



# The ARRA EAP

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## [OE Website](#)

<http://www.oe.energy.gov>

**Welcome to the ninth issue** of the quarterly *Energy Assurance Planning Bulletin*, a service of the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (DOE/OE). The *ARRA EAP Bulletin* provides information on energy assurance planning resources, upcoming events, training opportunities, and important grant deliverable dates.

## Need to Know

**DOE/OE will conduct a National-Level Energy Assurance Conference in 2012.** DOE/OE, in coordination NASEO, will conduct a National-level energy assurance conference which will highlight lessons learned, review the ARRA program, and discuss the next steps in energy assurance planning. All States, territories, and localities/cities that have received Energy Assurance Grants from DOE will be invited to participate. DOE encourages participation from State energy offices, public utility commissions, emergency management agencies, homeland security agencies, environmental protection agencies, governors' offices, and local governments with responsibilities during energy emergencies. DOE will also invite industry, non-profit, and Federal agency participants who are critical to the discussion. Stay tuned for more information on the conference.

## Action Items

### **State Grantees:**

**Reminder: DOE/OE has sent a notice requesting permission from States to post their energy assurance plans on ISERnet. This will help disseminate best practices and lessons learned.** DOE recommends that States take this valuable opportunity to share their plans with their fellow State planners to learn from each other's experiences and success stories.

**After-action reports are due within 30 days of intrastate and interstate energy assurance tabletop exercise completion.** Participation in a DOE/OE-coordinated regional energy assurance tabletop exercise will satisfy the interstate exercise grant requirement.

### **State and Local Grantees:**

**Quarterly Reports (Progress Reports and SF-425) for grant activity October – December 2011 are due no later than January 30, 2012.** Quarterly Reports are submitted via the EERE-PMC website:  
<https://www.eere-pmc.energy.gov/SubmitReports.aspx>.

**The ARRA 1512 reporting cycle for the current quarter begins January 1, 2012.** ARRA 1512 reports are submitted via [www.federalreporting.gov](http://www.federalreporting.gov). For local grantees, further information and sample reporting templates are available at: [www.energyassurance.us](http://www.energyassurance.us). Additional questions may be addressed by Attachment 3 (Federal Assistance Reporting Checklist) of the Assistance Agreement, or through contact with the DOE/NETL Project Officer. The DOE Recovery Act Clearinghouse is also available to answer reporting questions by phone at 888-DOE-RCVY (888-363-7289), Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Eastern Time, or by email at [RecoveryClearinghouse@hq.doe.gov](mailto:RecoveryClearinghouse@hq.doe.gov). More information is available at <http://energy.gov/recovery-act>.

## Energy Assurance Success Stories

### **Western States Regional Energy Assurance Exercise Recap:**

On November 29-30, 2011, DOE/OE, in coordination with the State of Arizona, the City of Phoenix, and NASEO, held the final in a series of four regional energy assurance exercises. The exercise, *Red Wave*, focused on Western States and featured 166 participants from American Samoa, Arizona, Hawaii, California, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Nevada, Montana, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming. Attendees included representatives from governors' offices, State energy offices, public utility commissions, and State-level emergency management offices. Other participants included cities and local jurisdictions, as well as officials from the electricity, oil and natural gas, and renewable energy industries. The day-and-a-half event featured three scenarios dealing with natural disasters and man-made hazards impacting electricity, petroleum, natural gas, and renewable energy.

### **News from the States**

#### **The Texas Home Weatherization Program Is a Success.**

Despite the Texas program's rocky start, State officials say it has been quite successful – surpassing its goal of weatherizing more than 38,000 homes and creating more than 1,000 jobs across the State as of October 31, 2011.

For more information, visit:

<http://www.tdhca.state.tx.us/ea/wap.htm>

## Other Useful Information and Links

***The Public Technology Institute (PTI) has published a series of new educational documents – and has offered related webinars – in support of local energy assurance.*** Recently covered topics include Cyber Security Concerns for LEAP Planning and an Introduction to Energy Infrastructure Interdependencies. These documents and webinars are currently available through the PTI website at: <http://www.energyassurance.us>.

### **Upcoming Events**

***NARUC Winter Committee Meetings and National Electricity Forum – February 5-9, 2011, Washington, DC*** – NARUC will hold their annual winter committee meetings February 5-8, 2011, followed by the National Electricity Forum February 8-9, which will feature sessions on topics including transformational technologies, integration of intelligence and communications, R&D needs, customers' benefits and cost burdens from an electricity industry transformation, smart grid devices, and barriers to transformation as a result of regulatory practices. Panelists in each of these sessions will present perspectives from State and Federal policymakers, academia, and other major stakeholders. For more information, visit: <http://winter.narucmeetings.org/> and <http://www.nationalelectricityforum.org/>.

***NASEO/ASERTTI Energy Policy & Technology Outlook Conference – February 7-10, Washington, DC*** - The Energy Policy & Technology Outlook conference will feature discussion on topics including modernizing U.S. buildings and energy infrastructure, and promoting economic development and technology innovation. For more information, visit: <http://energyoutlook.naseo.org/>

## Guidance from PTI

The PTI [Local Government Energy Assurance Guidelines, Version 2.0](#) has a list of 10 helpful steps for local governments to consider when developing energy assurance plans. The *ARRA EAP Bulletin* is highlighting one of these steps in each quarterly edition. What follows is the fourth installment of this series. For more information contact Ronda Mosley at [rmosley@pti.org](mailto:rmosley@pti.org).

### **Know the Local Energy Profile**

It may be surprising to learn how little most people know about where their energy comes from and how it is used. A recent national study by the Washington, DC-based [Sustainable Energy Coalition](#) discovered that only 23 percent of those surveyed knew which primary fuel was used to generate their electricity. As part of the local EAP, it is important to put together a local energy profile. Information on State- and national-level energy profiles is fairly accessible, but finding local energy profile data may take a little more research.

Before determining response measures to an energy emergency, it is necessary to know the three elements that comprise the local energy profile:

- Energy supply sources
- How energy is used across the jurisdiction
- Seasonal fluctuations in supply, demand, and price trends

Once planners understand these issues, they can start to assess the vulnerabilities associated with their energy profile and how the community can respond to an energy emergency.

### **Data Sources**

Putting together an accurate energy profile requires the collection of existing energy data. These data are likely to come from multiple public- and private-sector sources. The local electric and natural gas utilities are excellent places to begin with energy profile data collection. If the local government contracts with an energy services company (ESCO) that is responsible for managing some of the local energy use, energy data are usually easy to obtain from that source. Some jurisdictions have a formal energy manager or sustainability coordinator; if so, these officials will sometimes have the best energy data available. The public works manager may also have a rich supply of energy data. If the local government has put together a recent greenhouse gas reduction plan, a greenhouse gas emissions inventory, a community energy plan, or a climate change action plan, an exhaustive energy profile was probably created during these initiatives. The local metropolitan planning organization (MPO) and regional council of government (COG) may also be sources of reliable energy data.

The quality and the format of the acquired energy data can be as varied as local governments themselves. It is not uncommon to find small- and medium-sized local governments with one public works employee who may only keep hand-written energy consumption and supply data in a personal file and/or on personally designed spreadsheets; this happens with larger local governments also. If energy data has not been valued in the past, they may be harder to find. Local governments may use U.S. EPA's [Portfolio Manager](#) or other proprietary software that can produce useful reports related to their energy profiles. The Energy Information Administration web site may also be useful, [www.eia.doe.gov](http://www.eia.doe.gov)

Once planners have a general understanding of how their jurisdiction uses energy, they will be better prepared to comprehensively evaluate the future energy assurance options available to the local government.