## Resources for State and Local Governments

Renewable Energy

**Are you looking for basic information on renewable energy (Solar, geothermal, wind, water power)?**

**Considering Renewable Energy Policies?**

* Encourage renewable energy adoption with
  + Renewable Portfolio Standards
  + Net Metering
  + Interconnection, Permitting and Access Standards
* Offer Financial Incentives and Programs
  + Rebates
  + Grants
  + Loans
  + Tax Incentives
* PACE Financing

*Learn more at DSIREUSA.org*

* [**Energy basics**](http://energy.gov/eere/energybasics/energy-basics)site contains links to all the different types of energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable transportation technologies.
* [**Energy 101 videos**](http://www.youtube.com/user/USdepartmentofenergy/search?query=energy+101)from the DOE posted on YouTube explain the basics about energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable transportation technologies in a user-friendly manner. Check out the Energy 101 videos on geothermal, wind turbines, solar PV and more.
* [**State and Local Solution Center**](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/solutioncenter/default.html)is a landing page of a collection of EERE resources available for state and local officials. This site provides information on Strategic Energy Planning; Policies and Programs; Data Management and Evaluation; Financing Solutions; and Energy Technologies.
* [**Solar Energy Resource Center**](http://www4.eere.energy.gov/solar/sunshot/resource_center/)is a collection of resources on solar technologies and best practices to implement solar, both at the local level and with large-scale deployment. Resources include articles, case studies, fact sheets, how-to guides, model rules and ordinances, presentations, sample government documents, technical reports, tools, and webinars.
* [**WindExchange**](http://energy.gov/eere/wind/windexchange) is a hub of stakeholder engagement and outreach designed to help communities weigh the benefits and costs of wind energy, understand the deployment process, and make wind development decisions supported by the best available science and other fact-based information.

**Do you need energy information in your state or region?**

* [**Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy**](http://www.dsireusa.org/)(DSIRE) is a comprehensive source of information on state, federal, local, and utility incentives and policies that support renewable energy and energy efficiency.
* [**State and Local Energy Data**](http://eeredev.nrel.gov/sled/#/) portal compiles energy market information to help state and local governments plan and implement clean energy projects.
* [**PVWatts Calculator**](http://pvwatts.nrel.gov/)estimates the energy production and cost of grid-connected photovoltaic (PV) energy systems throughout the world. It allows homeowners, small building owners, installers and manufacturers to easily develop estimates of the performance of potential PV installations.
* [**National Geothermal Data System**](http://geothermaldata.org/)(NGDS)is a system that provides free public access to over 9 million online geothermal / oil and gas records. The site includes GIS services, maps, data, images, publications, tools and models for geothermal exploration and development.
* **Resource Maps**- Find out your area’s potential for [wind](http://www.windpoweringamerica.gov/windmaps/), [solar](http://www.nrel.gov/gis/solar.html), and [geothermal](http://energy.gov/eere/geothermal/geothermal-maps) power with EERE renewable energy resource maps.
* [**EIA State Profiles**](http://www.eia.gov/state/)provide comprehensive data on each state’s energy portfolio, including energy consumption, production and price information.

**Do you need assistance in creating a program or policy to incentivize renewable energy deployment in your state/community?**

* [**Community Energy Strategic Planning Guide**](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/solutioncenter/pdfs/cesp_guide.pdf) includes a step-by-step process for creating a robust strategic energy plan.
* [**Solar Outreach Partnership**](http://solaroutreach.org/) helps accelerate solar energy adoption on the local level by providing best practices, resources, and technical assistance to local governments.
* [**Solar Technical Assistance Team**](http://www.nrel.gov/tech_deployment/state_local_governments/stat.html) provides state policy makers and their staff in-depth support around policy issues for solar technology deployment. The SunShot Initiative in partnership with the National Renewable Energy Lab provides technical assistance services such as policy evaluation and potential impact analysis.
* [**WindExchange**](http://energy.gov/eere/wind/windexchange) is a hub of stakeholder engagement and outreach designed to help communities weigh the benefits and costs of wind energy, understand the deployment process, and make wind development decisions supported by the best available science and other fact-based information.

**Do you have questions about permitting renewable energy projects?**

* [**Regulatory and Permitting Information Desktop (RAPID) Toolkit**](http://en.openei.org/wiki/RAPID) is a new suite of tools to facilitate efficient permitting of new geothermal, solar, and transmission projects. It includes regulatory roadmaps, a permitting atlas, a resource library and a NEPA database.

**Are you looking for educational materials or information for or about the energy workforce?**

* [**Jobs and Economic Development Impact**](http://www.nrel.gov/analysis/jedi/about_jedi.html)models are user-friendly tools that estimate the economic impacts and the number of jobs supported by constructing and operating power plants, fuel production facilities, and other projects at the state level. Models include biofuels, coal, solar, geothermal, marine hydrokinetic, transmission, and wind.
* [**Energy Education**](http://energy.gov/eere/education/education-homepage)is a landing page for several energy education resources, including tools for educators like the Energy Literacy Framework and the Education Toolbox. Students can access Career Planning Tools and also learn about EERE Student Competitions.
* [**My Energy Gateway**](http://www.myenergygateway.org/)provides information on energy degrees and certifications, scholarships, internships, college rankings, career options, and industry resources.
* [**Federal Investments in Energy & Manufacturing**](http://energy.gov/eere/education/federal-energy-and-manufacturing-workforce-training-programs) lists the workforce training and certification programs that have been funded by the Department of Energy, Department of Labor, and the National Science Foundation, with the ability to filter by subject and location.

**Are you wondering how to fund renewable energy projects or programs?**

* [**Guide to Federal Financing**](http://energy.gov/downloads/federal-finance-facilities-available-energy-efficiency-upgrades-and-clean-energy)lists federal government financing programs available for energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment.
* [**EERE Funding Opportunities**](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/financing/current_opportunities.html): The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy offers financial assistance opportunities for the research, development, demonstration and deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. State and local governments are often eligible to apply for the various funding opportunities that are issued on a rolling basis throughout the year.
* [**Renewable Energy Project Finance**](https://financere.nrel.gov/finance/)team at National Renewable Energy Lab provides reports on market trends, and information on the wide variety of financing mechanisms for renewable energy projects.

Energy Efficiency

**Considering Energy Efficiency Policies?**

* Improve energy efficiency of government buildings and infrastructure
* Consider measures that could lead to savings in your community:
  + Energy Efficiency Portfolio Standards
  + Utility- Administered Energy Efficiency Programs
  + Benchmarking and Transparency
  + Building Energy Codes
* Offer financing programs and policies:
  + PACE
  + On-Bill financing
  + Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds
  + Loan loss reserves

*Learn more at DsireUSA.org and ACEEE.org*

**Are you looking for basic energy efficiency information?**

* [**Energy basics**](http://energy.gov/eere/energybasics/energy-basics)site contains links to all the different types of energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable transportation technologies.
* [**Energy 101 videos**](http://www.youtube.com/user/USdepartmentofenergy/search?query=energy+101)from the DOE posted on YouTube explain the basics about energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable transportation technologies in a user-friendly manner. Check out the Energy 101 videos on day lighting, home energy assessments, geothermal heat pumps, cool roofs, and many more.
* [**State and Local Solution Center**](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/solutioncenter/default.html)is a landing page of a collection of EERE resources available for state and local officials. This site provides information on State Energy Planning; Policies and Programs; Data Management and Evaluation; Financing Solutions; and Energy Technologies.
* [**Better Buildings Residential Program Solution Center**](http://energy.gov/rpsc)is a repository of examples, lessons, and resources for residential energy efficiency programs. It is intended to help program administrators and their partners plan, operate, and evaluate their programs. It is a great resource for state and local governments that are administering or starting up a residential energy efficiency program.
* [**Energy Saver**](http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/energy-saver-guide-tips-saving-money-and-energy-home) is a consumer guidebook providing tips to homeowners and renters on how to save money and energy at home and on the road. The guidebook is also available in [Spanish](http://energy.gov/energysaver/downloads/ahorre-energ).

**Are you interested in learning more about energy efficiency policies passed in your state?**

* [**Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy**](http://www.dsireusa.org/)(DSIRE) is a comprehensive source of information on state, federal, local, and utility incentives and policies that support renewable energy and energy efficiency.

**Do you want to increase the energy efficiency of your government buildings and facilities?**

* [**The Better Buildings Challenge**](http://www4.eere.energy.gov/challenge/home) supports leading communities, states, schools, private companies and industrial plants across the country in taking on energy savings commitments of 20% or more over 10 years across their building portfolios.
* [**Better Buildings Accelerators**](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/betterbuildings/accelerators/) help communities to address challenges surrounding industrial efficiency, energy data, outdoor lighting, data centers and energy service performance contracting.
* [**Better Plants Program**](http://energy.gov/eere/amo/better-plants) supports manufactures to reduce energy use. Better Plants Partners are manufacturers that set energy efficiency goals, usually equal to 25% over ten years, and receive national recognition and technical assistance from DOE.
* [**Municipal Solid State Lighting Consortium**](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/ssl/consortium.html) shares technical information and experiences related to LED street and area lighting demonstrations, and serves as an objective resource for evaluating new products on the market intended for those applications. Cities, power providers, and others who invest in street and area lighting are invited to join the Consortium and share their experiences.

**Do you want to create a policy that encourages people to make energy efficiency improvements in their buildings and factories?**

* [**Community Energy Strategic Planning Guide**](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/solutioncenter/pdfs/cesp_guide.pdf) includes a step-by-step process for creating a robust strategic energy plan.
* [**State and Local Energy Efficiency Action (SEE Action) Network**](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/seeaction/index.html) offers [resources](https://www4.eere.energy.gov/seeaction/resources), discussion forums, and [technical assistance](https://www4.eere.energy.gov/seeaction/technical-assistance) to state and local decision makers as they provide low-cost, reliable energy to their communities through energy efficiency policies and programs. SEE Action tackles challenges to energy efficiency program implementation, including data access; financing; and evaluation, monitoring and verification.
* [**Building Energy Codes**](https://www.energycodes.gov/state-technical-assistance) helps state and local code enforcement jurisdictions adopt, upgrade, implement, and enforce their residential and commercial building energy codes.
* [**Better Buildings Residential Network**](http://energy.gov/eere/better-buildings-residential) works with residential energy efficiency programs and their partners to improve homeowners' lives, the economy, and the environment by increasing the number of high-performing, energy-efficient existing homes in the United States.
* [**Workforce certification** guidelines](https://www4.eere.energy.gov/workforce/projects/workforceguidelines)are being developed that will improve the quality and consistency of commercial building workforce credentials for five key energy-related jobs, including facility managers for government buildings. The Better Buildings Workforce Guidelines will reduce the confusion and uncertainty around workforce credentialing.

**Are you looking for technical assistance from experts or tools to help with an energy efficiency project in your community?**

* [**Combined Heat and Power Technical Assistance**](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/manufacturing/distributedenergy/ceacs.html)  offers market opportunity analysis and engineering support to commercial, multifamily, institutional and industrial end-users considering or installing combined heat and power, waste heat to power, and district energy technologies. Policymaker education is conveyed through lessons learned and best practices of policies conducive to CHP installations.
* [**Industrial Assessment Centers**](http://energy.gov/eere/amo/ta) located at 24 of the nation’s top engineering schools, provide no cost assistance to small and medium-sized manufacturers by identifying means to reduce energy and water use and increase productivity while also providing hands-on industrial experience to the next generation of energy engineers
* [**Superior Energy Performance**](http://energy.gov/eere/amo/superior-energy-performance) is an avenue for states to meet their energy efficiency goals by working with large energy users. It builds off the international ISO50001 energy management system standard, and adds an energy performance improvement verification component.
* [**Building Energy Efficiency Data Tools**](http://energy.gov/eere/buildings/downloads/efficiency-data-management-overview-2014-bto-peer-review) are publicly available, standardized and interoperable tools to help manage energy data. Decision makers—including building designers, owners, operators, and public entities—can use these tools to manage and analyze their buildings’ performance, implement energy efficiency programs, and better understand the potential for and impacts of investing in energy efficiency.

**Are you looking for financial assistance to support your energy efficiency programs or projects?**

* [**State Energy Program**](http://energy.gov/eere/wipo/state-energy-program) provides State Energy Offices annual funding through its formula grant program. Its [competitive grant program](http://energy.gov/eere/wipo/state-energy-program-competitive-financial-assistance-program) provides funding around specific energy efficiency and renewable energy topics.
* [**Weatherization Assistance Program**](http://energy.gov/eere/wipo/weatherization-assistance-program) provides state energy offices funding for weatherization programs for low-income populations.
* [**Guide to Federal Financing**](http://energy.gov/downloads/federal-finance-facilities-available-energy-efficiency-upgrades-and-clean-energy)lists federal government financing programs available for energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment.
* [**EERE Funding Opportunities**](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/financing/current_opportunities.html): The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy offers financial assistance opportunities for the research, development, demonstration and deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. State and local governments are often eligible to apply for the various funding opportunities that are issued on a rolling basis throughout the year.

**Are you looking for educational materials or information for or about the energy workforce?**

* [**Jobs and Economic Development Impact**](http://www.nrel.gov/analysis/jedi/about_jedi.html)models are user-friendly tools that estimate the economic impacts and the number of jobs supported by constructing and operating power plants, fuel production facilities, and other projects at the state level. Models include biofuels, coal, solar, geothermal, marine hydrokinetic, transmission, and wind.
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Sustainable Transportation

**Considering Sustainable Transportation Policies?**

* Approve or construct alternative fueling stations
  + Electric Vehicle charging
  + Biofuel
  + Natural Gas
  + Propane
  + Hydrogen
* Green your fleet
* Promote livable communities
* Train your first responders and code officials on handling alternative fuel vehicles and fueling infrastructure

**Do you want some basic information on sustainable transportation?**

* [**Energy basics**](http://energy.gov/eere/energybasics/energy-basics)site contains links to all the different types of energy efficiency, renewable energy and sustainable transportation technologies.
* [**Energy 101 videos**](http://www.youtube.com/user/USdepartmentofenergy/search?query=energy+101)from the DOE posted on YouTube explain the basics about algae to fuel, electric vehicles, fuel cells, and more.
* [**State and Local Solution Center**](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/wip/solutioncenter/default.html)is a landing page of a collection of EERE resources available for state and local officials. This site provides information on State Energy Planning; Policies and Programs; Data Management and Evaluation; Financing Solutions; and Energy Technologies.
* [**Alternative Fuels Data Center**](http://www.afdc.energy.gov/) provides information, data, and tools such as the Plug-In Vehicle Readiness Scorecard, Laws and Incentives database, Case Studies database, and Alternative Fueling Station Locator to help fleets and other transportation decision makers find ways to reduce petroleum consumption through the use of alternative and renewable fuels, advanced vehicles, and other fuel-saving measures.
* [**Clean Cities TV**](http://www.youtube.com/user/CleanCitiesTV) on YouTube provides success stories on fleets and cities across the country switching to alternative fuels, as well as training videos.
* [**Increase your H2IQ**](http://energy.gov/eere/fuelcells/increase-your-h2iq)Find easy-to-understand information about hydrogen (H2) and fuel cell technologies here. Increase your H2IQ by checking out our fact sheets, multimedia tools, fuel cell animation, and other introductory resources.
* [**FuelEconomy.gov**](http://www.fueleconomy.gov/) provides information on fuel economy, emissions, and fuel costs for all vehicle models back to 1984, as well as tips for improving gas mileage and information on tax incentives for advanced technology vehicles.

**Are you looking for transportation information and data in your state or region?**

* [**Alternative Fuels Data Center’s State Specific Information**](http://www.afdc.energy.gov/states/) provides state-specific information and data such as incentives and laws related to alternative fuels, alternative fueling station locators, and contact information for Clean Cities coalitions.
* [**Bioenergy Resource Map**](http://maps.nrel.gov/bioenergyatlas/) illustrates the resource potential across the country for biofuels and biopower.
* [**The BioEnergy Atlas**](http://maps.nrel.gov/bioenergyatlas/) is an interactive map used to compare existing and potential biomass feedstock locations with potential biorefinery locations and major product demand centers.
  + [**State Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Database**](http://energy.gov/eere/fuelcells/state-and-local-governments) provides data on over 5,000 active fuel cell and hydrogen projects around the country.

**Do you want to green your community’s fleet?**

* [**Clean Cities**](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/)supports a national network of nearly 100 local [coalitions](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/coalitions.html) dedicated to reducing petroleum consumption in transportation. Clean Cities brings together stakeholders in the public and private sectors to deploy alternative and renewable fuels, idle-reduction measures, fuel economy improvements, and emerging transportation technologies.
* [**EPAct Transportation Regulatory Activities**](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/vehiclesandfuels/epact/index.html) outlines requirements under the Energy Policy Act, which calls for some state government fleets to acquire alternative fuel vehicles.

**Do you want to investigate alternate vehicle infrastructure for your community?**

* [**H2USA**](http://cafcp.org/featured_h2usa)**,** co**-**launched by the DOE, is a public private partnership focused on overcoming the barriers of hydrogen infrastructure. H2USA partners focus on identifying actions to encourage early adopters of fuel cell electric vehicles, conduct coordinated technical and market analysis, and evaluate alternative fueling infrastructure that can enable cost reductions and economies of scale.
* [**Workplace Charging Challenge**](http://energy.gov/eere/vehicles/vehicle-technologies-office-ev-everywhere-workplace-charging-challenge) calls on America’s employers to provide Plug in Electric Vehicle charging stations for their workforce. In support of employers who undertake the Pledge, DOE provides technical assistance, informational resources, and an information-sharing forum. Additionally, DOE shares best practices, and publically recognizes employers’ successes.
* [**Clean Cities**](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/)supports a national network of nearly 100 local [coalitions](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/coalitions.html) dedicated to reducing petroleum consumption in transportation. Clean Cities brings together stakeholders in the public and private sectors to deploy alternative and renewable fuels, idle-reduction measures, fuel economy improvements, and emerging transportation technologies.

**Are you looking for funding for sustainable transportation projects and programs?**

* [**EERE Funding Opportunities**](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/financing/current_opportunities.html): The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy offers financial assistance opportunities for the research, development, demonstration and deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies. State and local governments are often eligible to apply for the various funding opportunities that are issued on a rolling basis throughout the year.
* [**Clean Cities’ Related Opportunities Funding page**](http://www1.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/related_opportunities.html)lists federal funding available through other federal agencies for sustainable transportation projects.
* [**Guide to Federal Financing**](http://energy.gov/downloads/federal-finance-facilities-available-energy-efficiency-upgrades-and-clean-energy)lists federal government financing programs available for energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment.
* [**Sustainable Communities**](http://www.sustainablecommunities.gov/) is an interagency partnership between HUD, EPA and DOT that provides resources, tools and funding to communities pursuing sustainability, including transit-oriented development, and planning for livability.

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* [**The JOBS Models**](http://jobsmodels.es.anl.gov/main)are spreadsheet-based tools that allow users to estimate economic impacts from the deployment of fuel cell vehicles, hydrogen infrastructure, and natural gas infrastructure. Find them on Argonne National Lab’s website.
* **Explore Careers** in [vehicle efficiency](http://energy.gov/eere/education/explore-careers-energy-efficient-vehicles) or [hydrogen and fuel cells](http://energy.gov/eere/education/explore-careers-hydrogen-and-fuel-cells) to see where these industries are headed and how individuals can pursue careers in related fields.
* [**Jobs and Economic Development Impact**](http://www.nrel.gov/analysis/jedi/about_jedi.html)models are user-friendly tools that estimate the economic impacts and the number of jobs supported by constructing and operating power plants, fuel production facilities, and other projects at the state level. Models include biofuels, coal, solar, geothermal, marine hydrokinetic, transmission, and wind.
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