U.S. Department of Energy
State Energy Program
November 2024 Monthly Bulletin

The State Energy Program is pleased to share the November 2024 Monthly Bulletin! The purpose of this email is to consolidate our communications and provide states with key deadline reminders, information about trainings and webinars, and updates about new tools and resources from the U.S. Department of Energy's State Energy Program. Please reach out with any questions.

SEP Office Hours on Friday, November 15th

SEP's next monthly office hours is taking place this Friday, November 15th from 12:00 – 2:00 PM ET. Join us to hear about new interactive tools NREL is working on with SEP to support clean energy workforce initiatives. SEP will also be sharing new Braiding and Stacking resources (more info below), other technical assistance opportunities across DOE, and updates to the SLOPE tool. Please reach out to StateEnergyProgram@hq.doe.gov if you do not have a Teams calendar invitation for the event or have any questions.

New Braiding and Stacking Resources

SEP is thrilled to share new resources to support State Energy Offices combining multiple funding streams, such as by braiding or stacking:

→ Braiding and Stacking Resources webpage housing the below resources and additional examples and guidance. Future resources and updates will be posted to this page.

→ SEO Guide to Braiding and Stacking, developed in collaboration with other SCEP programs, that provides definitions of key terms, key considerations, and examples.

→ Federal Program Compatibility Crosswalk that compares program requirements across select federal funding sources available to states, local governments, and Tribes.

Title 2 2024 Revisions

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) recently revised the Title 2 "OMB Guidance for Federal Financial Assistance," which updated parts 1, 25, 170, 175, 180, 182, 183, and 184, including Part 200 Uniform Requirements (2 CFR 200). These updates became effective for all awards beginning October 1, 2024.

Please read the attached notification memo signed by the Head of Contracting Activity (HCA) and the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) to understand potential impacts to your award. You are encouraged to familiarize yourself with these regulatory changes. Award specific questions should be sent to your Project Officer.

Important Reminder: *SEP Annual and SEP BIL funds should not be used to fund administration costs for other Federal programs. Furthermore, funding from one BIL program should not be used to supplement administrative costs associated with another BIL program. States should avoid commingling whereby it is not possible to identify which Federal funding source accomplished which portion of work. It is allowable if the purpose is to achieve reasonable coordination between grant activities, but it is not allowable if the purpose is to cover administrative expenses of another grant. This is to support consistent, accurate, and comprehensive tracking and reporting across annual, BIL, and IRA programs.*

Comprehensive Reporting Checklist

We recognize the multiple reporting requirements on your Federal Assistance Reporting Checklists across several DOE programs and want to thank you for your efforts to date.

To support you in meeting reporting requirements for the SEP annual formula, SEP BIL, EERLF BIL, and EECBG BIL grants, we summarized them in the attached Excel workbook. The color-coded spreadsheets within contain comprehensive lists of reports, due dates, and other information that we hope will help you track reporting requirements for the four programs. Having your award Reporting Checklists at hand will help as you use these lists.

If you find any discrepancies or omissions, please send them to StateEnergyProgram@hq.doe.gov, and reach out to your Project Officer with any questions.

Upcoming SEP Deadlines and Opportunities

December 31st	NEPA logs are due, if applicable
December 30th	Annual Summary is due for Oct 1st states for FY23
December 31st	Quarterly Reports are due

Upcoming Trainings, Webinars, and Conferences

November 15th 12:00 – 2:00 PM ET	SEP Office Hours – *Workforce Technical Assistance, Braiding and Stacking Resources, DOE Technical Assistance Opportunities*
November 19th 1:00 – 2:00 PM ET	Advancing Equity in Financing Programs: Best Practices

November 21st **2:00 – 3:00 PM ET**	ESPC Campaign Webinar: Benefits of ESPC for Finance and Leadership in the MUSH Market
December 12th **2:00 – 3:30 PM ET**	SEP Quarterly RoundUp – *Overview of Indirect Expenses and Indirect Rate Agreements*
December 13th **12:00 – 2:00 PM ET**	SEP Office Hours – *NREL TA Programs and 2024 SEP Direct TA Project Outcomes*
December 16th **4:00 – 5:00 PM ET**	SEO New Staff Training – Monitoring

Funding and Financing Events and Resources

Event – Advancing Equity in Financing Programs: Best Practices
The State Energy Program is offering a webinar for SEOs on best practices for advancing equity in financing programs *November 19, 2024*, from 1-2 p.m. ET. Hosted by subject matter experts from the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL), the webinar will include strategies and tools for designing and deploying funding and financing programs that are accessible and equitable. **To join the Advancing Equity in Financing Programs webinar and other upcoming Funding and Financing events, please [register using this form](#).**

Event – Benefits of ESPC for Finance and Leadership in the MUSH Market
The ESPC Campaign is hosting a webinar on *November 21st at 2 PM ET* to explore the key [Benefits of ESPC for Finance and Leadership in the MUSH Market](#).

This webinar will discuss the many benefits of implementing an ESPC, such as using energy savings to pay for infrastructure renewal without needing upfront capital, minimized financial risk, guaranteed performance, and creation of local jobs. The webinar will also address common concerns and questions often raised by institutions' leadership and finance teams, present key considerations and messaging to engage those officials, and share resources that project leads and champions can leverage to build support from their organization's key internal stakeholders.

Practitioners from the finance and public sectors will share insights into their experiences navigating ESPCs. All are invited to [register](#) for this session today.

Resource – Operationalizing Energy Audits
The new [Steps for Operationalizing Energy Audits for the RLF Program](#) outlines a suggested sequence of actions for states to set up a compliant and effective energy auditing approach for the RLF Program (BIL 40502) and offers tips for coordinating energy audits with upgrade and retrofit requirements.

Resource – Program in a Box: State Energy Revolving Loan Funds
This National Association of State Energy Officials Program in a Box provides guidance on how State and Territory Energy Offices can leverage federal, state, and private funding to develop Revolving Loan Funds. Learn more here: [State Energy Revolving Loan Funds | NASEO Programs.](#)

Resource – State Executive Orders Establishing or Continuing Lead-By-Example Goals for Public Facilities Energy Efficiency, Decarbonization, and Related Public-Private Financing

[This review of state executive orders](#) by the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) represents past and current lead-by-example goals that support investment in public sector energy efficiency and decarbonization strategies. State and Territory Energy Offices, public sector organizations, and other stakeholders interested in Energy Savings Performance Contracting and other Lead-by-Example efforts can use this resource to easily find examples in their and other states. [View the resource here](#). **NOTE**: These are not indicative statements of policy by current administrations of the state and cover only the orders NASEO was able to find for this initiative. Send revision requests to Sam Cramer at scramer@naseo.org and NASEO will update the spreadsheet accordingly.

Reporting Tools and Resources

Davis-Bacon Act and LCPtracker Resources

DOE [resources](#) related to [Davis Bacon Act (DBA) requirements for recipients of Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding](#) are available below. Resources include answers to [frequently asked questions](#) on DBA, [LCPtracker](#) information (DOE's payroll validation system to support DBA compliance), [Fact Sheet](#) & [FAQs](#) by the DOL, and a [webinar](#) on Davis-Bacon and BIL. Resources include:

- [Getting Started with LCPtracker](#)
- [DOE DBA Desk Guide](#)
- [DOE DBA FAQs](#)
- [A comprehensive guide to LCPtracker Administrator roles](#)
    - [LCPtracker Administrator User Manual](#)
    - [LCPtracker Prime Approver Guide](#)
    - [LCPtracker Contractor User Guide](#)
        - [Contractor Quick-Start Guide](#)

- 8/16/24 Office Hours – LCPtracker Training:
    - [Presentation Recording](#) *(starting at 1:16:45)*
    - [Slide Deck](#) (*starting on slide 43*)

Build America, Buy America Resources

DOE has [a central webpage](#) with updated resources, guidance, and other information pertaining to the Build America, Buy America (BABA) compliance. In September 2024, DOE updated its guidance on waivers for small grants (grants of $250,000 or less). Find more information at the below sources:

- The email sent to all SEOs by StateEnergyProgram@hq.doe.gov on 9/12/2024
- [Recording of Q&A during SEP's 9/20/2024 Monthly Office Hours](#) (*starting at 1:00:30*)
- [Detailed Q&A doc with questions submitted by states and asked during the 9/20/2024 Office Hours](#)

Ongoing Opportunities and Resources

Explore the State and Local Solution Center Resource Hub

The Department of Energy's State and Local Solution Center (SLSC) is your go-to resource hub for states and public sector entities seeking the latest tools, funding opportunities, and technical assistance. With the monthly Spotlight Newsletter, you can stay ahead of the curve on new events, resources, and funding opportunities.

Featured Pages You Shouldn't Miss:

- **SLSC Resource Database**
  Dive into a vast collection of over 400 resources! Whether you're looking for sector-specific guides, case studies, tools, or model documents, this database makes it easy to find exactly what you need. Filter by topic, sector, or resource type to make your search a breeze.
- **SLSC Events**
  Keep track of upcoming conferences, webinars, and office hours. Stay updated on current webinar series and connect with experts through our lineup of informative events.

Discover all the ways the SLSC can support your initiatives—explore the Resource Hub today, and sign up for the Spotlight Newsletter to never miss an update! Have questions or suggestions? We'd love to hear from you at stateandlocal@hq.doe.gov.

ESPC Campaign

The ESPC Campaign is a voluntary partnership program that engages and supports building owners across the municipal and state governments, universities and colleges, schools and hospitals (MUSH) market to advance the use of energy savings performance contracts (ESPCs) and measurement and verification (M&V) to achieve significant energy, environmental, and cost savings benefits.

The ESPC Campaign offers no-cost trainings, webinars, peer exchange opportunities, and on-demand direct technical assistance to states and other MUSH organizations to share and demonstrate tools, resources, and best practices, and showcase partners' achievements.

To learn more, email ESPCcampaign@hq.doe.gov or fill out this Expression of Interest form, or join now by completing and submitting the Partner Agreement.

Better Climate Challenge: Technical Assistance and National Recognition

Join the Better Climate Challenge (BCC) as a State partner and receive one-on-one technical assistance, access to networking and peer exchange opportunities, national recognition, and more.

This no-cost, voluntary partnership highlights and supports the excellent work of public and private leaders in decarbonizing their portfolio. If interested in learning more, please contact Nina Wuerch or join now by filling out the Partnership Agreement!

Visit the State and Local Solution Center and the SEP TA webpage for other upcoming events, updates, and resources.