



SEE Action
STATE & LOCAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY ACTION NETWORK

The State and Local Energy Efficiency Action Network

What is SEE Action?

The State and Local Energy Efficiency Action Network (SEE Action) is a state- and local-led effort facilitated by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to take energy efficiency to scale that builds on the foundation of the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency.¹ SEE Action is composed of more than 200 leaders from state and local governments, associations, businesses, non-government organizations, and their partners working toward a goal of achieving all cost-effective energy efficiency by 2020. SEE Action offers knowledge resources and technical assistance to state and local decision makers as they seek to advance energy efficiency policies and programs in their jurisdictions.

What is the Energy Efficiency Opportunity?

Energy efficiency represents one of our nation's largest untapped energy resources. Investing in efficiency creates jobs and strengthens economic competitiveness by lowering the cost of living and doing business. It also can help reduce demand, improve system reliability, reduce the need for new transmission and distribution investments, reduce fossil fuel use, and provide significant public health and environmental benefits. Numerous studies have shown that investing in cost-effective energy efficiency improvements could save hundreds of billions of dollars nationally over the next 10–15 years.^{1,2} State and local energy efficiency programs and policies are critical to capturing the benefits from this largely untapped resource.

SEE Action network members advance best practice recommendations where some of the largest opportunities exist to reap benefits from increased energy efficiency:

- **Building Energy Codes:** Increase the adoption of model and stretch building energy codes and increase compliance with adopted codes.
- **Customer Information and Behavior:** Decrease residential energy consumption through customer access to energy use data, energy consumption feedback, and behavior change.
- **Driving Ratepayer-Funded Efficiency through Regulatory Policies:** Increase investments in energy efficiency through ratepayer-funded programs.
- **Evaluation, Measurement, and Verification (EM&V):** Transform EM&V to yield more accurate, credible, and timely results that accelerate deployment and improve management of energy efficiency.
- **Existing Commercial Buildings:** Improve energy efficiency in commercial-scale public and private buildings by promoting solutions for whole-building improvements such as retro-commissioning and high-performance leasing.
- **Financing Solutions:** Disseminate energy efficiency financing information and offer recommendations on residential and commercial financing structures.
- **Industrial Energy Efficiency and Combined Heat and Power (CHP):** Improve energy efficiency in the U.S. manufacturing sector through programs and policies that support industrial efficiency and implementation of CHP.
- **Residential Retrofit:** Increase the number and effectiveness of residential energy efficiency programs and support the development of a thriving home energy upgrade industry.

Key Points

- SEE Action is a state- and local-led effort facilitated by the federal government to bring energy efficiency to scale and achieve all cost-effective energy efficiency by 2020.
- SEE Action provides knowledge resources and technical assistance for state and local decision makers to implement best practice energy efficiency policies and programs.
- SEE Action is a network of more than 200 leaders from state and local government, businesses, non-governmental organizations, and their partners.
- **For more information:**
Johanna Zetterberg
U.S. Department of Energy
johanna.zetterberg
@ee.doe.gov



Decision Maker Action

SEE Action supports individuals and organizations seeking to reap the benefits of energy efficiency through policies and programs:

- **Utility Regulators** who can promote energy efficiency as an energy resource to ensure reliable, affordable energy for ratepayers
- **State and Local Policymakers**, including governors, legislators, and mayors, who can implement effective energy efficiency policies and programs for their communities
- **State Energy and Air Officials** who can develop and implement cost-effective energy efficiency programs to realize energy, cost, and emissions savings among other benefits
- **State and Local Partners**, including utilities and other energy efficiency program administrators, financial institutions, energy services companies, industrial facility and commercial building owners, and many others.

Resources for Decision Makers

SEE Action Network members—state and local leaders and their partners—continue to develop knowledge resources for peers based on their own evolving experience and demonstrated success. These resources aim to educate, engage, and support decision makers as they follow the path of energy efficiency policy and program adoption:

- **Education and Engagement** resources include background and introductory technical reports, fact sheets, webinars, and other resources that provide the necessary foundation for understanding a burgeoning area of energy efficiency opportunity, or initiating energy efficiency policy and program development.
- **Policy and Program Action** resources include best practices for and model approaches to energy efficiency program and policy design and implementation that can guide decision makers along a path of action.

SEE Action Resources are available online at www.seeaction.energy.gov/resources.html.

Technical Assistance

One-on-one technical assistance is available on a case-by-case basis. Decision makers interested in receiving technical assistance should contact Johanna Zetterberg (see the end of this document for information).

Additional technical assistance includes:

- **DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's Technical Assistance Program** provides state, local, and tribal officials the tools, resources, and assistance needed to implement successful and sustainable clean energy programs. This program provides direct, short-term assistance with cross-cutting efficiency and renewable energy issues. www.eere.energy.gov/wip/solutioncenter
- **DOE's Office of Electricity's Technical Assistance Program** provides assistance on an as-requested basis on any state or regional electricity policy topic, including ratepayer-funded energy efficiency, to a broad range of stakeholders. <http://energy.gov/oe/downloads/oe-state-and-regional-electricity-policy-assistance-program>
- **DOE's Building Energy Codes Program State-Level Technical Assistance** provides assistance to state and local governments on building energy codes, policy adoption, compliance, training, analysis, and software support. www.energycodes.gov/states/techAssist.stm
- **DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's Clean Energy Application Centers** promote CHP, waste heat recovery, and other clean energy technologies and practices and offer regional assistance for specific projects throughout the United States. www.eere.energy.gov/industry/distributedenergy/racs.html
- **EPA's State Climate and Energy Program** helps states develop policies and programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, lower energy costs, improve air quality and public health, and achieve economic development goals. EPA provides proven, cost-effective best practices, peer exchange opportunities, and analytical tools. <http://epa.gov/statelocalclimate/state/index.html>

For more information on SEE Action, contact:

Johanna Zetterberg
U.S. Department of Energy
202-586-8778
johanna.zetterberg@ee.doe.gov
www.seeaction.energy.gov

References

1. National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency. 2008. *National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency Vision for 2025: A Framework for Change*. www.epa.gov/eeactionplan.
2. McKinsey Global Energy and Materials. 2009. *Unlocking Energy Efficiency in the U.S. Economy*. www.mckinsey.com/Client_Service/Electric_Power_and_Natural_Gas/Latest_thinking/Unlocking_energy_efficiency_in_the_US_economy.