

Request for Interest: NASEO Foundations of ESPC Trainings for Rural and Underserved Community Agencies

NASEO and the Energy Services Coalition (ESC) are pleased to offer a second round of no-cost state-specific ESPC training courses to interested State Energy Offices and state/local/ institutional (also known as “MUSH” for municipalities, universities, schools, hospitals) market stakeholders in **rural or underserved communities** in their states.

Energy Savings Performance Contracting (ESPC) offers states, localities, and MUSH facility owners an opportunity to leverage private capital to make needed efficiency upgrades in their buildings, paid off over time through energy, water, and operational cost savings. ESPC projects have already financed over \$50 billion in energy-saving investments over the last three decades, and estimates by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory show there could be over \$300 billion in additional cost effective ESPC projects nationally. However, a lack of information about how the ESPC process works, as well as a lack of awareness about the technical assistance and support resources available in their states may prevent building owners in rural or underserved communities from utilizing ESPC to make improvements. A better understanding of the ESPC process in their states may help building owners to decide to pursue ESPC. Therefore, NASEO and ESC are happy to support State Energy Offices in providing rural and underserved community stakeholder education on ESPC.

NASEO and ESC will work with up to five State Energy Offices to host a two-hour training course that will cover the basics of ESPC financing for energy efficiency. Focus will be given to how state governments can facilitate these investments, and how facility managers can begin the process of enhancing their facility’s energy performance through ESPC. Specific consideration will be given to the unique barriers that building owners in rural and underserved communities face and how those barriers to ESPC can be overcome.

NASEO is looking to partner with State Energy Offices to conduct specific outreach towards, but not limited to, the following organizations for these trainings:

- School Districts, especially those that serve a high proportion of students who are eligible for free- or reduced-price lunches, or those with school district locale codes of 41, 42, and 43¹;
- Public Housing Agencies; and
- Local governments/school districts in rural areas.

Participating State Energy Offices will be asked to help identify and recruit trainees, as well as cohost the ESPC training, which includes training promotion, agenda development, and speaker recruitment, as well as providing an online platform for the training. NASEO and ESC will work with your state to customize the training to focus on state-specific aspects of ESPC and to provide your state’s ESPC program managers time to explain the basics of your program to state, local, and MUSH market stakeholders. To apply, please see the following instructions.

Request for Interest: NASEO and ESC are interested in working with several State Energy Offices to deliver state specific ESPC trainings. If you are interested in working to develop a targeted training in your state, please reach out to Dylan Tucker (dtucker@naseo.org) by **January 24, 2022**. Please include in your request the specific rural or underserved agencies and/or stakeholder organizations your state hopes to educate with these trainings.

Please note, the deadline to express interest has been extended back to January 24, 2022. Any states who previously expressed interest do not need to take any further action right now.

¹ As determined by the National Center for Education Statistics in consultation with the Bureau of the Census.