



STATE OF DELAWARE

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

DIVISION OF CLIMATE, COASTAL, & ENERGY

STATE STREET COMMONS

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ENERGY POLICY &
PROGRAMS

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MEMORANDUM

TO: National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO)

FROM: Robert Underwood, Energy Administrator

DATE: June 2, 2020

SUBJECT: NASEO Mid-Atlantic Regional State Energy Office Virtual Meeting

In preparation for the roundtable discussion at the NASEO virtual meeting on June 3, 2020, Delaware offers the follow thoughts/answers to the four COVID-19 focused questions:

- 1. How has your office's operations been impacted by COVID-19?**
 - a. Have you been able to improve your office's programs or operations as a result of COVID-19?**
 - b. What is your plan for returning to the workplace?**

Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC), which houses the Division of Climate, Coastal, & Energy (DCCE) has maintained a fully operational workforce throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. With the utilization of software solutions, DCCE has been able to have its workforce stay safe by telecommuting and maintained business without interruptions.

We will continue following the Governor's direction on ensuring that we maintain a safe but functional workforce throughout Delaware. We are planning to return to the office in a phased approach and continue to telecommute where practical. Safety remains our top concern and we will have our staff physically in the office as soon as practical.

2. What are lessons learned so far regarding Emergency Support Function (ESF) #12 and responding to any energy impacts of COVID-19?

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted every phase of our lives and its impact on the energy sector is obviously broad and wide reaching. I believe the fiscal impact of the COVID-19 is an early lesson that will be carried on and used to improve programs going forward for many years. The fiscal impact that COVID-19 has forced us to rethink everything from paying utility bills to delivering fuel supplies to use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and implementing both new and existing software solutions.

3. What projects or programs are your office's Sustainable Energy Program (SEP) funds supporting this upcoming year and will you be considering changes due to COVID-19?

The programs that SEP funding supports are focused on core energy services such as weatherization, energy efficiency, and renewable energy programs.

Delaware is not planning a major change to the use of SEP funds in the upcoming year. We utilize the funds to support several energy programs across the state and while these programs will evolve as market conditions dictate there are no major changes planned.

4. If stimulus funds were to be provided, what energy program(s) would you focus on creating or supplementing?

If stimulus funds were provided, we would start by supplementing the programs that we currently have operational. Expanding existing programs to include a wider customer base or more energy measures would be the most efficient way to deploy the funds in a timely manner.

In addition, we would work with our in-state partners, neighboring states, and national organization such as NASEO to implement lessons learned and best practices related to the creation of new programs.