

U.S. Department of Energy - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
Project Management Center

EERE-PMC News

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November 2006

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This newsletter is intended to keep stakeholders of the U.S. Department of Energy's Project Management Center (PMC) informed of emerging topics of interest. John and I encourage all stakeholders to click on the above email links with story ideas and/or articles you would like to see us cover.

Starting with this issue, we are offering PMC-News in HTML formatting to give you an interactive newsletter with appropriate graphics.

In addition to bringing you the latest, up-to-date PMC and state news, we plan to feature one particular EERE program each issue. We begin this month with the [State Energy Program \(SEP\)](#).

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Netl seeks PMC Director

The [National Energy Technology Laboratory](#) has an immediate opening in Morgantown, W.Va. for the Director of the laboratory's branch of the Project Management Center. It is a federal senior executive service position with a salary range of \$109,808 — \$165,200 per year. The position is open to all sources, including current federal employees. U.S. citizenship is required.

The person holding this position will be responsible for project implementation and management services in support of all EERE programs. The announcement closes on Dec. 22.

For more information on the position including qualifications, benefits and how to apply, please contact Cindy Zuchelkowski at 304-285-4738, or e-mail her at Cindy.Zuchelkowski@netl.doe.gov. Information can also be found at www.netl.doe.gov

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PMC-Eastern States meeting

Three strong messages came forth from the PMC-Eastern States meeting held in Pittsburgh Nov. 15-16:

- The states strongly feel that to achieve real success in implementing the EERE portfolio, that EERE and the PMC need to improve communications and to also work harder to treat states as full partners;
- State energy officials believe that it is crucial to accurately measure the effectiveness of all EERE activities that they carry out, to really know what gives the best return for dollars and staff time expended. At the

- same time, they feel stretched for the necessary staff and resources to do this;
- Many state officials expressed concern and opposition to the rumored, possible transfer of the Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) out of DOE and into Health and Human Services (HHS).

From the PMC perspective, several objectives were met:

- Presented the PMC operating principles to states and other stakeholders;
- Provided quick overviews of both NETL and Golden;
- Provided detailed information on PMC procurement processes and systems including Grants.gov and WinSAGA;
- Allowed states and other stakeholders to meet in person with the NETL project managers, contracting officers and specialists, and project managers;
- Presented information updates and presentations from EERE Headquarters;
- Gave detailed information on WAP, SEP and market transformation projects and activities;
- Allowed states to freely express their concerns and issues, as well have as open direct dialog with EERE and PMC staff.

[View meeting presentations here](#)

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Continuing Resolution update

Before members of Congress recessed in November, they passed another continuing resolution (CR) to keep government funding flowing until Dec. 8. At this point, only Defense and Homeland Security have received full funding for Fiscal Year 2007.

Since the legislators will not return to work until Dec. 4, it will be difficult for them to agree on any meaningful budget action before the temporary funding authorization runs out yet again.

Choices for quick action include: extending the current CR until January or February, at which point the new Congress will be in control; passing a new CR that could last much longer; passing a limited number of the remaining appropriations bills, while continuing others through an additional CR; or rolling all remaining appropriations bills into one large omnibus bill. At this point, it's all conjecture.

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funding opportunities online

The Funding Opportunities Newsletter formally hosted by the Western Regional Office is now back online, sponsored by The Center for Economic and Environmental Partnerships, Inc. ([CEEP](#)). A copy of the latest edition is available on the [PMC Web site](#). If you wish to subscribe, please send an e-mail request to laurie.brown@ceepinc.org. Include subscriber's e-mail address in the body of the message.

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Thirty years of Weatherization



Colorado Senator Wayne Allard (left) recently joined Sun Power Inc., a Denver-based weatherization contractor, and the state's Office of Energy Management at this newly weatherized home to celebrate WAP's success.

DOE's [Weatherization Assistance Program](#) (WAP) has provided weatherization services to more than 5.5 million

low-income families. On average, weatherization reduces heating bills by 31 percent and overall energy bills by \$358 per year at current prices. This is [money that stays in local communities](#).

In Colorado, during the past 30 years, WAP has weatherized over 100,000 low-income homes, reducing average monthly energy bills 15 to 30 percent.

Next issue's PMC-News will take an in-depth look at this venerable and successful program.

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State Energy Program

Cost Savings from the State Energy Program



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Kentucky leverages energy partnerships

One of the most beneficial aspects of EERE's SEP is its ability to increase public-private partnerships and leverage local support. John Davies, director of the Division of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in the Governor's Office of Energy Policy in Kentucky, said SEP dollars contribute directly to businesses, universities and other organizations that help improve Kentucky's economy and environment through improved energy efficiency and increased use of renewable energy.

"We take federal programs and initiatives and make them work at a state level," Davies said. "You can have great federal programs on a web site, but they're not truly effective unless you put a face with the programs and get people to work on them at a state and community level. Our efforts help make these programs local and help to resolve local challenges. Leveraging helps us gain and build commitment with our partners. It's our philosophy that more can be done by building partnerships and leveraging resources."

Significant impact has been felt in three areas — serving as a catalyst for the Energy Star Program, aiding in the development of the Energy Assessment Center for Kentucky and supporting energy education programs.

Kentucky has its own Energy Star circuit rider — made possible through a partnership with the University of Kentucky — who travels across the state promoting Energy Star at more than 50 events each year, including home and garden shows, electric cooperative meetings and at the state's largest venue, the Kentucky State Fair. By displaying interactive exhibits at these events, Kentuckians are able to see and discuss energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and practices. Through these venues, the state office connects with more than 750,000 Kentuckians (more than 15 percent of the state population), annually.

This year's goal is to conduct 30 audits partnering with the Energy Assessment Center at the University of Louisville. Last year the Center conducted 25 audits, identifying nearly \$2.5 million in potential savings. In addition to energy efficiency assessments, the Center offers training and other technical assistance for organizations and businesses.

In collaboration with the University of Louisville, staff engineers visit manufacturing plants, aluminum plants, municipal buildings, schools, hospitals, etc., to determine their overall energy consumption and production needs and to advise where improvements can be made. Having a local presence has proven to be more effective than just allowing a team of experts to show up one day and disappear the next. Kentucky businesses and communities like having technical expertise nearby to discuss and help solve their problems.



NEED (National Energy Education Development) students taking part in the dedication of a Habitat for Humanity, Energy Star home in Lexington, Kent. Their compact fluorescent lighting display was part of the Energy Star's "Change a Light, Change the World" campaign.

SEP funds also support education. Kentucky NEED, the state affiliate of the National Energy Education Development (NEED) Project, is a comprehensive, hands-on energy education program to educate teachers and students in grades K-12 about energy. SEP funds provide for curricula, materials and workshops. Materials and activities are designed to promote a non-biased understanding of the economic and environmental trade-offs of energy consumption and production so that students will be able to make educated decisions in the future.

"Partnerships can be powerful," Davies said. "By working with universities, local organizations, home builders and the schools, we're seeing it work. More and more people are becoming involved in using renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies."

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Texas saves energy with SEP

Dub Taylor remembers his conversation about energy with a long-time elected state official like it was yesterday.

"He was a guy probably in his 80's," said Taylor, director of the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO). "I remember he told me Texas didn't get to be the economy that it is by conserving energy, that it was strong because of the oil and gas industry."

"Actually that attitude is counter-intuitive because state production has been in decline since 1973. Finite resources are being depleted here just like everywhere else and if we use it at the rate we're using it now, we'll be out in 50 to 70 years."

For that reason, Taylor is a strong proponent of EERE's State Energy Program (SEP) which attempts to strengthen the capabilities of the states in promoting energy efficiency and adopting renewable energy technologies to help strengthen the economy, increase national security and protect the environment.



Colorado Acres, a located in Webb County, Texas is the demonstration site of a solar-powered reverse-osmosis water purification system that provides clean water to the local community.

SECO has put 12 programs in place with SEP funds, including the LoanSTAR Revolving Loan Program, Schools/Local Government Energy Program, State Agencies/Higher Education Program, Innovative Energy

Program and the Transportation Energy Program.

[LoanSTAR](#), Texas' flagship program, has saved local taxpayers an estimated \$180 million through efficiency projects for state agencies, higher-education institutions, school districts, hospitals and local government. Borrowers repay loans through cost savings generated by the projects.

Under the Schools/Local Government Energy Program, SEP funds support energy efficiency programs at more than 3,500 schools and in other government entities. SECO provides facility energy audits, energy management training workshops, technical support in designing new facilities and onsite training for student energy awareness projects.

Clean energy technologies are demonstrated at public facilities and schools to increase address awareness and air quality at the community level. In fact, school computers use software that put monitors to "sleep" when not in use and though it may seem small-scale, more than 105,000 computers use the software, saving 33 million kilowatt hours and reducing energy costs by \$2 million annually.

"The common element in all these programs is they put a focus on public sector energy efficiency and facility optimization to ensure that both public and management facilities are operating at the lowest possible cost. The other co-benefits always involve environmental and air benefits."

Reducing fuel consumption, air pollution and traffic congestion is the focus of the Transportation Energy Program. Projects include traffic signal synchronization, intelligent traffic management systems and Texas/Mexico Colonias programs.

"SEP funding has allowed us to supplement other funding the state has made available to pilot projects to see how successful they can be before we move them into larger-scale areas," Taylor said.



Texas is a national leader in diversifying its energy base, moving heavily into wind power and other renewables. SEP plays a key role in this transformation.

With the U.S. population reaching 300 million last month, implementing programs much like these are becoming increasingly important for states, especially as higher-energy demands increase. Taylor said Texas already has a high demand for power as air conditioning units run about ten months out of the year.

The three-pronged SEP approach – deploying new energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and practices, leveraging federal, local and private funds and educating individuals and organizations about energy-saving opportunities – is hitting at a state level.

"We're not just an oil and gas state anymore," Taylor said. "We're an energy state. It's important to take the blinders off and develop much of the same successful approaches to using sustainable and renewable energy resources and be smart in the way we use energy."

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Kansas SEP contributes to emergency response

Besides contributing to outreach and leveraging opportunities, SEP funds support state initiatives for emergency preparedness, readiness and national security. Many states combine their own money with SEP funding to support their energy projects.

For example, about 20 percent of SEP funds in Kansas go toward developing a comprehensive emergency plan with an emphasis on energy disruption.

“All potential types of disasters whether manmade or natural involve some type of energy,” Kansas Energy Manager Jim Ploger said. “Fuel shortages, natural disasters, hail storms, tornadoes, flooding — all of these things have a direct impact on energy supply or potential energy disruption. Whatever the case may be, energy is a part of it, especially if power lines go down, so you have to be prepared.”

The plan is currently being revamped across all levels of the state, rewritten to encompass all major aspects of disaster recovery, including transportation, agriculture, communications, food shortages, power shortages and environmental health.

“This is a substantial increase and focus toward this type of work,” he said. “Dozens of agencies are involved — it’s a much more coordinated effort across the state in the way we deal with emergencies.”

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West Virginia reduces energy costs with SEP

West Virginia ranks as the largest natural gas producer east of the Mississippi River. It’s home to 75 of the 5,000 largest energy-using facilities in the U.S., including industries such as chemicals, polymers, steel, wood, glass, aluminum and metal casting.

Recent increases in energy prices — natural gas prices in particular — have had a devastating effect as several companies are unprepared to deal with the situation.

The West Virginia Development Office (WVDO) uses its SEP funding to promote activities that address the technological needs prioritized by each one of these Industries of the Future (IOF) sectors.

WVDO notes that many industries have not tried to take advantage of energy-efficient opportunities because historically prices for natural gas, coal and electricity in West Virginia were low and industry investment in energy-efficient process improvements and technologies didn’t make sense.

The unexpected increase in energy costs has forced several companies to dramatically reduce staff which hampers productivity. Change is needed because IOF companies account for 73 percent of the state’s manufacturing gross state product and 67 percent of manufacturing employment.

“SEP funding helps identify technology and process opportunities to reduce natural gas use,” said Jeff Herholdt, manager of WVDO’s West Virginia Energy Efficiency Program (EEP). “These industries depend on electricity and natural gas to manufacture products that will be used by other industries. It’s incumbent on us to help them remain competitive.”

The Energy Efficiency Program provides technical assistance for these industries to help develop energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. The program also supports modernizing new energy choices in public institutions, local governments and in transportation.

Two program areas supported by SEP funds include West Virginia University’s Industrial Assessment Center (IAC) and the Industrial Gas Utilization Center.

The IAC at West Virginia University provides industrial assessments to companies. The EEP supplements the IAC by funding assessments for companies outside energy consumption criteria established by DOE.

The Industrial Gas Utilization Center, also through West Virginia University, serves as a clearinghouse for programs dedicated to offsetting the effects of high natural gas costs through energy efficiency improvements.

Specific activities include providing initial assessments of energy-saving opportunities; tracking cutting-edge

technologies to improve the energy and environmental performance of energy-intensive industries; identifying opportunities for the application of those technologies; reaching out through newsletters, workshops and direct contact with large energy-consuming companies, and cooperating with industry associations to reach smaller operations.

"We're working with industries to determine alternatives to pipeline natural gas," Herholdt said. "One of our primary goals is to utilize coal gasification for industrial applications."

Implementing new energy methods has begun to pick up steam, judging by the response to the 10th annual IOF-WV Symposium.

"There's been an awakening among industries to make operational changes," Herholdt said. "Companies are realizing there are things they can do now to save energy."

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History of SEP

The State Energy Program (SEP) got its start as the State Energy Conservation Program (SECP) in 1976. SECP funded a variety of renewable energy and energy efficiency activities. Its sister program, the Institutional Conservation Program (ICP) funded technical audits and energy conservation measures in schools and hospitals.

In 1996, ICP was consolidated into SECP, forming SEP, a single, more flexible program, with a stronger focus on enhancing DOE's state energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives.

SEP strengthens states' capabilities to promote energy efficiency and adoption of renewable energy technologies. This results in energy savings, realization of a stronger economy, a cleaner environment and a more secure future.

SEP provides grants to states and territories, according to an established formula, to design and implement energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. States use the grants to address energy priorities to adopt emerging renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.

States promote these priorities through communication and outreach activities, technology deployment and accessing new partnerships and resources.

Allowable activities under an SEP grant include those in the areas of general education, transportation, buildings, industrial and utilities.

To date, more than 8,000 projects have been implemented under the program.

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SEP web resources

EERE has a number of content-rich web sites and pages holding many facts, figures and examples of how SEP projects can be used to help move new energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies into local communities. Here are three good sites to learn more.

The [State Energy Program](#)

Gives a quick run-down of "projects by state," "projects by topic," and other resources about SEP and SEP Special Projects grants.

[Conservation Update](#)

The U.S. Department of Energy's State Energy Program (SEP) publishes Conservation Update bimonthly to summarize renewable energy and energy projects of state energy offices; has excellent feature stories and case studies of successful activities

[EERE State Activities and Partnerships](#)

EERE-sponsored projects in the states EERE's cooperative projects and grants to the states Breaking news about state involvement in energy projects State energy statistics

State maps of renewable energy resources Case studies and state publications.

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