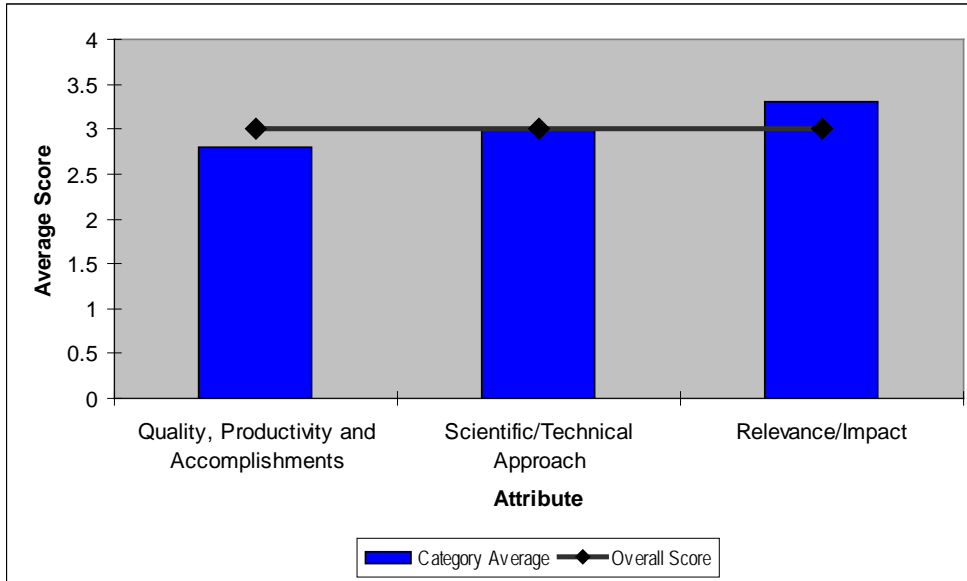


State and Utility Outreach: State Legislative Outreach on Solar Technology and Policy Options

Principal Investigator: *Glen Andersen, National Conference of State Legislatures*



This task supports the state legislative outreach activities of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). The organization’s outreach mechanisms include an award-winning website, multi-disciplinary committees, working groups and large meetings and workshops.

Quality, Productivity and Accomplishments (Average Rating 2.8)

Rating Comments

- 3.0 The audience is important and the contractor is an important link to the audience.
- 4.0 Excellent work for the funding received. The work products are timely and relevant. The future goals may need to be adjusted to the current economics and business models that are forthcoming in the current economic times.
- 2.0
 - The resources dedicated to this activity are very small relative to the potential impact on market transformation from developing a higher level of education on solar energy among state legislators.
 - NCSL Staff resources appear to be very limited; NCSL has only one staff person dedicated to renewable energy (in addition to other areas, such as climate change) for all 50 states.
 - The accomplishments are reasonable given the small budget.
- 2.0 The single most important attribute for this team is the legislative database. I would urge the group to focus their efforts on expansion of this tool, with open API’s for interconnection to other organizations, as an effective vehicle for market transformation. This potential to create an effective “back end” for legislative tracking is sorely lacking in most of our regulatory efforts.

Scientific/Technical Approach (Average Rating 3.0)

Rating Comments

- 3.0 Website provides a useful portal for information. Periodic webinars might be more cost effective than actual meetings.

- 4.0 Coordination with others groups in the same space is a common thread I see as a result of the peer review process. Perhaps a scope of work for funding going forward would be coordination of effort for DOE funded work.
- 3.0 The approach is reasonable given the limitations of engaging state legislators in 50 states. Future activities should focus on targeted technical assistance on policy “best practices” and assuring broad dissemination of quality information and analyses.
- 2.0 The technical approach is unclear with this team.

Relevance/Impact (Average Rating 3.3)

Rating Comments

- 3.0 It is important to have the tools in place to address the questions from legislative staff. From my experience, the questions and interest from staff are generated according to their own timeline – they may tend to be reactive as opposed to proactive. This requires the development of tools and mechanisms that can provide quick answers to questions.
- 4.0 The information required by policy and regulatory offices to make informed decisions or to counter special interest is greatly needed. A task not easily accomplished the work delivered is great and I hope can continue to be improved and the scope expanded.
- 3.0
 - The project has made a reasonable amount of progress given the small budget. One area of future emphasis should be to update information; many of the solar and renewable energy publications on the NCSL Website are outdated.
 - The small number of “hits” ascribed to the energy legislation database suggests that improved access and publicity is warranted.
- 3.0 The legislative database alone could have a large impact assuming it is configured as an open database with an established API for interconnectivity to other systems. The team should focus their efforts here in an attempt to create a community of users.

Overall (Average Rating 3.0)

Rating Comments

- 3.0 The program would benefit from close coordination with CESA. They are both targeting audiences at the state level. Cross communication is also important in this case. The website is of value to keep people informed but there could also be value in NCSL serving as a gatekeeper to bring in other MT contractors to address legislative questions.
- 4.0 Keep up the good work!
- 3.0 Outreach to state legislators can be a high-impact activity for establishing state laws and regulations to support solar market growth. However, it is not clear that NCSL has the internal capabilities to accomplish the job. DOE should consider a partnership to provide dedicated analytical expertise to NCSL from the national labs and other available experts.
- 2.0 Overall, the team has a created a potentially very powerful tool for the market transformation community but adoption levels are unknown. I would encourage the team to seek a larger budget for development of this tool, and broader interconnections amongst other database tracking tools, the most obvious being DSIRE. Creation of this framework enables more rapid feedback on community needs, faster turnaround on tool changes, and faster community wide adoption.