

U.S. EPA Clean Energy-Environment State Partnership Program Program Overview

EPA estimates that if all states were to implement comprehensive clean energy-environment policies, the expected growth in demand for electricity could be cut in half by 2025. This would mean savings of over 480 billion kWh of electricity per year, enough to power 42 million households, and a reduction of emissions equivalent to that of 70 million passenger cars, while saving approximately \$35 billion in annual energy costs.

What is the Clean Energy-Environment State Partnership Program?

Recognizing the environmental as well as the economic and security value of cost-effective clean energy, EPA has created the Clean Energy-Environment State Partnership Program. The Partnership Program will help states develop and implement goals and a robust plan for using existing and new energy policies and programs to improve air quality, decrease energy use, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and enhance economic development. Partner States will work across relevant agencies to develop a comprehensive state-specific Clean Energy-Environment State Action Plan. This Plan is the cornerstone of the Program that will further the goal of achieving balanced, economically sensible environmental and energy policies and activities that promote energy efficiency, clean distributed generation, and renewable energy in the pursuit of state-determined environmental and economic goals.

What are Partner Benefits?

EPA will provide access to a comprehensive package of planning, policy, technical, analytical and information resources to help State Partners establish and implement sound Clean Energy-Environment State Action Plans.

EPA will provide:

- A Clean Energy-Environment Guide to Action -- a compilation of Best Practice Clean Energy Policies, and other guidance materials, based on over a decade of support for and evaluation of state energy and environment policies;
- Access and support to a suite of analytic tools that assess emissions, economic and public health impacts of energy efficiency and renewable energy policies;
- Technical support to apply models and evaluate options ;
- Communication resources to inform key stakeholders, the public, and other Partner State decision makers of the clean energy-environment goals and activities; and,
- Public recognition for the environmental benefits that result from the Partner State's efforts.

What are Partner Roles?

Partner States will agree to work with EPA to develop and implement their state-specific Clean Energy-Environment State Action Plan and report annually on progress towards establishing and achieving the Plan's goals. Partner States will agree to:

- Identify and analyze a range of options for policies that support clean energy and improve air quality, based on guidance and technical assistance from EPA and other sources;
- Establish one or more specific and robust clean energy-air quality goals including state goals for cost-effective clean energy;
- Support implementation of the Plan to achieve goals;
- Foster intra-state collaboration: designate a senior-level staff person to champion and manage the effort, establish a committee of relevant state offices to participate in developing and executing the Plan, and create a network of key state stakeholders (from the business, academic, environmental and other interests) to provide advice and support for the Plan; and,
- Publicize actions and accomplishments.

What is the Partnership Agreement?

The Partnership Agreement is an MOU signed by EPA and the State Partner (one or more state agencies) that lays out specific responsibilities of each organization that will ensure we reach our mutual goal of identifying, developing and implementing effective clean energy policies to improve our environment and the economy. See the related Memorandum of Understanding for more details.

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