



NASEO Energy Security Quarterly Newsletter November 18, 2024

Upcoming Events:

- [NASEO Energy Security Committee All-Hazards Call](#): November 20, 2024, 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. ET (third Wednesday of each month)
- [DOE CESER and GDO Risk Assessment Approaches Cohort Session 8](#): December 3, 2024, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. ET – Virtual
- [DOE CESER and GDO Risk Mitigation Strategies Cohort Session 8](#): December 12, 2024, 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. ET – Virtual
- [NASEO Energy Security Committee \(State and Territory Energy Offices Only\)](#): December 10, 2024, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. ET – Virtual (second Tuesday of each month)
- NASEO Webinar: Energy Security Foundational Data Education Webinar: Coming Soon
- NASEO Webinar: Cybersecurity for Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure: Coming Soon

In the News

Kentucky Office of Energy Policy Participating in FEMA External Stakeholder Working Group to Improve Hazard Mitigation Assistance Programs

Since 2017, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has convened an [External Stakeholder Working Group \(ESWG\)](#) comprised of representatives from state, local, territorial, and federal government entities who provide feedback on FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) programs. ESWG promotes engagement between FEMA and the states and locals implementing HMA programs and offers a unique opportunity to state, local, tribal, and territorial (SLTT) government to provide their perspective on several HMA programs, including Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP), HMGP Post-Fire, the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC), and the Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) programs. Expression of interest forms are accepted on a rolling basis for SLTT representatives. Amanda LeMaster from the Kentucky Office of Energy Policy is among the representatives a part of the ESWG. The feedback and insight Amanda and other working group members provide will be used to streamline and improve HMA programs in the future. Amanda's extensive experience in hazard mitigation grant writing and managing Kentucky's BRIC grant is unique and valuable addition to the ESWG. For more information on [ESWG](#) or questions reach out to Amanda LeMaster (amanda.lemaster@ky.gov).

Oregon Department of Energy Presents State Energy Security Plan to Legislature

On September 23, 2024, Max Woods, the Oregon Department of Energy's Assistant Director for Nuclear Safety and Emergency Preparedness, was [invited to speak with the Oregon State Legislature's House](#)

[Interim Committee on Emergency Management, General Government, and Veterans](#) about liquid fuel distribution and Oregon's [State Energy Security Plan](#). In 2022, the Oregon Legislature passed [Senate Bill 1567](#), which directed the Oregon Department of Energy to prepare an Energy Security Plan in accordance with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) federal statute, in addition to also evaluating fuel resilience strategies. Max outlined the plan's guiding principles, the federal and state requirements, and the collaborative process to draft the plan, including coordinating with partners from the Oregon Public Utility Commission, tribal nations, and private industry. In addition to the plan, Max presented on the state's fuel distribution network and discussed the supply and movement of fuels during a potential Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake. During the hearing, the Committee asked questions about the granularity of information within the plan and the logistics of delivering fuel by barge during a Cascadia scenario. The Energy Security Plan is available [on ODOE's website](#).

Utah Office of Energy Development Supports the Development of the Wildfire Fund

On March 13, 2024, Utah [Senate Bill 224](#) was signed into law by Utah Governor Spencer Cox. This legislation permits large-scale electric utilities to establish a fire fund to provide supplemental coverage for fire damage payments. Additionally, the legislation caps claims and incentivizes utilities to purchase and maintain dispatchable generation capacity through cost recovery. Prior to its passage, the Utah Office of Energy Development worked in partnership with Utah's Public Utility Commission, and Utah's Forestry, Fire and State Lands to review the introduced legislation, to ensure it aligned with their agencies' goals. After the law came into effect as of May 1, 2024, when a large-scale electric utility with at least 200,000 retail customers requests a disbursement from the fire fund, the Utah Office of Energy Development, among other offices, is notified and reviews the request to determine if the distribution of funds is appropriate. For more information or questions about this wildfire management policy please reach out to Harry Hansen (harryhansen@utah.gov).

The Maine Governor's Energy Office Releases 2024 Winter Heating Guide

On October 16, 2024, the Maine Governor's Energy Offices released an updated [Winter Heating Resources](#) for the 2024-2025 winter heating season. This annual proactive communication discusses forecasted energy prices and provides residents with guidance on managing their energy needs going into the winter, including heating fuel guidance on requesting automatic delivery of fuel from fuel providers and securing fixed price contracts to limit price fluctuation. The contact information of Maine energy agencies residents may need (including the Governor's Energy Office) is also included in the resource, as well as a summary of energy efficiency and energy assistance programs offered throughout the state. This winter heating guide aims to keep residents informed and safe as winter approaches. For more information or questions about the 2024 Winter Heating Guide please reach out to Dan Burgess (dan.burgess@maine.gov).

NASEO Hosts Cybersecurity Advisory Team for State Solar (CATSS) Capstone Workshop On October 24, 2024, NASEO hosted a solar-cybersecurity workshop and exercise to socialize and validate the CATSS toolkit, expand the CATSS advisory group stakeholder network, and explore incident response and mitigation actions to enhance solar cybersecurity. The event engaged a number of new entities, including the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), the American Clean Power Association (ACP), and the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Deployment Office (GDO), all of which expressed interest in connecting with State Energy Offices. NASEO has released a [suite of tools to support key stakeholders in enhancing solar-cybersecurity](#), including Cybersecurity Guidance for State Procurement of Solar Assets, Legislative Engagement Options for Solar Cybersecurity,

Workforce Development Support Tools, and Solar Supply Chain Cybersecurity Vulnerability Assessments, and will continue to disseminate guidance and resources from the project. Additionally, NASEO will be exploring opportunities to engage State Energy Offices on cybersecurity considerations for the Grid Resilience and Innovation Program (GRIP), and Solar for All programs. For more information on how to get involved with CATSS, or to connect with the FBI, SEIA, ACP, or GDO on solar cybersecurity issues, contact Campbell Delahoyde (cdelahoyde@naseo.org) and Sarah Trent (strent@naseo.org).

Reports and Tools

NASEO's 2025 Bipartisan Policy Recommendations for the Incoming Congress and Administration Spotlight on Supporting Electric System Reliability and Security

On November 4, 2024, NASEO released our [2025 Bipartisan Policy Recommendations for the Incoming Congress and Administration](#). The recommendations focus on: supporting state-federal energy policy and program coordination; advancing federal permitting reform; supporting electric system reliability and security; modernizing the electric grid; incentivizing state energy office – private sector energy partnerships; and create opportunities for underserved communities. Highlighted among these recommendations is the ongoing need to support electric system reliability and security. Specific recommendations are provided below:

- Extend DOE's U.S. State Energy Program authorization and funding for transmission and distribution grid planning and state energy security planning through the bipartisan SECURE Grid Act (H.R. 9083) with clarification that states, not DOE, have final decision-making authority on the appropriateness of each state's energy security plan.
- Ensure DOE energy system security and cybersecurity activities benefit from Assistant Secretary-level leadership, are closely coordinated with DOE's electricity programs, and fully recognize State Energy Offices' leadership roles.
- Increase federal funding to support a robust distribution transformer supply chain and great availability of transformers.
- Strengthen DOE energy security activities by emphasizing energy fuel source (e.g., electric-natural gas) and telecommunications interdependencies and ensure substantially greater integration of security, cybersecurity, and resilience among DOE offices and divisions and with State Energy Offices.
- Expand DOE's clean energy innovation fellowships to place professionals focused on energy security planning and risk mitigation in interested State Energy Offices to help strengthen the nation's energy security and energy workforce.
- Establish a state energy security certificate-based training program to build energy security workforce expertise and capacity.
- Expand the successful DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) Cybersecurity Advisory Team for State Solar (CATSS) to other distributed energy resources and to enhance existing solar cybersecurity actions.
- Ensure FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities program prioritizes high-impact, energy resilience projects.

INL Offering Technical Assistance and Training for GRIP and Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grant Program Awardees

Idaho National Laboratory (INL) is offering [technical assistance for all Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grant Program and Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships \(GRIP\) Program awardees](#) to help enable the secure the deployment of digital energy infrastructure. Subject matter experts from the

national laboratory will provide direct assistance to awardees in evaluating their security and available mitigation options at every stage of program deployment, from installed assets to procurement through program design. INL assistance focuses on key digital energy components including inverters, electric vehicle (EV) + electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE), battery energy storage system (BESS) + management systems, and orchestration software (DERMS/ADMS). More information on [INL's Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grant Program and GRIP technical assistance offerings and application](#) can be found online.

CISA Launches New Portal for Cybersecurity Reporting

On August 29, 2024, the Cybersecurity Infrastructure and Security Agency (CISA) launched their new online portal for voluntary incident reporting. The [CISA Service Portal](#) introduces improved features including the capability to save the process of a report and provide updates later, share reports, and search and filter for reports. Additionally, the platform now enables users to have conversations with CISA within the portal. The CISA Service Portal is intended to streamline the process of reporting cyber incidents, phishing attempts, malware, and vulnerabilities. An additional mechanism for reporting is the [Electric Emergency Incident and Disturbance Report \(DOE-417\)](#), for private industry to share electrical disturbances and incident information directly with the Department of Energy.