



NASEO Rural Energy Working Group Quarterly Newsletter April 2025

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Upcoming NASEO Events

- [Virtual: NASEO Rural Energy Working Group Webinar: State Roles in Bolstering Agricultural Energy Efficiency](#). April 23, 2025, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET.

This webinar will feature presentations from State Energy Offices about boosting agricultural energy efficiency through end-to-end grant and technical assistance programs. These presentations will highlight best practices for stakeholder outreach and engagement, project case studies, cost-effective energy efficiency measures, and cumulative program outcomes. State and Territory Energy Offices are encouraged to attend and share this registration link with any relevant partners. Please register for this event [here](#) and reach out to Jasmine Xie (jxie@naseo.org) with any questions.

For the latest information about upcoming and past NASEO Rural Energy Working Group events, please visit the [NASEO Rural Energy Working Group Page](#).

In Case You Missed It

- [Virtual: NASEO Rural Energy Working Group Webinar: Building Capacity and Investing in Rural Communities for Clean Energy Deployment](#). January 14, 2024, 2:00 – 3:00 p.m. ET.

This webinar featured presentations from Climate United and the Appalachian Regional Commission about working to build capacity in rural communities and better equip them to access funding for energy projects that increase energy reliability. The speakers shared insights into how states can support this work and best engage key organizations. The [recording](#) and [slides](#) from this event can be found [here](#).

Announcements and Opportunities

NASEO is developing a [Program-in-a-Box](#) on designing, development, and implementing a state-led program for agrivoltaics. Please reach out to Jasmine Xie (jxie@naseo.org) if you have a program example that you would like highlighted.

[The U.S. Department of Agriculture Provides Project Plan Revision Guidance for REAP, NewERA, and PACE Programs](#)

On March 26, 2025, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced that previously obligated funding under the Rural Energy For America Program (REAP), Empowering Rural America (New ERA) and Powering Affordable Clean Energy (PACE) programs would be released. The guidance instructs recipients to review and voluntarily revise project plans to align with the current administration's priorities within 30 days. The announcement can be found [here](#), and the revision form can be found [here](#).

[Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy Agriculture and Rural Businesses Energy Incentive Program Open for Applications](#)

EGLE is offering matching grants of up to \$50,000 to accelerate the implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy on farms, agriculture-related entities, and rural business through the Agriculture and Rural Businesses Energy Incentive Program. This grant opportunity will support increased resilience and stability of agricultural, agriculture-related, and rural businesses in Michigan through energy efficiency, renewable energy, electrification, and other innovative projects. The request for proposals can be found [here](#), and applications will be accepted until April 25, 2025.

[Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources Agricultural Energy Grant Program Open for Applications](#)

The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources and Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management are accepting applications for the Spring 2025 round of the Agricultural Energy Program, which provides grants of up to \$20,000 for eligible energy efficiency and renewable energy projects on farms across the state. Applications will be accepted until April 4, 2025. The application form can be found [here](#), and details about past program awardees can be found [here](#).

[Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources Accepting Applications for Government Leading by Example Program](#)

The Idaho Office of Energy and Mineral Resources (OEMR) is accepting applications from rural cities and counties that want to save energy in existing public buildings. Approved applicants will receive a building energy audit which will identify energy saving opportunities and may qualify for some cost-share funding on energy efficient retrofits. A list of Idaho cities and counties that are eligible for funding can be found [here](#).

Reports, Tools, News, and Partner Events

[Oregon Industrial Symbiosis Study Tour](#)

In June 2024, the Center for Sustainable Infrastructure and Business Oregon organized a study tour in Denmark for a delegation of Oregon businesses to explore the potential of industrial symbiosis, or innovative circular economy models for turning energy and resource waste byproducts into

value streams. Read more about the Danish study tour sites and several representatives from agriculture and other industries based in Eastern Oregon in attendance [here](#).

2.4 GW Sunstone Solar Facility Approved for Construction in Oregon, Tariff to Support Local Agriculture

The largest proposed solar and storage project to date in the U.S. was approved by the Oregon Energy Facility Siting Council, the 2.4-gigawatt Sunstone Solar facility in eastern Oregon with Pine Gate Renewables as the primary developer. The project consists of a 1,200-megawatt solar farm paired with 7,200 megawatt hours of energy storage. This project pledges \$1,000 per project acre in contributions to a county-managed fund that will support local agriculture and to take steps that will meet viewshed, wildlife, historical, and land use preservation standards. This is the third Oregon-based project to propose a financial offset for project siting impacts, along with the [Oregon Trail Solar](#) and [Wagon Trail Solar](#) projects. More information about the SunStone project can be found [here](#).

NASEO wants to highlight your news and success stories! Please share upcoming events, announcements, publications, and relevant news stories, in the next NASEO's Rural Energy Working Group Quarterly Newsletter. More resources and opportunities can be found on NASEO's [Rural Energy Issues](#) page. You may direct any submissions or feedback to Jasmine Xie (jxie@naseo.org).