



**SCEP**  
STATE & COMMUNITY ENERGY PROGRAMS

U.S. Department of Energy

# State Energy Program 2025 Annual Technical Assistance Plan



October 2024

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## Background

Originally known as the State Energy Conservation Program, the State Energy Program (SEP) was established by the [Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975](#). Per the statute:

The Federal Government has a responsibility to foster and promote comprehensive energy conservation programs and practices by establishing guidelines for such programs and providing overall coordination, technical assistance, and financial support for specific State initiatives in energy conservation.<sup>2</sup>

SEP receives an annual appropriation that the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) uses to fund formula grants to the 56 states, territories, and the District of Columbia. Using a portion of the annual SEP appropriation, DOE has provided Technical Assistance (TA) to states for several years. This TA has taken the form of data tools, reports, support for convening events, cohort-based initiatives, etc. The delivery of TA provides SEP the opportunity to address states' needs and advance both state and DOE priorities.

## Process

SEP staff regularly identify state needs through their work and propose TA projects. One significant area of need that has been identified is to support planning for the impending funding cliff that states face upon the expiration of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding. This state-level funding challenge can be addressed by many categories of TA projects. SEP staff-proposed projects generally fall into the following topic areas:

- Funding and financing
- Rural and disadvantaged communities (DACs)
- Economic development
- Decarbonization
- Workforce development.

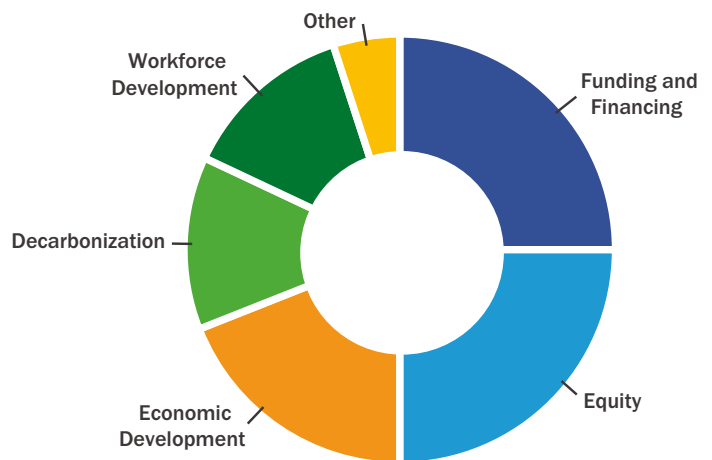
Projects are categorized and prioritized based on:

- Potential impact and value added to states.
- Perceived state interest and administration interest.
- Ability to leverage existing resources.
- Ability to customize resources based on state-specific needs and share knowledge.
- Potential workforce and capacity growth in local and national industries.
- Budget.
- Feasibility.

Prioritization is meant to establish a more efficient manner of delivering helpful TA programs; gather a list of suggested TA providers, subject matter experts, partners, and organizers; and share ideas about future DOE and/or state engagement approaches. For Fiscal Year 2025, SEP proposes the project categories provided below, with the highest priority categories receiving the most funding.

## SEP Annual TA Carveouts

Carveouts for specific topics within the prioritization scheme can serve to maximize the potential impact of TA while maintaining a diverse portfolio of projects.



### High Priority: Funding and Financing, Equity, Economic Development

Funding and financing TA is not only a perennial interest to states but will also be necessary to maintain the momentum created by BIL and IRA. SEP is committed to continuing to provide practical and effective TA in this area.

SEP will emphasize improving and elevating existing resources in rural communities and DACs as part of the TA offerings in equity. TA efforts in this area would receive funding to identify strategies to improve both rural and inner-city energy infrastructure, strengthen community energy planning, and reach DACs in energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.

TA to support states' efforts in economic development will be an emerging focus for SEP. TA activities will explore the areas where states can capitalize on their energy economy landscape and identify new avenues for energy-related economic development. SEP will develop guides and tools on fostering the growth of and utilizing technologies, products, and practices.

<sup>1</sup> Subject to congressional appropriations and administration and departmental priorities.

<sup>2</sup> 42 U.S. Code § 6321 (a) (3).

## Medium Priority: Decarbonization, Workforce Development, Other

Decarbonization efforts require planning and improved system development. SEP TA will seek to provide the necessary resources to support states' efforts in developing energy plans and technology integration programs, promotion of energy efficiency, and energy peak use reduction. TA efforts in this area will be designed to help grantees create and implement decarbonization goals and strategies that align with financial and workload goals.

Workforce development has been a recent focus of SEP TA with the intent to help states prepare for future energy workforce needs. Not only can workforce development efforts increase state capacity for energy efficiency and renewable energy program execution but they also provide opportunities for economic growth. SEP will provide useful resources for program planning and development.

SEP staff also identified TA projects that did not align with any existing topics. The other category of projects includes these potential high-impact proposed projects.

Across all these topics is a thread of coalition building. Bringing subject matter experts and states together at conferences or convening meetings would help create a free flow of ideas and a more effective workflow. These peer exchange opportunities will encourage cooperation among states, their partners, and communities to connect and collaborate to advance state progress.

## Measuring Progress

DOE will track and share the outputs, benefits, and outcomes of annual TA initiatives. As we develop projects, DOE will continue to build in-progress measuring and reporting as needs and requests change. DOE recognizes that state needs may change over time; this process will be iterative, and DOE will plan to gather feedback on what resources are most helpful to states. To amplify impact across the country, DOE will ask states to share lessons learned and best practices with other states via peer exchange, webinars, cohorts, and other informative forums.

DOE will measure progress of TA by tracking outputs, including TA requests, recipients, performers, and performance information. DOE will track information from the time of application submission through after the engagement has ended. A SEP TA Annual Report will include outputs of TA requests and projects, qualitative and/or quantitative impacts, and high-level budget tracking. On a quarterly basis, DOE will also share at a high level the types of TA requested and provided to states.

During Quarterly Roundups and office hours, DOE will engage with states to gather feedback on existing, ongoing, and planned TA solutions and topics. As always, states can and should reach out to their Project Officers and/or [StateEnergyProgram@hq.doe.gov](mailto:StateEnergyProgram@hq.doe.gov) to share questions, suggestions, and concerns.

## Funding/Financing

### Description:

Lead a multiyear, voluntary initiative to provide states with resources and best practices for publicly sharing [clean energy loan performance data](#). As an example, see: <https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Green-Jobs-Green-New-York/Data-and-Trends>.

### Outputs:

- Number of states participating
- Number of states that achieve milestone of sharing data
- Loan volume (dollars)
- DACs served.

### Outcomes:

Develop performance metrics to send a strong signal to the market and institutional investors about energy efficiency as an asset class.

Provide [Clean Energy Innovator Fellows](#) to select states that wish to build in-state energy finance capacity. Fellows will receive foundational training in clean energy finance, be assigned tasks by states to support or research financing programs (e.g., the Loan Programs Office's State Energy Finance Institutions), propose improvements to existing state financing programs, and complete other finance-specific activities as requested by the state. SEP will seek co-funding with other DOE offices.

- Number of states receiving a Fellow
- Number of states starting or enhancing a financing program
- Federal and/or private sector investment amount (dollars)
- A toolkit with foundational training resources for state-based finance staff.

States expand their capacity in the energy finance space to develop, expand or improve energy financing programs that can attract private capital and help states achieve clean energy goals.

## Equity

### Description: Underserved Communities

Supplement existing tools for states to identify their underserved communities and sectors. Develop strategies for states to reach these communities and stakeholders, and support planning activities through data analysis, modeling, etc.

### Outputs:

- Toolkit with developmental, outreach, and educational materials
- Number of states requesting modeling
- Number of clicks/downloads.

### Outcomes:

Increased underserved community engagement and access through developmental, outreach, and educational materials.

Collaborate with the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), etc. on community engagement, rural energy tech solutions, and remote community energy solutions. Highlight example projects in rural and DAC areas overcoming technology barriers, conducting community engagement and outreach, modeling, etc. This effort could be biannual, cohort-led, and focus on a specific technology, disadvantaged community, or delivery vehicle each round.

- Report on research conducted and strategies identified
- Case studies
- Number of clicks/downloads
- Number of webinar attendees
- State testimonials.

Growth of energy efficiency and renewable energy in communities with less access to affordable and clean energy like rural and remote communities.

Develop resources for states to use in rural and remote area initiatives, e.g., community engagement, rural energy technology solutions, remote community energy solutions, new developments in agricultural efficiency, and funding sources for rural and remote projects.

- Outreach and educational materials for state use.
- Number of clicks/downloads
- Number of webinar attendees
- State testimonials.

Increased access to opportunities for energy solutions among rural and remote communities.

## Economic Development

### Description:

Coordinate with NASEO and economic development agencies and trade associations to identify best practices and examples of the economic development/energy nexus. Conduct data analysis and modeling on trends in the economic development landscape in states. Convene states to brainstorm, discuss, and exchange ideas on how economic development can support continuous energy progress.

### Outputs:

- Number of state participants
- Number of partnerships with economic development organizations
- Number of states requesting modeling.

### Outcomes:

States develop working relationships with their economic development counterparts and become poised to create/expand economic development efforts.

## Decarbonization

### Description:

Develop resources, including use cases and technology applications that demonstrate financing/technology strategies for deep energy retrofits that could also address energy efficiency improvements in new construction. These resources would explore how existing strategies (e.g., Energy Savings Performance Contracting [ESPC]) could realistically achieve deep retrofits.

### Outputs:

- Toolkit with case studies and educational materials
- Number of clicks/downloads
- Number of webinar attendees.

### Outcomes:

Increased state capacity for deep retrofit programs and lower costs for more efficient energy technology.

## Decarbonization

### Description:

Develop resources for educating homeowners, business owners, and contractors on the value and benefits of building decarbonization (efficiency, electrification, load shifting, reducing greenhouse gas [GHG] and criteria air pollutant emissions, improving indoor air quality with electric cooking); where financing fits into the capital stack; available tax incentives; and what building owners/homeowners pay out of pocket vs. where financing fits in. These resources would make the sell for states to fund recipients easier and reduce state administrative time associated with their programs.

### Outputs:

- Toolkit with educational materials for consumers
- Number of clicks/downloads
- Number and dollar amount of resources identified
- GHG reduction potential from implementing featured strategies.

### Outcomes:

Increased uptake of decarbonization technology and financial incentives and delivery of a toolkit that increases the number of projects states support.

## Workforce Development

### Description: Rural and Underserved Communities

Provide incentives/grants/scholarships/awards. Provide funds to offset costs to attend classes for individuals from underserved communities.

### Outputs:

- Number of participants
- Dollar amount of funds provided
- Dollar amount of costs offset.

### Outcomes:

Reduced resource burden for energy workers, enhanced workforce development, trainings, and educational opportunities for underserved communities.

Provide “train the trainer” opportunities for community colleges focused on developing the clean energy workforce.

- Number of community colleges served
- Number of trainers trained.

Increased access to training for the early to mid-career professional workforce leading to a stronger clean energy workforce.

Bulk procure and provide scholarships to states for individuals in residential and commercial building fields for energy auditing or other trainings.

- Number of students receiving scholarships
- Number of participating states.

Increased capacity of the state clean energy workforce.

## Other

### Description: Capacity, Coalition, SEO Mentorship

Create a SEP/contractor-moderated message board for states to share resources, ask each other questions, and discuss current topics. Enable states to engage outside of time-specific convenings on an ongoing basis. The message board would provide a space to share outside of public venues in a moderated space and a place for SEP to share resources that may not be intended for the public website (e.g., sample documents states have shared internally but not externally, contacts).

### Outputs:

- Number of users
- Number of posts
- Number of resources/documents shared
- Average responses/response times.

### Outcomes:

Increased flow of information and resources among SEOs via an easy-to-use platform for quickly exchanging information. States are able to facilitate information and resource exchange without a middleman (e.g. DOE). Reduced administrative time among states through enabling easy access replicable ideas and sample documents.

## Other

### Description: Post BIL and IRA

Convene states and/or develop programs in a box for evergreen funding solutions and demand-building programs. Identify lessons learned from the post-American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) environment and analyze which are most applicable to the post-BIL and IRA situation. Develop a peer-sharing and exchange group to maintain up-to-date knowledge on best practices with reference to sunseting of BIL and IRA.

### Outputs:

- Number of states participating
- Number of plans/blueprints/ programs in a box created
- Number of initiatives implemented
- Number of new activities in state plans.

### Outcomes:

States are better prepared to avoid the pitfalls of BIL and IRA sunseting. Energy efficiency and renewable energy uptake momentum is maintained without BIL and IRA funding levels.

### Description: Resiliency

Adding onto the Critical Facilities Technology Action Group (TAG), states will take their prioritization map and plan energy efficiency improvements. The outcome of the TAG was a prioritization map and outreach factsheet that can be utilized to implement improvements. States that didn't participate in the TAG can prioritize through the REopt® web tool.

### Outputs:

- Number of states participating
- Number of retrofits completed
- Energy saved
- GHG emissions avoided.

### Outcomes:

State critical facilities are better prepared for activation.

