

NASEO's 2020 Midwest Regional Meeting
Missouri Department of Natural Resources Division of Energy Update

- By Executive Order, DE successfully transferred from the Department of Economic Development to the Department of Natural Resources. The transfer is meant to enhance the Department of Natural Resources' ability to balance a healthy environment with a healthy economy.

1. a. What projects or programs are your office's SEP funds supporting this upcoming year and will you be considering changes due to COVID-19? What additional clean energy policies, programs, or projects is your office supporting (if any), and how is your office working to overcome implementation challenges associated with COVID-19?

- A key initiative for the Department of Natural Resources is to engage energy stakeholders starting later this year in the next evolution of Missouri State Energy Planning. We will recap progress since the 2014-2015 effort, including comprehensive data reporting. The approach we will take in this effort is to identify areas of interest to stakeholders, with a focus on developing consensus-based recommendations.
- DE has been working under a competitively awarded DOE grant to support a "Roadmap to Resiliency" project targeted at small-to-mid-sized communities. We hope to complete the project in the coming year. Challenges include partners being able to remain engaged with the project while being challenged to provide basic services to their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Missouri is working with realtors to provide energy information at the point of home sale. In partnership with Earth Advantage, the Green Building Registry™ for Missouri has been developed and now contains data from over 8,000 Missouri homes that have received home energy audits. We are now looking for opportunities for the program to be integrated into the competitive real estate market.

The respond to COVID-19 has impacted delivery of the Energy Loan Program and weatherization.

- DE's Energy Loan Program provides low-interest loans to support cost-saving, energy-related improvements. Eligible recipients can include public schools, public and private higher education institutions, public and private not-for-profit hospitals, and local governments. We are considering a supplemental cycle this year to assist communities affected by the current crisis. DE anticipates the opportunity to offer a lower interest rate due to current economic conditions, and we are continuing to pursue options to enable the use of ARRA funds to provide additional loans.
- DE administers federal Low Income Weatherization Assistance Program funding in Missouri, as well as the weatherization funds of some investor-owned utilities. Staff are working closely with subgrantees to ramp up weatherization efforts following the pause in work and in order to fully use increased funding available from carry-over and a supplemental LIHEAP appropriation.

b. Have you been able to improve your office's programs or operations as a result of COVID-19?

- Our office successfully transitioned to more cost-efficient and streamlined automated processes. Tools such as Basecamp and WebEx have facilitated better interaction within DE. Using these remote access tools, we will be also able to continue working with the University of Missouri in offering internships to students interested in careers in energy.
- Director Redmon is leading the energy-related focus area of a statewide economic recovery effort. This allows us to identify opportunities for supporting energy efficiency and other energy infrastructure development. As part of this effort, the Director has engaged with other agencies and energy stakeholders to identify needs and additional funding opportunities.

2. How is your office working to advance equitable and inclusive energy policies, programs, engagement, and decision-making?

- A number of our staff are assisting with the Department of Natural Resources' effort to increase diversity in both Department operations and engagement with external stakeholders. We are assisting with development of objective metrics to evaluate Departmental performance in achieving diversity and inclusion goals. Additionally, we are working with a committee to create more inclusive recruitment and community interaction.