



NASEO Electricity Program Quarterly Newsletter July 2024

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Upcoming Events

Virtual:

- [NASEO and NGA Webinar Series: Comprehensive Energy Planning 101 – Tips and Best Practices from the States](#)
 - [Stakeholder Engagement](#), July 25, 2024, 3:00 - 4:00 PM ET. For more information, click [here](#).
 - [Ensuring Equitable Outcomes](#), August 22, 2024, 3:00 - 4:00 PM ET. For more information, click [here](#).
 - [Communicating and Implementing the Comprehensive Energy Plan](#), September 26, 2024, 3:00 - 4:00 PM ET. For more information, click [here](#).

In-person:

- [NASEO-NARUC-NASUCA Central Regional Equity Roundtable: Equity Considerations in Electricity Planning and Policy \(States and Territories Only\)](#), September 10-11, 2024. Location and more information coming soon.
- [NASEO 2024 Annual Meeting](#), September 29-October 2, 2024, New York, New York. For more information, click [here](#).
- [NASEO-NGA States Summit on Electricity Transmission](#), October 16-17, 2024, Boston, Massachusetts. More information coming soon.
- [NCEP Annual Meeting](#), October 29- October 30, 2024. Location and more information coming soon.

NASEO Electricity Committee Working Groups: A schedule of standing meetings has been set up for the newly created [Electricity Committee Working Groups](#).

- [NASEO Distribution Working Group](#):
 - Quarterly meeting every 2nd Monday of the month at 2:00 - 3:00 PM ET (the kickoff meeting will be on July 29 from 4-5pm ET). To register for the kickoff meeting, please click [here](#) and for the full working group meeting cadence, please click [here](#). For more information, please contact Kirsten Verclas at kverclas@naseo.org.
- [NASEO Transmission Working Group](#):

- Quarterly meeting every 2nd Monday of the month at 2:00 - 3:00 PM ET, beginning **August 12, 2024**. To register for the meetings, please click [here](#). For more information, please contact Catherine Reed at creed@naseo.org.
- **NASEO Energy Data Working Group:**
 - Quarterly meeting every 2nd Monday of the month at 2:00 - 3:00 PM ET, beginning **September 9, 2024**. To register for the meetings, please click [here](#). For more information, please contact Kirsten Verclas at kverclas@naseo.org.

Announcements

Below is a selection of recent announcements. For a more comprehensive listing of funding opportunities, notices of intent, and requests for information, check out [NASEO's Infrastructure Act Resource Hub](#).

- NASEO welcomed new members to the Electricity Committee Leadership Team in April. Thank you to all for your willingness to serve! The Electricity Committee Leadership Team is comprised of:
 - Chris Yunker (HI) – *Co-Chair*
 - Managing Director, Resilience, Clean Transportation, and Analytics, Hawai'i State Energy Office
 - Asa Hopkins (Synapse) – *Co-Chair*
 - Vice President, Synapse Energy Economics, Inc.
 - Jacqueline Waite (NM) – *Co-Chair*
 - Bureau Chief, Energy Planning Program Bureau, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department of New Mexico
 - Eric Annes (CT)
 - Research Analyst Supervisor, Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
 - Eric Coffman (MD)
 - Director, Energy Programs Division, Maryland Energy Administration
 - Ryan Hadley (IN)
 - Executive Director, Indiana Office of Energy Development
 - Edith Bayer (OR)
 - Energy Systems Senior Policy Analyst, Oregon Department of Energy
 - James Lester (CO)
 - Senior Policy Lead, Transmission, Climate, and Energy, Colorado Energy Office
 - Jason Pope (MS)
 - Director of Energy & Natural Resources Division, State Energy Office, Mississippi Development Authority

[U.S. DOE Releases Fusion Energy Strategy and RFI](#)

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) released an agency-wide DOE [Fusion Energy Strategy](#) for 2024 and a [Request for Information](#) (RFI) on a proposed Fusion Energy Public-Private Consortium Framework (PPCF). The PPCF aims to catalyze and bring together state/local government, private, philanthropic funding, as well as new partnerships, to accelerate fusion commercialization. **A [webinar](#) will be held July 11, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. ET, and comments on the RFI are due July 22, 2024.** NASEO will be commenting on the RFI, please reach out to Kelsey Jones (kjones@naseo.org) with any comments or questions.

[U.S. DOE Announces Funding for Geothermal Grid Modeling Studies](#)

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Geothermal Technologies Office announced a \$7 million funding opportunity to develop regional grid models to assess how geothermal power can support and stabilize the grid as it incorporates more renewable energy resources. State and local governments are eligible to apply. **Letters of intent are due July 24, 2024, and applications are due September 8, 2024.**

[U.S. DOE and U.S. EPA Announce Funding to Reduce Methane Pollution](#)

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced \$850 million in funding for projects that will help monitor, measure, quantify, and reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sectors. This funding, through the Inflation Reduction Act, is open to state governments. ***The deadline to apply is August 26, 2024.***

[U.S. DOE Issues Notice of Intent: \\$100 Million for Grid-Connected Buildings and Vehicles Validation](#)

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) [released a Notice of Intent](#) to issue over \$100 million for field demonstrations and other research to enhance grid planning and operation and help optimize systems with grid-connected buildings and vehicles powered by clean, distributed energy generation and show these advanced technologies to be reliable, secure, and ready to support a clean energy economy. EERE intends to issue these funds through three separate, competitively awarded funding opportunity announcements (FOAs):

- Connected Communities 2.0 (DE-FOA-0003136)
- Solar Technologies' Rapid Integration and Validation for Energy Systems (DE-FOA-0003331)
- SuperTruck Charge (DE-FOA-0003344)

[In Case You Missed It](#)

NASEO Electricity Committee Webinar: Demand Growth & Implications for State Planning

On July 8, NASEO hosted an Electricity Committee webinar regarding recent trends in electricity demand growth. Peter Fox-Penner of the Energy Impact Partners and Brattle Group and Zach Zimmerman of Grid Strategies joined to share their respective research and findings on this topic and their recently released reports, [Electricity Demand Growth and Forecasting in a Time of Change](#) and [National Load Growth Report](#). The slides and recording from this event will be posted on the NASEO website soon.

NASEO Virtual Roundtable on Electric Grid Sensor Technologies for Resilience and Affordability

In April 2024, NASEO hosted a webinar on grid sensor technologies. Please find the recording [here](#) and the slides [here](#).

NASEO, NARUC, and LBNL Distribution System Planning and Resilience Training

On March 20-21, the NASEO, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory provided training on planning for distribution system, distributed energy resources and resilience in Nashville, Tennessee. The training was for State Energy Offices, public utility commissions, and utility consumer advocates. Please find the recordings [here](#).

NASEO and NARUC Release Advanced Nuclear State Action Tracker to Highlight State Activities Surrounding Advanced Nuclear:

On March 4, 2024, NASEO and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners released an Advanced Nuclear State Action Tracker. The tracker provides an overview of advanced nuclear activities and partnerships organized by state government entities including state public utility commissions, State Energy Offices, state legislatures and governor's offices. For more information, click [here](#).

NASEO-NARUC Grid-interactive Efficient Buildings (GEB) and Microgrids State Working Groups Joint Webinar: Demand Flexibility and Electrified Transportation

In February 2024, NASEO and NARUC co-hosted a joint webinar on demand flexibility and electrified transportation. Please find the recording [here](#).

Reports, Information, and Tools

[NASEO Releases Report for States on Incorporating Equity into Clean Energy RD&D](#)

On June 17, 2024, NASEO released a report, *State Opportunities and Challenges in Supporting a Just Energy Transition: Incorporating Equity into Clean Energy Research, Development, and Demonstration* with support from the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Electricity. This report is one of five authored by NASEO, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), and the National Governors Association (NGA) summarizing key themes, emerging efforts, and takeaways from an April 2022 State Energy Justice Roundtable hosted in Washington, DC. NASEO's report looked at one of the key topics of interest explored at the Roundtable: opportunities and challenges associated with incorporating equity into clean energy research development and demonstration (RD&D) and potential roles of State and Territory Energy Offices in supporting this process. Clean energy RD&D is critical to supporting a reliable and clean electric grid. Innovative clean energy projects will help states and the federal government meet environmental, decarbonization, economic development, energy reliability and resilience, and other goals. State Energy Offices are well positioned to support many of these goals including by providing capital, supporting technical assistance, facilitating partnerships, convening stakeholders, and encouraging workforce and economic development. To access the full report, please click [here](#).

[Federal Energy Regulatory Commission \(FERC\) Issues Ruling on Transmission Planning and Cost Allocation](#)

On May 13, 2024, FERC issued [Order 1920](#), which adopts specific requirements regarding transmission planning and cost allocation. Specifically, this rule addresses how transmission providers must conduct long-term planning for regional transmission facilities and outlines a framework to determine how to pay for that transmission. This rule, which was originally proposed in April 2022, is the result of more than 15,000 pages of comments from nearly 200 stakeholders representing all sectors of the electric power industry; environmental, consumer and other advocacy groups; and state and other government entities. Find NASEO's article on the rule [here](#).

[NASEO and NARUC Release Report on Coal to Nuclear Repowering for State Energy Offices and Public Utility Commissions](#)

In April 2024, NASEO and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners released a joint report on *Coal to Nuclear Repowering: Considerations for State Energy Offices and Public Utility Commissions*. Closures of coal power plants are expected to continue as the long-term economic viability of many of these facilities diminishes and states work to meet federal and state environmental, economic development, and climate goals. States are exploring opportunities to use the infrastructure and existing workforce located at the sites of retiring or retired coal power plants to potentially site small modular nuclear reactors (SMRs). This report highlights the benefits and challenges associated with the coal to nuclear repowering process, with a particular focus on the policy, programmatic, and regulatory considerations of relevance to states. This report was made possible with support from the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Nuclear Energy and was developed in close coordination with the NARUC-NASEO Advanced Nuclear State Collaborative (ANSC), an effort comprised of 31 State Energy Offices and Public Utility Commissions across the country with a focus on peer sharing and information exchange on facilitating the deployment of advanced nuclear. To view the complete report, click [here](#).

[U.S. DOE Releases New Report on Accelerating Deployment of Grid Solutions to Lower Costs and Improve Reliability](#)

On April 16, 2024, the U.S. Department of Energy released its report, [Pathways to Commercial Liftoff: Innovative Grid Deployment](#). This report explores the capabilities of commercially available advanced grid solutions - such as advanced conductors, dynamic line rating, and energy storage. The report concluded that these technologies can cost effectively increase the existing grid's capacity to support upwards of 20–100 GW peak demand growth. These technologies would also improve grid reliability, resilience, and affordability for consumers. A summary of

the report can be downloaded [here](#), and the recording of a webinar about this report held on May 13, 2024, can be found [here](#).

[U.S. Department of Energy Releases Guide on Coal-to-Nuclear Transitions](#)

On April 1, 2024, the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Nuclear Energy released an [information guide](#) for communities considering replacing their retired or retiring coal power plants with nuclear power plants. The guide is based on a [technical study](#) that found transitioning from a coal plant to a nuclear one would increase local employment opportunities, create additional higher paying jobs, and spur increased revenues and economic activity in the host community. It also found that, with planning and support for training, most workers at an existing coal plant should be able to transition to work at a replacement nuclear plant.

[U.S. DOE Releases Atlantic Offshore Wind Transmission Study and Atlantic Offshore Wind Transmission Action Plan](#)

On March 21, 2024, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) released findings from the [Atlantic Offshore Wind Transmission Study](#), a two-year evaluation of transmission options to support offshore wind energy deployment along the Atlantic Coast of the United States. The study identifies and evaluates pathways to enable offshore wind energy deployment in the Atlantic Ocean through coordinated offshore transmission solutions in the near term (by 2023) and the long term (by 2050). The study provides guidance for policymakers and transmission stakeholders on possible outcomes resulting from a proactive, coordinated, and interregional approach to transmission planning for offshore wind energy development in the Atlantic. Also released was the [Atlantic Offshore Wind Transmission Action Plan](#), which was informed by the study and outlines immediate actions needed to connect the first generation of Atlantic offshore wind projects to the electric grid, as well as longer-term efforts to increase transmission over the next several decades. The plan outlines how increased inter-regional coordination, shared transmission lines, and an offshore network of HVDC interlinks can more efficiently bring this energy onshore. Recommendations from the Action Plan are grouped into five categories, and each one addresses a specific transmission development need: partnerships and collaborations, planning and operations, technologies and standardization, economics and support initiatives, and siting and permitting.

NASEO wants to highlight your success stories! Please share upcoming events, announcements, publications, and relevant news stories, in the next NASEO's Electricity Committee Quarterly Newsletter. You may direct any submissions or feedback to Catherine Reed (creed@naseo.org) or Camille Norton (cnorton@naseo.org).