

NASEO's Bipartisan Energy *Priorities* and *Recommendations* for Congress and the Administration

The National Association of State Energy Officials' (NASEO) *Bipartisan Energy Priorities and Policy Recommendations for Congress and the Administration* aim to address the following urgent priorities:

- State-federal coordination to meet energy, climate, security, and economic imperatives;
- Energy security, emergency preparedness, and resilience actions to save lives and livelihoods;
- Energy system modernization and decarbonization to support security and economic growth;
- Energy technology innovation and deployment to create jobs and transform the transportation, buildings, manufacturing, and electric sectors;
- Energy workforce development to ensure the workforce has the skills necessary to obtain high-quality jobs and to help meet our energy goals; and
- Consideration of equity and inclusion in energy policies and programs to reduce energy burdens and to ensure all residents of the nation have access to energy opportunities and solutions.

Foundational State-Federal Energy Programs

State, Territory, and District of Columbia Energy Office (hereinafter "State Energy Office") policy development, planning, and programs, as well as the coordinated investments of state, private, and federal entities, offer a direct pathway to achieve the above priorities with urgency and effectiveness. Underpinning NASEO's bipartisan policy priorities and recommendations, which are discussed later in this document, is improved state-federal cooperation and recognition of the transformational power of State Energy Offices. Key to leveraging state and federal energy actions that can accelerate clean energy and energy efficiency are the U.S. State Energy Program and Weatherization Assistance Program. These programs enjoy bipartisan support in Congress, and their reauthorization and expansion are essential to meeting shared state-federal energy, climate, security, and economic development goals.

In addition, there are important, existing legislative proposals that support energy infrastructure and innovation programs that would be carried out through a partnership among federal agencies, State Energy Offices, and the energy industry. The bipartisan, U.S. Senate-led *American Energy Innovation Act* (S. 2657) aims to keep energy affordable, strengthen energy security, and expand efficiency, renewables, storage, carbon utilization, and innovation in vehicles and industry to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. U.S. House-led measures such as the *Moving Forward Act* (H.R. 2) and *Clean Economy and Jobs Innovation Act* (H.R. 4447) build on state-federal partnerships such as the U.S. State Energy Program and Weatherization Assistance Program; the *Open Back Better Act* promotes mission-critical facility resilience and efficiency; and several other key bills (detailed in the following sections) promote electric

transportation initiatives, residential efficiency, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, and other energy, economic, and climate-related energy actions.

These proposals have NASEO's support because of their attention to the states' energy, climate, security, and economic development priorities and their public-private partnership approach. These and other NASEO bipartisan energy policy, congressional, and administration recommendations are discussed below, along with key context for their inclusion.

Energy Policy Context, State-Federal Partnerships, and Priorities

For decades, state energy policies have been a major driver of energy markets, cost reductions, security, and technology deployment and innovation, as well as pollution mitigation and economic development. As governors and federal leaders grapple with threats to public health, the economy, resilience, and the environment, continued state leadership in energy policy, planning, and programs is more crucial than ever.

NASEO's work with the 56 governor-designated State Energy Offices focuses on raising attention and catalyzing ideas, investment, and actions toward urgent priorities for our nation: creating high-quality energy jobs; promoting energy system mission-critical facility and community resilience; tackling climate change and related impacts; allocating energy costs and benefits fairly; expanding economic opportunity; and ensuring energy affordability, security, and access regardless of income, location, identity, or ability.

The U.S. State Energy Program, focusing on State Energy Office policy development, planning, and programs, as well as the coordinated investments of state, private, and federal resources, offers a direct pathway to achieve the above priorities. Since its bipartisan establishment by Congress in the 1970s, the U.S. State Energy Program provides cost-shared resources to support the work of all of the nation's governor-designated State Energy Directors and their offices. It has formed the backbone of state energy planning, policy, and investment to meet shared state-federal energy resilience, security, efficiency, renewables, innovation, and economic development goals. It enables the governors' State Energy Offices to advance smart, data-driven policies in consultation with local communities and business, regulatory, legislative, federal, academic, and workforce stakeholders. In parallel with state and private sector investments, the U.S. State Energy Program is integral in promoting energy system planning, resiliency, security, efficiency, resource diversity, and affordability at the state and local levels.

Just as state policies and programs have unlocked private innovation and investment in and deployment of higher-performing energy systems (including the electric grid; transmission, energy storage, and delivery systems; efficient buildings; electric vehicles; and wind, water, biomass, and solar technologies), so, too, will states be critical agents in incubating and scaling the next generation of energy technologies and policy solutions and programs to meet the needs of their residents. As the United States enters 2021, the country cannot afford to miss the opportunity to harness and expand the ability of State Energy Offices and their partners in continuing to advance a thriving, secure, equitable, affordable, and competitive U.S. energy economy.

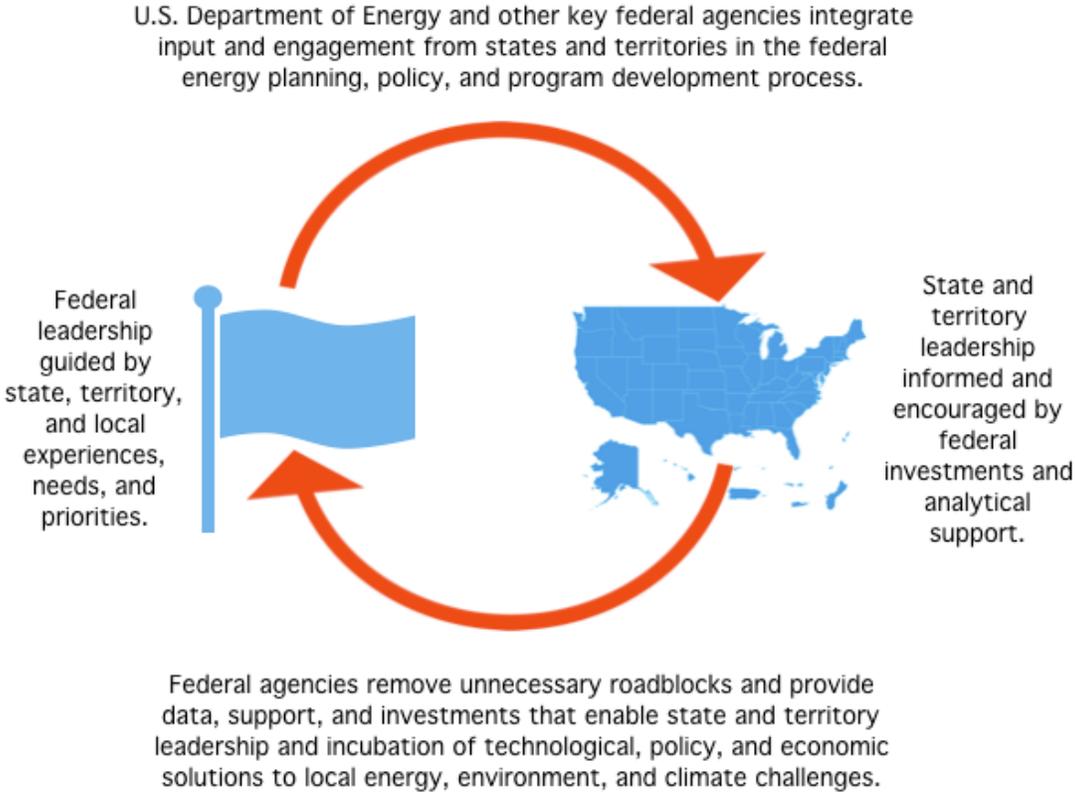
State-Federal Partnership and Feedback Cycles

Cultivating constructive and productive partnerships with State Energy Offices will require concerted and sustained engagement, collaboration, and communication on the part of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and other federal agencies (e.g., U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S.

Department of Health and Human Services, etc.), both at the leadership and program levels. The State Energy Offices’ policy, program, and analytical roles across virtually every energy sector – regulated and unregulated – is reflective of DOE’s functions across all energy issues at the federal level. Through the U.S. State Energy Program, continuing to deepen the partnership between DOE and the State Energy Offices will be essential to reviving the nation’s energy economy and addressing climate impacts.

With decades of experience facilitating state, federal, and congressional coordination on energy policies and programs, NASEO believes a partnership based on two-way feedback and continuous coordination, illustrated in the figure below, opens critical pathways to successful collaboration and partnership.

Figure 1: Federal-State Energy Policy, Planning, and Program Development



NASEO Bipartisan Energy Policy Recommendations by Priority Area

NASEO’s bipartisan policy recommendations are broken out by six priority areas below. The recommendations represent specific opportunities for enhanced state-federal coordination and leadership on pressing energy, economic, and environmental issues. Each priority area is further broken out by recommended congressional and administration actions and relevant state needs and solutions.

Priority One – State-Federal Coordination to Meet Urgent Energy, Environment, Climate, Security, and Economic Imperatives

State Energy Office policy development, planning, and programs, as well as the coordinated investments of state, private, and federal resources, offer a direct pathway to achieve state and federal energy and climate priorities with urgency and effectiveness. Underpinning NASEO's bipartisan policy priorities and all of our recommendations are foundational state-federal cooperation mechanisms that require congressional and administration actions and investments. These actions enjoy bipartisan support in Congress. It is critical for the administration to deepen the level of partnership and engagement with State Energy Offices.

Recommended Congressional Actions:

- Pass the *American Energy Innovation Act* (S. 2657) to increase energy affordability, make energy cleaner, bolster workforce development, and strengthen energy security through efficiency, renewables, storage, carbon utilization, and innovation in vehicles and industry that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This bill strengthens and reauthorizes appropriations for the U.S. State Energy Program and Weatherization Assistance Program.
- Pass key provisions of the U.S. House-led *Moving Forward Act* (H.R. 2) and *Clean Economy and Jobs Innovation Act* (H.R. 4447), which support state-federal partnerships such as the U.S. State Energy Program, Weatherization Assistance Program, mission-critical facility resilience and efficiency (*Open Back Better Act*), electric transportation, residential efficiency, utility arrearage repayment, the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, storage, and other energy, economic, and climate actions.

Recommended Federal Executive Branch Actions:

- Preserve state authority over energy policy by removing unnecessary federal intrusion in state decision-making, particularly through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).
- Convene, through DOE, State Energy Offices, Public Utilities Commissions, and relevant federal agencies to coordinate and inform state policy and regulatory actions within their respective jurisdictions that may be impacted by emerging technologies.
- Reestablish and support the DOE Office of Energy Policy and Systems Analysis (EPSA), and create a robust State Policy Office within EPSA to coordinate relevant analysis and information flow across DOE and with the states. Historically, the crosscutting analytical function of EPSA was effective at leveraging the extraordinary work of DOE divisions – Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Fossil Energy, Office of Electricity, Office of Cybersecurity Energy Security and Energy Restoration (CESER), and the Office of Technology Transitions, among many others – to deliver greater value for the states and private sector.
- Enhance and elevate State Energy Office engagement within DOE to ensure access to the full range of energy technology, program, planning, and policy cooperation. This would benefit and promote alignment between state and federal energy actions in energy infrastructure, security, efficiency, renewables, storage, hydrogen, carbon utilization, technology research, grid modernization, nuclear, data analysis, and other sectors.
- Reinitiate the DOE Quadrennial Energy Review to ensure that federal energy policy is appropriately matched to the nation's goals and complements state, local, tribal, and private sector goals and investments.
- Establish DOE-State Energy Office partnerships to develop strategic transformational crosscutting advances in such areas as grid modernization, green hydrogen, storage, energy emergency and

cybersecurity preparedness, community resilience, rural energy, research and development, and energy infrastructure siting, licensing, land use, and access.

- Support the DOE Office of Weatherization and Intergovernmental Programs with robust staffing.
- Provide critical, trusted data and technical assistance to inform state energy planning, such as analytical, modeling, and forecasting support from the DOE National Laboratories, and continued support and production of the U.S. Energy and Employment Report.

Priority Two – Energy Security, Emergency Preparedness and Resilience Actions to Save Lives and Livelihoods

America’s economy, national security, lives, and livelihoods depend upon the security and resilience of energy infrastructure – including the grid, fuels sector, key supply chains, and mission-critical facilities and assets – and the critical non-energy infrastructure that energy systems support (e.g., telecommunications, water, waste management, etc.). All areas of the nation have energy systems that are vulnerable to extreme weather, cyber threats, natural disasters, and terrorism. In three years, from 2017 to 2019, the cost of weather-related disasters in the United States was \$460 billion, according to the National Ocean and Atmospheric Administration. Households and businesses in rural and remote areas, with lower incomes, people of color, and people with disabilities are disproportionately more vulnerable to energy supply disruptions. In addition, the accelerated pace of digitizing our energy system and major end-use sectors such as buildings means that cybersecurity threats require a recognition of risks that go well beyond utility-owned assets, to the buildings Americans occupy and the equipment and appliances they use. These factors emphasize the need for pre-disaster mitigation investments and robust energy emergency planning, which enable governments and industries to anticipate and identify threats, mitigate their impacts, and respond in an informed and coordinated fashion.

The capabilities and solutions of State Energy Offices and their partners in federal agencies, utilities, fuel providers, distributed energy resource owners, and mission-critical facility operators are extraordinary. The State Energy Offices’ policy, program, and analytical roles across every energy sector – regulated and unregulated, as well as end-use sectors – is reflective of DOE’s larger role across all energy areas at the federal level. State Energy Offices are deeply engaged in the energy emergency management responsibility, with most leading Emergency Support Function 12 – Energy functions and other lifeline initiatives in partnership with key federal agencies, such as DOE’s CESER Office. Strengthening state-federal partnerships with more resources and visibility across DOE divisions and with DOE-led security activities is important to the success of national, state, and local energy emergency preparedness and response efforts.

Recommended Congressional Actions:

- Reauthorize the U.S. State Energy Program, including strengthening its energy emergency and cybersecurity preparedness provisions through the *American Energy Innovation Act* (S. 2657), S. 2094, H.R. 2114, H.R. 2, and H.R. 4447.
- Fund State Energy Emergency and Cybersecurity Preparedness by providing DOE’s CESER Office with a supplemental \$50 million for grants to State Energy Offices for energy emergency preparedness and response activities, and strengthen the office with robust support for additional staff to carry out this critical work.
- Fund the *Open Back Better Act* (H.R. 7303, S. 4060, H.R. 2, H.R. 4447) which would provide federal funding for resilience retrofits and program operations and would utilize private-sector and state

financing (e.g., Energy Savings Performance Contracting) state revolving loan funds) to pay for energy efficiency retrofits in federal, state, and local mission-critical facilities.

Recommended Federal Executive Branch Actions:

- Establish a DOE CESER-led, multi-energy infrastructure resilience planning and valuation initiative to provide technical assistance and analytical support to State Energy Offices, Public Utilities Commissions, Emergency Management Agencies, and industry partners.
- Establish a DOE-Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Accelerator to inform pre-disaster mitigation investment in state-led, high-impact, energy-related projects.
- Establish a state liaison within the U.S. Energy Information Administration that reports to the administrator and coordinates with CESER, the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, and the Office of Electricity.
- Renew and modernize the DOE-NASEO Memorandum of Understanding on Energy Emergency and Cybersecurity Preparedness, Response and Mitigation.

Priority Three - Energy System Modernization and Decarbonization to Support Security and Economic Growth

Energy system modernization – in electricity, storage, and fuels – is critical to ensuring reliable, affordable, environmentally sustainable, and resilient energy. Electric system modernization enables the integration of renewable resources, the scale-up of grid-connected and grid-supporting technologies such as storage, transportation electrification, grid-interactive efficient buildings, and higher-performing, more energy-efficient transmission and distribution infrastructure. Comprehensive planning outside of states’ regulatory processes is needed to integrate and coordinate technologies, policy priorities, workforce, and stakeholders. State Energy Offices are uniquely positioned to convene utilities, energy technology providers, and other stakeholders in their states – much as DOE is uniquely positioned to convene stakeholders at the national level – to advance comprehensive energy planning. State energy policies – distinct from but also informing regulation – guide and open energy markets to technology innovation, resulting in cost reductions and job creation.

Recommended Congressional Actions:

- Pass the *American Energy Innovation Act* (S. 2657), and significant components of H.R. 2 and H.R. 4447 to reauthorize and strengthen the U.S. State Energy Program, and to support DOE programs in electricity, energy efficiency, renewable energy, carbon capture and carbon storage and utilization, and innovative financing.
- Fund DOE’s Office of Electricity to better address the challenges and opportunities presented by America’s electricity system – generation, transmission, distribution, distributed resources, storage, microgrids. Greater support is needed to more rapidly advance critical grid research, analytical and modeling work, demonstration projects, and technical assistance for states.
- Conduct hearings on FERC actions to ensure the preservation of state authority over energy policy.

Recommended Federal Executive Branch Actions:

- Ensure FERC actions stay within its mission to regulate interstate transmission of electricity and natural gas pipelines, adhering to the principles of cooperative federalism and preserving state authority over energy policy.

- Expand assistance to states seeking analytical and modeling support for both policy development and regulatory actions in electric generation, transmission, and distribution planning, distributed energy resource grid integration, supply-side efficiency, and grid-end use sector load shifting.
- Establish a DOE-Department of the Interior-State partnership to streamline the development of clean energy infrastructure on federal lands and waters, with input from federal agencies, and robust engagement of State Energy Offices, State Public Utilities Commissions, and State Environmental Agencies.
- Ensure adequate funding and additional staffing for the Department of the Interior to perform necessary state and private engagement to more flexibly and rapidly advanced appropriate energy-related projects.
- Support states' transformational renewable energy and innovation advancements (e.g., solar, wind, storage, green hydrogen) through DOE grid modeling, analysis, and technical assistance.
- Increase research and development investments in energy storage and related resilience technologies, such as microgrids, in partnership with State Energy Offices.
- Accelerate environmentally appropriate hydropower development (including projects at non-power dams) by engaging states, streamlining licensing, and funding dam safety.

Priority Four – Energy Technology Deployment and Innovation to Create Jobs and Transform Transportation, Buildings, Manufacturing, and Power Sectors

Energy technology deployment and innovation in key sectors, such as transportation, buildings, manufacturing, and power, are critical to job creation across the U.S. supply chain, lowering operating costs, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants affecting American quality of life. These sectors and the policies that support them have traditionally operated in silos. Energy efficiency and renewable energy integration within these sectors and the grid require innovation in crosscutting strategies and data analysis to leverage the benefits of building-to-grid and vehicle-to-grid connectivity, as well as accelerated adoption of emerging technologies such as solid-state cooling, advanced materials and manufacturing processes, and innovations in low-global-warming-potential refrigerants. Transparency in data, through labeling and certification programs, is also critical to empowering consumers and businesses to make choices in line with their priorities and budgets. Larger-scale deployment of clean energy technologies through state market-opening policies and guidance are essential to businesses and consumers making use of the research investments and programs of DOE and are foundational to meeting state and national energy, job creation, and climate needs.

Recommended Congressional Actions:

- Fund and reauthorize the U.S. State Energy Program at \$3.1 billion.
- Fund and reauthorize the Weatherization Assistance Program at \$5 billion.
- Pass the *American Energy Innovation Act* (S. 2657).
- Provide State Energy Offices with access to no-interest, medium-term financing and capitalization of state-supported financing programs such as green banks, credit enhancements, and revolving loan funds for high-priority clean energy infrastructure and project investments identified in State Energy Office planning processes.
- Reauthorize and fund the U.S. Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy.
- Authorize and fund bills supporting transportation system transformation such as the Alternative Fuels Corridors Program under the *FAST Act*; Clean Cities Program; *INVEST in America Act*; and the *Clean Cars for America Act*.

- Pass the *Open Back Better Act* (H.R. 7303, S. 4060, HR 2, H.R. 4447) to advance public-private financing of energy efficiency retrofits with federal funds for resilience retrofits of federal, state, and local mission-critical facilities, and provide funding at the authorized level.
- Authorize and fund key building and appliance energy efficiency bills, including: *Rebuild America's Schools Act of 2019*; *HOPE4HOMES Act*; State Energy Efficiency Appliance and Insulation Rebate Program; code compliance (through Section 201 of S. 2137/H.R. 3962); building department functions (\$150 million through FEMA); Public Buildings Energy Efficiency Program; and Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program; and key tax credits (25C, 179D, 45L).
- Direct the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to address manufactured housing energy efficiency by issuing new upgraded standards to increase energy efficiency by at least 50 percent no later than June 30, 2021.
- Authorize and fund a program that complements DOE's valuable Industrial Assessment Centers (IACs) and assists states with identifying additional and longer-term opportunities to make larger manufacturing facilities more efficient and competitive (e.g., New York's "Flex Tech" program).

Recommended Federal Executive Branch Actions:

- Establish transformational state-federal-private sector initiatives in solar, wind, water, green hydrogen, storage, transportation electrification, building-grid-integration and energy efficiency, manufacturing energy efficiency, with the goal of moving pre-commercial technologies and technology improvements to market.
- Create a state-federal investment initiative through DOE's Office of Technology Transitions to leverage state, federal, and private-sector funding and financing for cleantech innovation.
- Expand the DOE Technology Validation Initiative to help connect emerging technologies to state and federal facilities that can serve as demonstration and validation sites.
- Provide technical assistance and modeling support for State Energy Offices to better understand their transportation and energy needs and to inform transportation electrification plans, investment strategies, and grid integration considerations.
- Strengthen U.S. DOE's Clean Cities Program and transportation electrification deployment.
- Defer to states' existing authority on vehicle emissions standards and decision making.
- Coordinate with states via DOE and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to identify flexible pilot options for reducing ozone precursors in ways that better match modern vehicles and avoid costly, additional fuel modifications.
- Establish a state challenge grant to incentivize adoption of net-zero energy/emission building codes, including critical workforce training.
- Collaborate with State Energy Offices to support a State-DOE-private sector initiative that speeds advances in and utilization of low-global warming potential refrigerants.
- Expand technical assistance support and analytical services for State Energy Offices to inform state building-grid integration policy development and regulatory options and heighten understanding of the economic and energy impacts.
- Expand support for state and private-sector utilization of DOE's Home Energy Score for existing homes to advance energy efficiency market transformation on an economically sustainable basis.
- Establish a DOE-State Energy Office initiative to demonstrate and introduce commercially available energy technologies such as solid-state refrigeration, advanced building envelope sealing technologies, and remote building assessments.
- Establish a U.S. Department of Agriculture-State Energy Office collaborative program to encourage opportunities for clean energy and energy efficiency investment under the Rural Energy for America

Program, particularly in underserved communities, and assist interested states in expanding the utilization of various “on-bill” energy efficiency and renewable energy financing programs.

- Develop a pilot program to increase the reach of DOE’s IACs in rural areas not served by an in-state IAC through State Energy Office-university partnerships, virtual energy efficiency audits, and integration with state industrial energy efficiency programs.

Priority Five – Energy Workforce Development to Ensure the Workforce Has the Skills Necessary to Obtain High-Quality Jobs and to Help Meet Our Energy Goals

As energy systems and technologies evolve and transition, so too, will the needs and composition of the U.S. energy workforce. It is important for policymakers to understand how policies, investments, and changes will affect the career opportunities and needs of displaced, current, and prospective workers in the energy sector. Workforce data and modeling, along with multi-stakeholder engagement, are critical to promoting a just transition and to advancing workforce policies and programs that help meet energy goals and priorities. State Energy Offices engage businesses, academic institutions, local governments, workforce development boards, labor, and other stakeholders in the development of energy plans, policies, and programs, which typically include workforce development and apprenticeship elements and economic development goals. State Energy Offices use workforce data through the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and U.S. Energy and Employment Report to inform their energy and economic development policymaking, energy workforce, training, apprenticeship, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) education programs to help meet their energy and economic goals.

Recommended Congressional Actions:

- Pass the *American Energy Innovation Act* (S. 2657) to reauthorize and strengthen the U.S. State Energy Program to enable economic development policy and job creation.
- Authorize and fund the U.S. Energy and Employment Report on an annual basis.
- Authorize and fund the bipartisan *Blue Collar to Green Collar Jobs Development Act* (H.R. 1315) to increase the number of skilled workers in energy-related industries, particularly among underrepresented racial, ethnic, gender, and socioeconomic groups.

Recommended Federal Executive Branch Actions:

- Produce the U.S. Energy and Employment Report on an annual basis, through a partnership between DOE and BLS and under the direction of a non-partisan advisory board charged with overseeing data collection and analysis process and providing input into the development of DOE’s narrative about data findings.
- Support research, programs, and state-level engagement in workforce diversity and job quality through DOE’s Office of Economic Impact and Diversity.
- Engage State Energy Offices, developers, and labor union partners in discussions to expand DOE’s “Solar Ready Vets” program in additional energy technology areas, such as offshore wind, green hydrogen, energy sector cybersecurity, transmission infrastructure, and other high-priority needs identified in state planning processes.
- Support State Energy Offices in delivering workforce training on energy codes, particularly as they integrate newer technologies such as solar systems, electric vehicles, and energy storage.

Priority Six – Consideration of Equity and Inclusion in Energy Policy and Programs to Reduce Energy Burdens and Ensure All Residents Have Access to Energy Opportunities and Solutions

Through meaningful stakeholder engagement and data-informed decision-making, federal, state, and local leaders can advance policies and programs that support communities impacted or ignored by energy investments, and communities that may be negatively affected by changes in energy consumption, production, and delivery. Policies and programs should address the disproportionately high energy burdens of lower-income and rural communities, as well as households with minority ethnic and racial members. Utilizing new decision-making tools and community-driven stakeholder engagement, policymakers can better understand the implications of energy actions on the ability of various populations to access energy opportunities regardless of income, geographic location, or racial or gender identity.

State Energy Offices are well-positioned to consider energy policy and program design and implementation approaches that are equitable and ensure inclusion and access to energy opportunities and solutions for all of their residents. For example, energy policies and programs that ensure any incentives provided and outcomes sought benefit as many residents of the state as possible, with particular attention to those groups that may have been underserved in the past, is a growing priority. Leveraging their role as stakeholder conveners and hubs for information, analysis, and resources, many State Energy Offices are collaborating on a sustained basis with communities affected by pollution, economic and geographic exclusion, climate change, and other inequities and patterns of disenfranchisement.

Recommended Congressional Actions:

- Pass the *American Energy Innovation Act* (S. 2657) to reauthorize the U.S. State Energy Program to support equitable and inclusive policies and program implementation from the State Energy Offices and key actors across the country.
- Authorize and fund the bipartisan *Blue Collar to Green Collar Jobs Development Act* (H.R. 1315) to increase the number of skilled workers in energy-related industries, particularly among underrepresented racial, ethnic, gender, and socioeconomic groups.
- Pass the *Open Back Better Act* (H.R. 7303, S. 4060, H.R. 2, H.R. 4447) to prioritize mission-critical energy efficiency, renewable energy, and resilience investments in environmental justice communities.
- Develop analytical processes for federal energy legislation to consider communities and populations impacted, ignored, or overburdened by energy investments, and communities that may be negatively affected by federally-driven changes to conventional energy investments.

Recommended Federal Executive Branch Actions:

- In examining its own policies and programs, DOE should draw upon the expertise and experiences of State Energy Offices in advancing inclusion and equitable access to energy opportunities and solutions.
- DOE should elevate and draw upon the expertise and network of the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity to examine approaches to improving federal energy programs' consideration of disproportionately high energy burdens of lower-income and rural communities, as well as households with or businesses and institutions led by minority ethnic and racial members.