

## State Energy Program Helps States Plan and Implement Energy Efficiency

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) State Energy Program (SEP) provides grants and technical assistance to states and U.S. territories to promote energy conservation and reduce the growth of energy demand in ways that are consistent with national energy goals. State energy offices use SEP funds to develop state plans that identify opportunities for adopting renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies, and implementing programs to improve energy sustainability.

SEP is the only program in the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) that supports outreach for energy technologies in every sector of the economy: industry; businesses; residences; financial; public facilities, schools, and hospitals; and transportation.

### Facilitating Market Transformation

In return for receiving SEP support, states target their energy programs toward near-term deployment of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and long-term market transformation—strategic and temporary interventions that effect lasting changes in the way we use our energy resources.

States are uniquely situated to bring about lasting market changes by adopting renewable energy and efficiency portfolio standards, conforming to energy building codes, and planning land uses. States also adopt innovative financing arrangements that increase access to private sector capital through



In a typical year, state energy office projects that are partially supported through SEP save more than \$300 million in energy costs.

arrangements such as performance contracting and address market barriers through programs such as revolving loan funds. Finally, states participate in strategic and regional partnerships that affect energy policy and market development. These involve governors, local and utility policymakers, and industry leaders.

### Leveraging Federal Investment

SEP effectively leverages investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency. For each \$1 of federal investment in SEP, states report \$10 of nonfederal investment in energy projects and \$7.22 savings in energy costs.

State energy offices multiply this financial leverage of SEP funds by cosponsoring energy projects with local stakeholders and private-sector partners. These organizations, in turn, provide feedback and help DOE direct requests for technical assistance.

### Implementing the Recovery Act

Beginning in 2009 and continuing through 2012, SEP plays a central role in implementing the American

Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act). As a historically successful program with a ready infrastructure for project implementation, SEP is highly suited for Recovery Act activity. Under the Recovery Act, states receive \$3.1 billion for energy projects through SEP. These funds are allocated among the states according to the following formula: one-third equally among states and territories, one-third according to population, and one-third according to energy consumption.

States use this funding to upgrade the efficiency of state and local facilities, expand utility energy efficiency programs that help families save money on their energy bills, promote consumer products that carry the ENERGY STAR® label for energy efficiency, and invest in alternative fuel infrastructure.

### Preparing for Energy Emergencies

SEP also helps the nation prepare for emergencies and recover from natural disasters. SEP requires states to develop plans for handling energy emergencies while coordinating with the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.



After Greensburg, Kansas, was all but obliterated by a May 2007 tornado (below), the town decided to rebuild sustainably. For example, Greensburg High School (above) is being built to earn the U.S. Green Buildings Council's highest rating for energy efficiency.



Program flexibility allows states to use SEP funding to help with disaster recovery and to develop new energy-consuming and -producing infrastructures that resist damage from natural disasters. For example, the Kansas Energy Office is rebuilding Greensburg, Kansas, as a sustainable community (see photos at left).

State energy offices across the country form a vital infrastructure for handling energy emergencies, delivering energy benefits, and addressing national energy goals.

### Coordinating Nationwide

SEP field operations are administered by the DOE Golden Field Office and the National Energy Technology Laboratory.

To find funding opportunities for working with EERE, please visit [www.wip.energy.gov/financial.html](http://www.wip.energy.gov/financial.html).

### For More Information

Contact the EERE Information Center at 1-877-EERE-INF or 1-877-337-3463, or visit [www.wip.energy.gov/sep.html](http://www.wip.energy.gov/sep.html).