

NASEO's 2020 Midwest Regional State Energy Officials Virtual Meeting

June 16, 2020

WISCONSIN RESPONSE SUMMARY

What projects or programs are your office's SEP funds supporting this upcoming year and will you be considering changes due to COVID-19?

The programs supported by State Energy Program Annual Plan for the year 2020 are listed below:

❖ Rural and Agriculture

Rural and Agricultural Severe Weather Response Incentives: This project expands on a current program delivered by Focus using SEP funds, the Rural and Agricultural Propane Incentives Program, which leverages the existing Focus infrastructure to provide propane incentives funded by SEP, to customers already interacting with Focus. This proposed Rural and Agricultural Severe Weather Response program will assist customers in responding to severe weather events with a "build back better" approach. The project will allow customers to opt-in to available Focus measures in tandem with SEP Severe Weather Response funding, providing additional value for impacted rural and agricultural customers without creating the need to sign on to a separate program.

Organic Waste and Biogas Feedstock Survey: Data collection and analysis by the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point which will build on the [2015 Biogas Survey](#) and expand the sampling to provide critical data and actionable recommendations with the ultimate goal of stimulating the biogas industry.

❖ Data Collection and Analysis

Energy Use in State Facilities: Track energy use in a growing list of state facilities, covering more than 75 million gross square feet of space.

Wisconsin Energy Statistics: Collects a comprehensive set of data on energy consumption, generation, prices, expenditures, and renewable energy development in Wisconsin.

State Heating Oil and Propane Pricing Survey: Statewide program monitoring pricing for heating oil and liquefied petroleum gas (propane).

❖ Energy Assurance

Energy Assurance Plan: Provide updated contacts and pandemic related updates to the state's energy assurance plan, petroleum shortage contingency plan, and Emergency Support Function-12(ESF-12), finalize energy emergency operations guide, cross train team.

Micro grid and Community Resilience Centers Pilot Grant Program: Development of a pilot grant program focusing on innovative pre-disaster mitigation, through critical infrastructure microgrids and other resilient building strategies, to demonstrate feasibility, implementation, and best practices. Community Resilience Center program has a specific mandate to coordinate with Weatherization program.

❖ **Sector Support and Stakeholder Engagement:** Perform outreach, facilitate discussion, and provide education and materials at conferences, workshops, events, and other industry gatherings.

❖ **Energy Innovation Grant Program (EIGP):** Repurposed Revolving Loan funds are now a large grant program – under Perform planning and implementation through feasibility studies, fleet audits and comprehensive energy audits, building energy efficiency, renewable energy (including storage), and alternative fuel transportation of eligible projects.

❖ **Statewide Assistance for Energy Resiliency and Reliability (SAFER2):** three year effort funded by SEP Competitive in which OEI and Wisconsin Emergency Management work with local governments to foster improvements in energy emergency resiliency, mitigation, and response.

In light of the impacts caused by the COVID pandemic on the different stakeholders, the Wisconsin State Energy Office has extended the grant and the application deadlines to support the existing parties involved.

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?

We are also the key energy agency stakeholder in support of the Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy in its efforts to develop a Clean Energy Plan to achieve 100% Carbon Free Electricity by 2050 in the state of Wisconsin. We are collaborating with the Governor's Task Force on Climate Change by providing remote access, public input, and critical data.

a. Have you been able to improve your office's programs or operations as a result of COVID-19?
COVID has renewed the focus on equity and using our programs to address racial, social, economic disparities. We have constantly modified our State Funding page to highlight appropriate grant & funding opportunities to enhance the outreach of the programs.

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

Our office has been engaged in the NASEO Equity Task Force to learn and provide resources to the agency on equity training and stakeholder engagement tools. Staff are also actively involved in ongoing educational efforts, particularly with the NAACP Energy Justice Training and [Centering Equity in the Sustainable Buildings Sector initiative](#). We are awaiting an agency definition that will be incorporated into the PSC mission and can be further incorporated at the program level.

For further information, please feel free to contact Joe Pater, joe.pater@wisconsin.gov or (608) 513-9408.