NASEO Critical Minerals and Materials Working Group

Overview

NASEO's Critical Minerals and Materials Working Group brings together a group of 14 State Energy Offices (AK, AZ, CA, ID, IN, LA, MI, MO, MS, MT, UT, VA, WV, WY) committed to advancing measurable actions across the full critical minerals and materials supply chain: from resource characterization and extraction, to processing and refining; to recovery from waste streams, material recycling, and end-of-life products; to the end-use manufacturers that depend on reliable domestic supply. The Working Group will position State Energy Offices as domestic supply chain leaders; build shared education, communications, and policy capacity; accelerate project demonstration, permitting, and supply chain coordination; develop market confidence and project financing; track and share intelligence across projects, funding, and policy; and elevate state needs and priorities with federal agencies, congress, and key private sector partners.

Why This Matters for State Energy Offices

- **State Energy Offices are the connective tissue.** No other state entity spans permitting agencies, economic development, utilities, universities, and federal partners. State Energy Offices convene state agencies and industry groups, advise policy makers, and connect federal programs to state priorities — this Working Group scales what they already do.
- **Economic development.** Critical minerals underpin the technologies, fuels, and infrastructure State Energy Offices support and steward as part of their economic development prerogatives, including investment in and deployment of technologies and programs that advance storage, transformers, magnets, and advanced manufacturing. Domestic supply chains mean in-state investment, jobs, and resilience against foreign market disruption.
- **Energy security.** State Energy Offices are responsible for maintaining State Energy Security Plans, which assess risks to the sector and provide practical solutions to mitigate those risks. Long-term critical mineral and material insecurity—which may threaten economic and national security—is an essential risk that State Energy Offices are actively addressing as part of these plans.
- **Planning and demand-side visibility.** State Energy Offices are responsible for state energy planning, and mineral and material availability is now a planning input: supply chain risk directly affects whether state energy goals and infrastructure buildout are achievable.
- **Technology and Research and Development leadership.** States support the innovation pipeline federal programs alone can't reach, and State Energy Offices are the natural bridge between National Laboratories, universities, and in-state industry partners.
- **Federal-state policy alignment.** Federal priorities have consolidated around critical minerals, and states that highlight on-the-ground realities to be considered by federal policy and legislation will benefit more acutely from federal actions.

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Working Group Objectives

1. **Position State Energy Offices as Domestic Supply Chain Leaders**
   State Energy Offices convene agencies, advise industry, and connect federal programs to state priorities. The Working Group will highlight, socialize, and expand successful practices of State Energy Offices as key players for domestic supply chain development, including development of primary production, secondary recovery, recycling infrastructure, and circular economy strategies that strengthen domestic supply.

2. **Build Shared Education, Communications, and Policy Capacity**
   The Working Group will develop model policy, programming and messaging frameworks and adaptable materials that State Energy Offices can use to build informed support among legislatures, industry partners, and the public, including the development of model policies and programs related to:

Processing	Recycling technology and automation innovation
Circular economy market development	Extraction
Battery collection, recycling, reuse, and second-life applications	Technology and material end-of-life
Electronics and industrial material recovery	Consumer education and collection infrastructure
Secondary/unconventional feedstock recovery	Data standards and material flow tracking
Produced water/brine mineral recovery	Product stewardship frameworks
Urban Mining	

3. **Accelerate Projects: Demonstration, Permitting, and Supply Chain Coordination**
   The Working Group will connect participating states to demonstration and commercialization projects through site visits and peer exchanges with National Laboratory and academic partners. It will seek to develop practical permitting flowcharts and work to resolve near-term ambiguities, particularly around waste-to-resource permit triggers. The Working Group will identify regulatory and permitting barriers that affect material recovery, recycling facilities, battery management, and waste-to-resources.

4. **Develop Market Confidence and Project Financing**
   The Working Group will help State Energy Offices engage federal and industry partners on market finance solutions (e.g., procurement preferences, price floor policies, offtake agreement frameworks, equity financing models, tax incentives, bond financing, and other economic development tools) that to signal sustained demand, ensure market confidence, and to encourage private investment. The Working Group will evaluate market development opportunities for recovered and recycled critical minerals and materials, including procurement policies, recycled-content incentives, secondary material markets, and mechanisms to increase demand certainty for domestically recovered materials.

5. **Track and Share Intelligence Across Projects, Funding, and Policy**
   The Working Group will develop a shared, continuously updated tracker of the domestic critical minerals landscape including successful demonstration and commercialization projects, federal and state funding opportunities, state legislation and executive actions, federal directives/ guidance, and peer-state activities.

6. **Federal/Legislative Engagement**
   The working group will highlight and elevate state needs and priorities with federal agencies, congress, and key private sector partners, and explore opportunities for states and federal partners to work together to advance the domestic critical minerals and materials supply chain.

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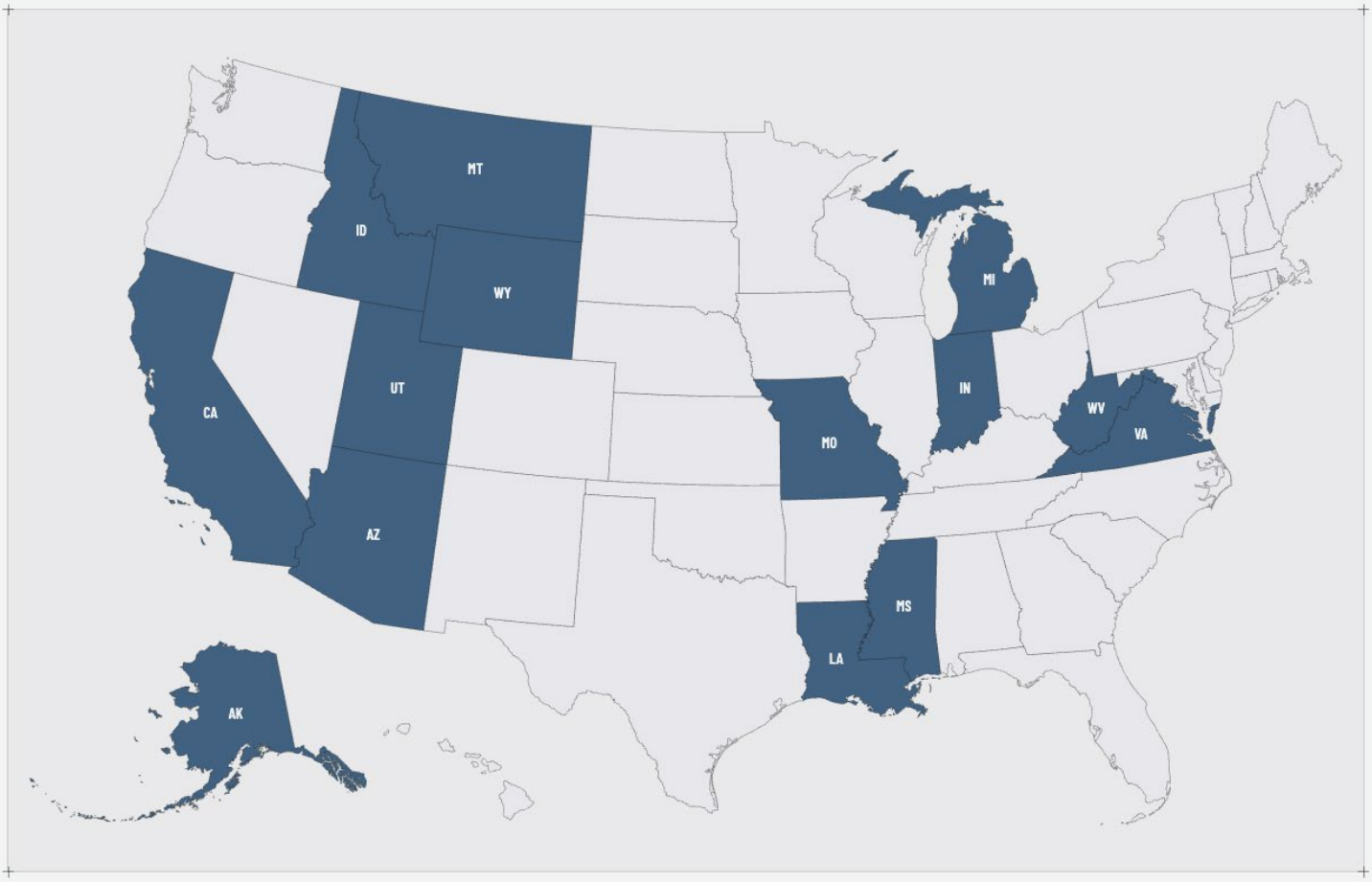
Participating states, as of August 2026.



Participating state Not currently participating

Participating states (14)

AK AZ CA ID IN LA MI MO MS MT UT VA WV WY

Source: NASEO State Critical Minerals and Materials Working Group.