriers to accessing this federal funding, there will be a streamlined application process for individual grant awards between \$500,000 and \$5 million and no cost-sharing requirements. Eligible applicants include state and local governmental entities, Tribes, non-profit entities, for-profit entities, institutions of higher education, and

partnerships. Applicants will be required to submit Community Benefits Plans to ensure that the project benefits are equitably reaching historically underserved communities and align with the [Justice40 Initiative](#). Pre-application submissions are due on July 13, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. ET, with full applications due on October 12, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. ET.

DOE Announces \$1 Billion Investment in Demand-Side Support for H2Hubs

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) released a Notice of Intent (NOI) to invest up to \$1 billion to fund a Demand-side Support Mechanism that would accelerate the commercialization of clean hydrogen and support the development of the Regional Clean Hydrogen Hubs (H2Hubs). The funding is intended to enable long-term demand for clean hydrogen and offer producers the revenue certainty they need to secure private investment. The program design could include mechanisms such as pay-for-delivery contracts, offtake backstops, feasibility funding to support analysis by offtakers, or other measures. OCED is seeking public input on the program design and included a Request for Information (RFI) as part of the NOI. Responses to the RFI are due by 5:00 p.m. ET on July 24, 2023 and can be submitted to Demand-Side-RFI-NOI@hq.doe.gov. The full NOI and RFI can be found [here](#).

Call for Comments on Proposed Rule to Bolster Solar and Wind Development on Federal Lands

On June 15, 2023, the Bureau of Land Management within the US Department of Interior announced a proposed update of its renewable energy regulations to promote the development of solar and wind energy on public lands. The intent of this [proposed rule](#) is to reduce fees for these projects by around 80%, facilitate development in priority areas by streamlining review of applications, and deliver greater certainty for the private sector. Comments on this proposed rule are due by August 15, 2023. Additional details can be found in this [announcement](#). Please contact Catherine Reed at creed@naseo.org if your organization intends to provide comments on this rule.

In Case You Missed It

NASEO-NARUC DER Integration and Compensation Initiative Webinar: Grid Modernization Strategies to Accelerate Deployment of DERs

On April 13, 2023, NASEO and NARUC held a webinar through the DER I&C Initiative. States have been conducting grid modernization studies to identify pathways for updating interconnection processes, enhancing hosting capacity, and understanding the role of distributed energy resources (DERs). A comprehensive understanding of the connection, operation, and compensation of DERs is crucial to the activities of State Energy Offices and Public Utility Commissions. This webinar featured Lisa Schwartz of Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) sharing a national perspective on trends and challenges states are facing when examining and seeking to accelerate DER deployment in the context of grid modernization. Paul Heitmann with the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities discussed New Jersey's process for developing the recently released New Jersey Grid Modernization Study, recommendations from the study, and plans for implementation. The [recording](#) and [slides](#) are available.

NASEO-ACORE Webinar: Exploring Offshore Wind and Transmission Planning

On May 23, 2023, NASEO and the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE) hosted a webinar to explore the transmission needs associated with offshore wind development and to provide state-level perspectives on these important topics. Joe DeLosa from the Brattle Group presented an overview of the findings from a recently released report on [The Benefit and Urgency of Planned Offshore Transmission](#), which was commissioned by ACORE along with American Clean Power Association, the Clean Air Task Force, GridLab, and the Natural Resources Defense Council. Celina Cunningham, Deputy Director of Maine Governor's Energy Office, provided an overview of Maine's initiatives in this space, including their work with the [Maine Offshore Wind Roadmap](#), the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program, and the New England Regional

Transmission Initiative. The recording is available here: [Webinar: Exploring Offshore Wind and Transmission Planning](#).

NASEO Rural Working Group Webinar: State Energy Office Approaches to the Energy-Agriculture Nexus

On June 8, 2023, NASEO held a webinar through the Rural Working Group. The intersection between the energy and agriculture sectors is being explored across the country as states look for opportunities to support clean energy, lower costs, and increase resilience along the agricultural value chain. Farmers and ranchers can leverage funding opportunities (e.g., programs through the U.S. Department of Agriculture) to deploy such strategies as agricultural facility and equipment energy efficiency improvements, energy and water efficient growing and harvesting technologies, soil-based carbon sequestration, and clean energy deployment. This webinar featured State Energy Officials discussing how they engage rural and agricultural communities and what their success stories and challenges have been. The [recording](#) and [slides](#) are available.

Reports, Information, and Tools

NASEO Hydrogen Map

NASEO has developed a map that provides a visual overview of state-level activities related to clean hydrogen development. It aims to highlight clean hydrogen policies, initiatives, and partnerships led by or involving state government entities (i.e., State Energy Offices, state legislatures, Governor's Offices) and is designed to serve as a resource for State Energy Offices to explore clean hydrogen efforts in other states. NASEO intends to update the map as states adopt new programs and initiatives. Click [here](#) for a link to the map, along with additional hydrogen-related resources.

Summary of Expert Recommendations for Supporting DER Aggregator Participation in Wholesale Markets and Operations in Line with FERC Order 2222

On May 4, 2023, NASEO and NARUC released a [Summary of Expert Recommendations for Supporting DER Aggregator Participation in Wholesale Markets and Operations in Line with FERC Order 2222](#). This document was prepared to provide state energy decision makers such as Public Utility Commissions and State Energy Offices with a summary of state actions, considerations, and enabling policies related to Order 2222 implementation.

Clean Energy Microgrids: Considerations for State Energy Offices and Public Utility Commissions to Increase Resilience, Reduce Emissions, and Improve Affordability.

On June 21, 2023, NASEO and NARUC released a report on [Clean Energy Microgrids: Considerations for State Energy Offices and Public Utility Commissions to Increase Resilience, Reduce Emissions, and Improve Affordability](#). The report offers economic and cost considerations for clean energy microgrid development. It also delves into the necessary technological components of a clean energy microgrid and highlights current and future clean technologies that are becoming increasingly more cost effective and competitive. The report concludes with policy and regulatory considerations for State Energy Offices and public utility commissions to assist in the deployment of clean energy microgrids.

NASEO wants to highlight your success stories! Please share upcoming events, announcements, publications, and relevant news stories, in the next NASEO's Electricity Committee Quarterly Newsletter. You may direct any submissions or feedback to Catherine Reed (creed@naseo.org).