



SCEP
STATE & COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMS

State Energy Program



The State Energy Program (SEP) delivers on the mission of the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP) by emphasizing the state's role as key decision-maker for tailored program activity opportunities.

- SEP provides funding and technical assistance to states, territories, and the District of Columbia (56 total grantees) to enhance energy security, advance state-led energy initiatives, and increase energy affordability.
- Established during the 1970s, the SEP program distributes formula grants, competitive grants, and technical assistance. Each state determines how it wishes to allocate funds across eligible programs to deliver resources, extend capacity and achieve unique and affordable clean energy goals.
- Through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), more commonly known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), Congress appropriated \$500 million to DOE for an expansion of SEP and \$250 million for the Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund Capitalization Grant Program to states.

“SEP empowers states to be their own decisionmakers and use funding to best fit their needs.” --- Dr. Henry McKoy, Director of State and Community Energy Programs

With SEP funding, states develop and implement a variety of initiatives and programs that generate substantial energy and cost savings, moving states closer toward climate and clean energy goals.

National Impact of SEP Funding



Through funding from SEP, state energy offices have realized a wide range of outcomes and benefits for American families, communities, and businesses. State SEP investments have resulted in the following outcomes over the past 5 years:

- Reduced energy use and costs in more than 20,000 buildings (143 million square feet).
- 53,000 renewable energy systems installed.
- 1,000,000 people educated in energy efficiency and energy audits.
- Energy savings performance contracts (ESPCs) executed for public facility retrofits.
- Coordination with utilities to implement complementary efficiency programs.
- Innovative pilot projects with the private sector, K-12 schools, and universities.

Examples of Success Stories in SEP Funded Projects Led by States:

- **Colorado** conducted the [Pathways to Energy Affordability study](#) on energy cost burdens across the state. The study identified key recommendations to inform future strategies in achieving energy affordability policies.
- **Hawai'i** created a [Clean Energy Curriculum](#) for Title I Schools to ensure all students, of any income, race, or background, have a part in their clean energy future.
- **Kentucky** developed and launched the [Solar Siting Potential in Kentucky web tool](#) that helps government officials and businesses identify land suitable for utility-scale solar projects, with a particular focus on underutilized lands such as brownfields and abandoned mines.

- **New Hampshire's School Energy Efficiency Development Grant Program** retrofitted the lighting in a high school to lower energy costs and usage, save on utility bills, and improve the health of students.
- **New Mexico** leveraged SEP funding to help secure approval from the Federal Highway Administration to designate **Alternative Fuel Corridors**, a critical first step for expanding electric vehicle charging infrastructure.
- **Pennsylvania's Agriculture Energy Efficiency Rebate Program** helps agricultural producers reduce energy consumption using energy efficient technologies.
- **Wisconsin's Statewide Assistance for Energy Reliability and Resiliency initiative** surveyed tribal and county emergency managers across the state to assess the effectiveness of their emergency response plans.

Other Programs under SEP

The Energy Efficiency Revolving Loan Fund Capitalization Grant Program (EERLF) is designed to provide capitalization grants to States to establish a revolving loan fund under which the state provides loans and grants for energy efficiency audits, upgrades, and retrofits to increase energy efficiency and improve the comfort of buildings.

For more than a decade, the U.S. Department of Energy has designed and implemented high-impact technical assistance initiatives in collaboration with states, local governments, and communities. SEP TA initiatives deliver significant value to State Energy Offices for the administration of SEP and other programming. Our initiatives create tools and resources that benefit all states and their communities. [You can find more information on SEP TA here.](#)

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