



NASEO Rural Energy Working Group Quarterly Newsletter November 2025

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Upcoming NASEO Events

- **Virtual: [Joint NASEO Transportation Committee and Rural Energy Working Group Meeting: State Bioenergy and Alternative Fuel Policies](#)**. November 19, 2025, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. ET.
Please join for the second installation of an educational webinar series on bioenergy through the NASEO Rural Energy Working Group, co-hosted by the NASEO Transportation Committee. This webinar will feature state and industry association perspectives on low carbon fuel standards and other critical state interventions that unlock the bioenergy and alternative fuels market to progress towards energy supply and emission reduction targets. The registration link can be found [here](#). Please reach out to Jasmine Xie (jxie@naseo.org) with any questions.

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 Transportation Committee Webinar: Building a Domestic Supply of Critical Minerals for Lithium-ion Battery Manufacturing**. October 23, 2025, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. ET.
This meeting, hosted by NASEO's Transportation Committee, featured a presentation from CarbonScape, a New Zealand-based company, on their proprietary technology that transforms biomass feedstock into biographite. The recording can be found [here](#), and the presentation slides [here](#).
- **Virtual: NASEO Hydrogen State Working Group Meeting**. October 16, 2025, 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm ET.
This month, the NASEO Hydrogen Working Group meeting focused on resiliency, air quality, and economic benefits associated with hydrogen microgrids in the United States and internationally. This included a presentation on the [Hydroglen microgrid](#) in Scotland, a first-

of-its-kind project demonstrating a replicable model for green hydrogen-powered farming communities. Please reach out to Kelsey Jones (kjones@naseo.org) and Grace Lowe (glowe@naseo.org) with any questions.

- **Virtual: NASEO Rural Energy Working Group Meeting: Bioenergy 101.** September 19, 2025, 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. ET.
NASEO's 2025 Q3 Rural Energy Working Group Meeting kicked off a series of educational webinars on bioenergy, exploring the federal policy and program landscape, market opportunities, emerging research and development, and how bioenergy can factor into comprehensive state energy planning. This kickoff webinar provided a "bioenergy 101" for State Energy Offices, featuring a global market snapshot, an overview of the U.S. Department of Energy's Bioenergy Technologies Office, recent production incentive changes, and trends in research and development. The presentation slides can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Announcements and Opportunities

Appalachian Regional Commission ARISE Grant Applications Now Open

The Appalachian Regional Commission's Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies (ARISE) grant program is accepting pre-applications for multi-state implementation and planning projects that accelerate large-scale, regional economic transformation. Planning projects are eligible for up to \$500,000 in grant funding, while implementation projects can be awarded up to \$10 million. Pre-applications must be submitted by December 5, 2025. More information can be found on the [program webpage](#) and the full funding opportunity announcement, linked [here](#).

U.S. Economic Development Administration FY2025 Disaster Supplemental Grant Program

In July 2025, the U.S. Economic Development Administration announced the FY2025 Disaster Supplemental Grant Program that makes \$1.45 billion available to support economic recovery and resilience activities in areas that received major disaster declarations in calendar years 2023 and 2024. The funding opportunity offers three pathways for prospective applicants: Readiness, Implementation, and Industry Transformation. Applications for Readiness and Implementation grants will be accepted on a rolling basis, and applications for Industry Transformation grants will be due on March 3, 2026. More information can be found [here](#).

Accepting Applications: Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovations: Rural Energy Startup Program Round 2

The Rural Energy Startup Program (RESP) is funded by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) and supports communities taking initial steps to reduce energy use, reduce fossil fuel emissions, and improve energy efficiency. The Wisconsin Office of Energy Innovations (OEI) will continue to accept applications in the PSC Grant System. Applications will be reviewed, and eligible projects will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis while funds remain.

Reports, Tools, News, and Partner Events

New York Announces Agrivoltaics Demonstration Awards

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) announced over \$7 million in awards to projects that co-locate solar and agricultural operations in New York State. The awarded projects incorporate elevated and solar tracking panels to support co-located cattle

grazing and shaded crop production, while enabling research on soil health and water management strategies associated with agrivoltaics. More information can be found [here](#).

North Carolina Launches Resilient, Clean Energy Microgrid Initiative

The North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality State Energy Office in partnership with the Land of Sky Regional Council, NC Sustainable Energy Association, Footprint Project, and other regional partners, launched a \$5 million Microgrid Initiative. The North Carolina State Energy Office is utilizing U.S. State Energy Program funding to develop up to 24 stationary microgrids across six counties affected by Hurricane Helene, along with two mobile microgrids to equip communities facing outages across the state. These microgrids make solar and battery equipment accessible to community organizations and rural locales across the state for both emergency use and ongoing preparedness. More information on the Initiative can be found [here](#).

Commercial Aviation Alternative Fuels Initiative State Initiatives Page

The Commercial Aviation Alternative Fuels Initiative (CAAFI) collects a state database on activities, stakeholder entities, and resources supporting sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) commercialization. This State Initiatives Page includes an interactive map and case studies of projects to produce various feedstocks and conversion processes for SAF deployment. The webpage can be found linked [here](#).

Virtual: Colorado Agrivoltaic Learning Center: Agrivoltaics in Colorado Webinar. November 20, 2025, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. MST.

This event will feature 2024 Colorado Department of Agriculture Agrivoltaics Grant recipients to discuss their grant funded projects, progress, and challenges. The registration link can be found [here](#).

Building Resilient Economies in Coal Communities Toolkit: Coal Communities' Pathways for Economic Diversification

The National Association of Counties' Building Resilient Economies in Coal Communities (BRECC) Economic Diversification Toolkit provides communities with a roadmap towards diversifying and strengthening local economies. BRECC provides technical assistance to communities impacted by coal industry changes, helping to prepare for and recover from economic shocks, such as industry downturns, supply chain disruptions, consumer demand changes, or natural disasters. The web-based toolkit can be found [here](#).

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