

## Partnerships and Technical Assistance

#### Overview

Energy efficiency and renewable energy are a win-win for state and local governments and K-12 schools. Energy infrastructure investments create vibrant and healthy communities, provide a secure, reliable source of energy for homes and businesses, and produce well-paying, local jobs. As centers for American competitiveness, state and local governments are valued partners to the U.S. Department of Energy. Their energy innovations help power the nation's economy. The Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs Office's (WIP) mission is to enable strategic investments, including emerging technologies such as energy efficiency and renewable energy, and to support innovative practices across the U.S. by a wide range of government, community, and business stakeholders, in partnership with state and local organizations. WIP supports DOE's strategic objective to lower energy bills while expanding cost-effective energy choices for all Americans. As part of WIP the Partnerships and Technical Assistance Team (P&TA) serves at the nexus of state and local governments to catalyze lead-by-example programs by:

- Developing tools and solutions to barriers facing state and local governments;
- Convening and creating peer exchanges to showcase public-sector leadership and effective publicprivate partnerships; and
- Providing information from leading technical experts.

# Supporting State and Local Governments with Their Energy Priorities:

P&TA supports the energy priorities of state and local governments to save taxpayer dollars, make full use of domestic energy resources, boost local economic development and job creation, cut energy waste, improve energy independence and security, and further the development of energy infrastructure. P&TA cultivates diverse partnerships, provides technical assistance, and assists state and local governments to help them:



Develop an Energy Plan



Pay for Energy Initiatives



Design and Implement Energy Programs



Access and Use Energy Data

### Strengthening American Communities

Within DOE, P&TA leads strategic initiatives to replicate the successful models of public sector leaders to maximize money and energy savings across the nation. For example:

The Better Buildings Challenge (BBC) aims to help Americans reduce the energy burden of commercial, institutional, and

multi-family buildings and industrial plants by achieving 20% or more in energy savings. BBC has more than 310 partners, including 76 public sector partners led by the P&TA Team (7 states, 44 local governments, and 25 K-12 school districts). Partners overcome market barriers to energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies through sharing best practices, facilitating peer exchange, and accessing technical assistance resources.

The Better Communities Alliance (BCA) provides local governments with integrated expertise, resources, and peernetworking opportunities from across the government, nonprofit, philanthropic, and private sectors. Over 40 local governments from more than 20 states **representing more than 43 million Americans** are partners in this initiative.

The Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure of the Future (SWIFt) Accelerator assists state, regional, and local agencies to improve the energy efficiency of water resource recovery facilities by at least 30 percent on their path to more sustainable infrastructure of the future. SWIFt includes more than 100 water resource recovery facilities 27 signatory partners, which include 18 states, 7 local governments, and 2 regional organizations.

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### **Saving Taxpayers Energy and Money**

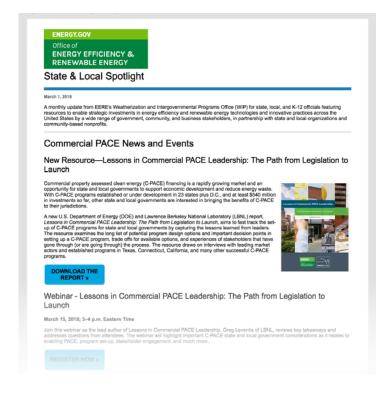
Accelerator achieved public sector energy efficiency investments of more than \$2 billion in three years.

DOE worked with 25 partners, including 18 states, 6 cities, and 1 school district to streamline the ESPC process, empower the market with project data, and resolve individual barriers to these contracts. Eight solutions to common ESPC barriers are available on the Better Buildings Solution Center in the ESPC Toolkit.

The Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC)

From 2014-2016 the Outdoor Lighting Accelerator (OLA) garnered a commitment to **upgrade 1.3 million street lights** that once achieved will save partners an estimated \$48 million/year. Working with 25 total partners that included three states, 16 cities and 6 regional energy networks. High-performance outdoor lighting best practices are available in the *Outdoor Lighting Toolkit* on the Better Buildings Solution Center.

- Through public-private financing partnerships that extend the impact of otherwise limited public budgets, communities have upgraded aging infrastructure, created healthier schools, and saved homeowners money. For example, responding to market uncertainty around Residential Property Assessed Clean Energy (R-PACE), P&TA established market standards through the Best Practice Guidelines for Residential PACE Financing Programs publication. Technical assistance is helping to grow market confidence and reduce transaction costs associated with energy efficiency and renewable energy financing.
- The State Energy Program (SEP) and Weatherization
   Assistance Program (WAP) also enhance energy security
   and maximize the benefits of energy efficiency through
   technology implementation. P&TA collaborates with P&TA
   collaborates with SEP and WAP to disseminate successful
   model solutions, including:
  - Iowa hired regional energy managers to help local governments create energy plans and complete hundreds of energy efficiency upgrade projects;
  - Nevada established the Public Facilities Retrofit
     Program to accelerate adoption of ESPC by state and local governments. From 2012 to 2015, local entities initiated
     \$35 million in ESPC projects. Another \$23 million in projects is in development with local governments and school districts; and
  - Illinois created a robust *Trade Ally Program* to advance public sector participation in efficiency projects.



### **Sharing Best Practices**

State and local governments are a wealth of relevant energy efficiency and renewable energy information. P&TA maintains the following platforms to share state and local government best practices:

- State and Local Solution Center is a *one-stop shop* of impactful public sector resources.
- State and Local Spotlight is WIP's monthly *newsletter* for state, local, and K-12 officials that provides updates on relevant news, resources, and events for over 8,000 subscribers.
- Public sector partners receive recognition at the annual Better Buildings Summit of stakeholders across key sectors, including approximately 175 state and local government leaders.
- Technical assistance webinars are held throughout the year to leverage subject area expertise with peer-to-peer exchange and archived on the State and Local Solution Center.



For more information, visit: energy.gov/eere/slsc or email us: stateandlocal@ee.doe.gov