

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 in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies through the use of innovative practices across the United States in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders, including state and local organizations and community-based non-profits. 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 public-private 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 peer-networking 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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WHAT ARE THE RESULTS SO FAR?

Public Sector Better Buildings Challenge Partners
Are Having a Tremendous Impact:



Energy Saved:
45 trillion Btus



Dollars Saved:
\$420 million



Avoided Carbon Emissions:
2.9 million tons



Water Saved:
1.5 billion gallons

Cumulative results through 2016

Saving Taxpayers Energy and Money



The *Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC) 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*.



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.

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State & Local Spotlight

March 1, 2018

A monthly update from EERE's Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs Office (WIP) for state, local, and K-12 officials featuring resources to enable strategic investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and innovative practices across the United States by a wide range of government, community, and business stakeholders, in partnership with state and local organizations and community-based nonprofits.

Commercial PACE News and Events

New Resource—Lessons in Commercial PACE Leadership: The Path from Legislation to Launch

Commercial property assessed clean energy (C-PACE) financing is a rapidly growing market and an opportunity for state and local governments to support economic development and reduce energy waste. With C-PACE programs established or under development in 23 states plus D.C., and at least \$540 million in investments so far, other state and local governments are interested in bringing the benefits of C-PACE to their jurisdictions.

A new U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) report, *Lessons in Commercial PACE Leadership: The Path from Legislation to Launch*, aims to fast track the set-up of C-PACE programs for state and local governments by capturing the lessons learned from leaders. The resource examines the long list of potential program design options and important decision points in setting up a C-PACE program, trade offs for available options, and experiences of stakeholders that have gone through (or are going through) the process. The resource draws on interviews with leading market actors and established programs in Texas, Connecticut, California, and many other successful C-PACE programs.


[DOWNLOAD THE REPORT >](#)

Webinar - Lessons in Commercial PACE Leadership: The Path from Legislation to Launch

March 15, 2018; 3-4 p.m. Eastern Time

Join this webinar as the lead author of *Lessons in Commercial PACE Leadership*, Greg Leventis of LBNL, reviews key takeaways and addresses questions from attendees. The webinar will highlight important C-PACE state and local government considerations as it relates to enabling PACE, program set-up, stakeholder engagement, and much more.

[REGISTER NOW >](#)



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. ■

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