



NASEO Rural Energy Working Group Quarterly Newsletter August 2025

Table of Contents:

[Upcoming NASEO Events](#)

[In Case You Missed It](#)

[Announcements and Opportunities](#)

[Reports, Tools, News, and Partner Events](#)

Upcoming NASEO Events

- *Virtual:* [NASEO Rural Energy Working Group Meeting: Bioenergy 101](#). September 19, 2025, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. ET.

Please join NASEO for our 2025 Q3 Rural Energy Working Group Meeting, which will kick off a series of educational webinars on bioenergy, exploring the federal policy and program landscape, economic development opportunities, emerging research and development, and how bioenergy can factor into comprehensive state energy planning. This kickoff webinar will provide a “bioenergy 101” for State Energy Offices and will feature industry perspectives, an overview of educational resources, and insights on how bioenergy is integrated into one state’s comprehensive energy planning process. Please register [here](#) and reach out to Jasmine Xie (jxie@naseo.org) with any questions.

- *In Person:* NASEO 2025 Annual Meeting. The Conrad Hotel. Nashville, TN. October 27 – October 30, 2025.

For the latest information about upcoming and past NASEO Rural Energy Working Group events, please visit the [NASEO Rural Energy Working Group Page](#).

In Case You Missed It

- *Virtual:* [NASEO Rural Energy Working Group Webinar: State Roles in Bolstering Agricultural Energy Efficiency](#). April 23, 2025, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET.
- This webinar will featured presentations from state agencies, including the New York State Energy Research Development and Authority and the Colorado Department of Agriculture about boosting agricultural energy efficiency through grant and technical assistance programs. These presentations highlighted educational resources and the outcomes of long-standing programs. The [recording](#) and [slides](#) from this event can be found online.

Announcements and Opportunities

USDA Pauses FY26 REAP Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) issued [a notice](#) on June 30, 2025, that the Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) will not be accepting applications. The FY26 application window was originally expected to open between July 1- September 30, 2025. While grant applications received during this time will not be reviewed by the Agency, guaranteed loan applications will continue to be accepted and reviewed. USDA expects to begin accepting REAP applications again on October 1, 2025.

Groundswell RFP for Solar Developers to Expand Community Solar Across the Southeast

Groundswell is accepting proposals from experienced solar developers to bring new community solar and battery storage projects to rural communities in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia through the Southeast Rural Power, Solar for All Program. This Request for Proposals (RFP) will remain open until August 8, 2025, 5:00 p.m. ET. The full RFP can be found [here](#).

Wisconsin Public Service Commission Rural Energy Startup Program

The Wisconsin Rural Energy Startup Program (RESP), supported by funding from the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), continues to accept applications beyond the most recent grant round's July 16, 2025, application deadline, until funding is expended. Eligible applicants include local governments that have not received direct allocations from DOE's EECBG program and rural communities. More guidance can be found [here](#).

Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources Accepting Applications for Government Leading by Example Program

The Idaho Office of Energy and Mineral Resources (OEMR) is accepting applications from rural cities and counties that want to save energy in existing public buildings. Approved applicants will receive a building energy audit which will identify energy saving opportunities and may qualify for some cost-share funding on energy efficient retrofits. A list of Idaho cities and counties that are eligible for funding can be found [here](#).

Ohio House Bill 15 Enacted and Incentivizes Energy Development on Brownfields

Governor DeWine signed Ohio House Bill 15 into law in May 2025, which incentivizes and accelerates energy development, including renewable energy projects, on former industrial sites, landfills, and abandoned mines. The bill text can be found [here](#).

Reports, Tools, News, and Partner Events

West Virginia Critical Mineral Recovery on Reclaimed Mine Lands

State government, researchers, nonprofits, and community groups in West Virginia have been leading efforts to restore mountain streams and rivers across the state that have been polluted with acid mine runoff from abandoned mines. A higher-tech version of this cleanup process recovers rare earth minerals that can be used for producing batteries, solar panels, and other clean energy technologies.

Land Use Code Guidance for Deploying Agrivoltaics in Colorado

This new resource from the Colorado Agrivoltaic Learning Center helps Colorado's county-level planners and policymakers learn about the benefits and develop regulations to enable agrivoltaic systems, focusing on upfront planning, adaptive designs, and best construction practices. The resource offers guidance on siting, permitting, and regulating agrivoltaic systems in line with local governments' existing land use codes. The full resource can be found [here](#).

Alaska Energy Authority Role in Supporting Rural Energy Infrastructure

This video captures the Alaska Energy Authority's (AEA) role in maintaining critical energy infrastructure that service rural areas. To this end, AEA conducts facility condition assessments, offers project funding, and deploys circuit riders for on-site technical assistance and vocational training on operating powerplants and bulk fuel systems.

(in-person): 2025 Oregon Infrastructure Summit

Seaside, Oregon

September 8-9, 2025

The Oregon Infrastructure Summit, presented by Business Oregon and the Northwest Environmental Business Council, will feature an agenda track to discuss public-private investment opportunities, resources, and federal programs for rural communities. Other panels are also expected to address issues relevant to rural energy needs. The Oregon Department of Energy is organizing a panel on the future of Oregon's energy grid. The event website can be found [here](#).

Summit for Appalachian Manufacturing Strategy

October 16, 2025, 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. ET

Relmagine Appalachia, a non-profit coalition of stakeholders in Appalachia, will be hosting a virtual event to facilitate conversations around the region's manufacturing opportunities to improve the environment and repurpose existing physical and workforce infrastructure. The registration link can be found [here](#).

NASEO wants to highlight your news and success stories! Please share upcoming events, announcements, publications, and relevant news stories, in the next NASEO's Rural Energy Working Group Quarterly Newsletter. More resources and opportunities can be found on NASEO's [Rural Energy Issues](#) page. You may direct any submissions or feedback to Jasmine Xie (jxie@naseo.org).