



NASEO's 40th Anniversary Annual Meeting Accelerate Innovation

Final Agenda

Tuesday, October 27, 2026 – Pre-Conference Sessions for States, Territories, and Affiliate Partners

1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. (*Meadows A Ballroom, Lobby Level*)

An Islanded System: Energy Security in the U.S. Territories and Remote Communities

This session will feature a facilitated discussion on the unique energy security challenges facing U.S. territories and islanded communities and explore potential policy and programmatic solutions for each territory's resources and policy landscape.

Presenters:

Kyle Fleming, Director, U.S. Virgin Islands Energy Office

Sione Kava, Director, Territorial Energy Office, American Samoa Government

Lauren Garibay, Director of Energy, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Works

Rebecca Respicio, Director, Guam Energy Office

Curtis Thayer, Executive Director, Alaska Energy Authority; Member, NASEO Board of Directors

1:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. (*Flatirons 2, Lobby Level*)

NASEO's Geothermal Power Accelerator: Technological Advancements and Policy Options

NASEO's Geothermal Power Accelerator states will participate in a roundtable discussion with their Accelerator peers, as well as representatives from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Geothermal. During the discussion, states will hear the latest from DOE, share geothermal power policy highlights, and discuss what's next for the Accelerator — including potential policy coordination options for 2027.

Moderators:

Rebecca "Puck" Stair, Director, Energy Conservation and Management Division,
New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Ben Brouwer, Bureau Chief, Energy Bureau, Montana Department of Environmental Quality; Member, NASEO Board of Directors

Presenters:

Cassie Powers, Chief of Staff, National Association of State Energy Officials
Elisabet Metcalfe, External Affairs Director, Office of Geothermal, U.S. Department of Energy

3:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

NASEO Concurrent Regional Meetings

The NASEO regional meetings provide an opportunity for states to discuss program and policy implementation and share best practices. The meetings are open to NASEO State and Territory Energy Offices and NASEO Affiliate Partners.

Central Region Meeting (*Flatirons 3, Lobby Level*)

Moderators:

Ben Brouwer, Bureau Chief, Energy Bureau, Montana Department of Environmental Quality; Member, NASEO Board of Directors
Maria Effertz, Director, Division of Community Services, North Dakota Department of Commerce; Member, NASEO Board of Directors

Mid-Atlantic Region Meeting (*Meadows A, Lobby Level*)

Moderator:

Nick Burger, Deputy Director, Energy Administration, District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment; Member, NASEO Board of Directors

Midwest Region Meeting (*Meadows C and D, Lobby Level*)

Moderators:

Joe Pater, Director, Office of Energy Innovation, Wisconsin Public Service Commission; Member, NASEO Board of Directors
Emily Wilbur, Director, Division of Energy, Missouri Department of Natural Resources; Member, NASEO Board of Directors

Northeast Region Meeting (*Meadows B, Lobby Level*)

Moderator:

Elizabeth Mahony, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources; Member, NASEO Board of Directors

Southeast Region Meeting *(Flatirons 4, Lobby Level)*

Moderator:

Kenya Stump, Executive Director, Office of Energy Policy, Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet; Member, NASEO Board of Directors

Western Region Meeting *(Flatirons 2, Lobby Level)*

Moderators:

Janine Benner, Director, Oregon Department of Energy; Member, NASEO Board of Directors

Curtis Thayer, Executive Director, Alaska Energy Authority; Member, NASEO Board of Directors

4:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

NASEO Annual Business Meeting *(Flatirons 2, Lobby Level)*

NASEO's Annual Business Meeting will include the review and approval of NASEO's Fiscal Year 2027 budget.

Presenters:

Molly Cripps, Director, Office of Energy Programs, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation; Chair, NASEO Board of Directors

Kristofor Anderson, Director, Energy Resources Division, Georgia Environmental Finance Authority; Treasurer, NASEO Board of Directors

Susan Stocker, Chief Financial Officer, National Association of State Energy Officials

4:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.

NASEO Board of Directors Meeting *(Flatirons 2, Lobby Level)*

NASEO's Board of Directors Meeting will cover NASEO policy, programmatic, and administrative updates of the organization as well as the election of NASEO's Executive Officers.

Presenters:

David Terry, President, National Association of State Energy Officials

Molly Cripps, Director, Office of Energy Programs, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation; Chair, NASEO Board of Directors

Dr. Will Toor, Executive Director, Colorado Energy Office; Vice Chair, NASEO Board of Directors

5:45 p.m. *(Offsite)*

State and Affiliate Partner Networking in Boulder

Meet with fellow attendees for dinner and networking in downtown Boulder, where Pearl Street and the Flatirons set the scene for new connections.

Wednesday, October 28, 2026 – Open to All Registered Attendees

8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. (*Flatirons 1, Lobby Level*)

40 Years Strong: Celebrating State and Territory Energy Leadership

Join NASEO leadership in marking four decades of support for the 56 State and Territory Energy Offices.

Presenters:

David Terry, President, National Association of State Energy Officials
Molly Cripps, Director, Office of Energy Programs, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation; Chair, NASEO Board of Directors

8:15 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. (*Flatirons 1, Lobby Level*)

Colorado in Focus: Pioneering Energy Policy Innovations

Learn about Colorado Energy Office programs, policies, and investments that work to reduce emissions through zero-emission transportation, electrification, renewable energy, and energy efficiency for residents, businesses, community organizations, and public institutions.

Moderator:

Molly Cripps, Director, Office of Energy Programs, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation; Chair, NASEO Board of Directors

Presenter:

Dr. Will Toor, Executive Director, Colorado Energy Office; Vice Chair, NASEO Board of Directors

8:45 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. (*Flatirons 1, Lobby Level*)

Artificial Intelligence at Work: Faster and Cheaper Energy Siting, Permitting, and Utility Operations

From automating environmental reviews to speeding transmission and generation permitting, artificial intelligence tools are helping state agencies, regional transmission authorities (RTO), independent system operators (ISO), and utilities cut through paperwork bottlenecks and accelerate timelines. This session will showcase real-world artificial intelligence applications transforming state permitting, RTO/ISO interconnection queues, and utility operations, and explore what states need to consider as they adopt these tools or support utilities in deploying them.

Moderator

Vince Maiden, Director, Virginia Department of Energy

Presenters:

Anna Holland, Senior Manager, Deloitte
Danny McFadden, Partner, Vulcan Technologies

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9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. (*Flatirons 1, Lobby Level*)

Keynote Address: U.S. Department of Energy Leadership – Stabilize, Optimize, and Grow

The critical work of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Electricity mitigates reliability risks, improves system performance, reduces exposure to external supply dependencies, and enables cost-effective investment. This session will highlight key federal actions to scale for new load, deliver affordability, and enhance energy security and reliability.

Moderator:

Josh Elliott, Deputy Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Energy

Presenter:

The Honorable Catherine Jereza, Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity, U.S. Department of Energy

9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. – **Break** (*Prefunction Area, Lobby Level*)

10:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. (*Flatirons 1, Lobby Level*)

Google's Energy Impact Program: State- and Community-Driven Investments

Since 2023, Google has collaborated with governments, utilities, and nonprofit organizations to drive down electricity bills and support community-based initiatives. Join this session to learn about partnership and co-investment opportunities for State and Territory Energy Offices.

Moderator:

Molly Cripps, Director, Office of Energy Programs, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation; Chair, NASEO Board of Directors

Presenter:

Katie Ottenweller, Head of Community Power, North America and Southeast Regional Lead, Energy Market Development, Google

10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m. (*Flatirons 1, Lobby Level*)

DOE’s Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation Priorities

The U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation (CMEI) accelerates next-generation energy technologies to strengthen U.S. energy security. Join CMEI leadership for a discussion on shared state-federal priorities and directions.

Moderator:

Maria Effertz, Director, Division of Community Services, North Dakota Department of Commerce; Member, NASEO Board of Directors

Presenter:

Michael Helmer, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation, U.S. Department of Energy

10:45 a.m. - 11:15 a.m. (*Flatirons 1, Lobby Level*)

Delivering the Promise of Advanced Nuclear: NRC Advances in Safety and Permitting

As advanced reactor technologies move from design to deployment, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is modernizing its safety and licensing framework—including the newly finalized risk-informed, technology-inclusive regulatory pathway—to keep pace with innovation while upholding rigorous safety standards. This session will explore how these permitting advances are streamlining the path to construction and operation for advanced nuclear projects, and how State Energy Offices can work with the NRC to support deployment in their states.

Moderator:

Molly Cripps, Director, Office of Energy Programs, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation; Chair, NASEO Board of Directors

Presenter:

The Honorable Matthew Marzano, Commissioner, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (*Flatirons 1, Lobby Level*)

Advanced Nuclear Progress: Leveraging First Mover State and Industry Actions

A growing cohort of first mover states is pairing legislation, incentives, and workforce investment with industry partnerships to position themselves at the front of the advanced nuclear deployment pipeline. This session will highlight the strategies, lessons learned, and early wins from these leading states and their industry partners, offering a roadmap other states can adapt as they build their own advanced nuclear strategies.

Moderator:

Kenya Stump, Executive Director, Office of Energy Policy, Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet; Member, NASEO Board of Director

Presenters:

John Williams, Chief Policy Officer, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority; Past Chair, NASEO Board of Directors

Philip Jordan, Chief Executive Officer, BW Research Partnership; Senior Fellow, Harvard University

Jonah Ury, Principal, Nuclear Investment and Strategy, Office of Energy Dominance Financing, U.S. Department of Energy

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12:00 p.m. – 1:15 p.m. – **Networking Lunch** (*Flatirons 1, Lobby Level*)

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. (**Concurrent Sessions**)

Breakout 1 (*Flatirons 3, Lobby Level*)

Geopolitics of Energy Supplies, Grid Components, Materials, and Cascading Impacts

Global commodity shocks and geopolitical instability are no longer background noise for state energy planners—they are critical data points to monitor. This session explores how disruptions to oil markets, restrictions on foreign-sourced grid technology, and international policy responses are reshaping long-term energy planning. Drawing on strategies deployed abroad in response to comparable disruptions, panelists will discuss practical approaches states can take now to strengthen long-term energy security.

Moderator:

Maria Effertz, Director, Division of Community Services, North Dakota Department of Commerce; Member, NASEO Board of Directors

Presenters:

Mark Glick, Chief Energy Officer, Hawaii State Energy Office

Bridget Bartol, Executive Director, Industry and Regulatory Affairs, Grid, National Electrical Manufacturers Association

Megan Levy, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Project Manager, Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response, U.S. Department of Energy

Sydney Gilliam, Program Executive, Home Energy Rebate Programs, IEM

Breakout 2 (*Meadows Ballroom, Lobby Level*)

Untapped Capacity: Using Surplus Interconnection Service to Accelerate Speed to Power

As demand from data centers and other large loads strains interconnection queues, existing capacity at already-interconnected points offers a faster, lower-cost pathway to bring new generation and load online. This session will explore how states and utilities can support expanding the use of Surplus Interconnection Services without compromising grid reliability.

Moderator:

Bryan Early, Chief of Staff, California Energy Commission

Presenters:

Julie Kempf, Chief of Staff, Indiana Office of Energy Development

Yaron Miller, Project Director, The Pew Charitable Trusts

Zeryai Hagos, Regional Vice President, Integrated System Planning, Xcel Energy

Ryan Westphal, Director, Resource Utilization, Midcontinent Independent System Operator

Umed Paliwal, Senior Scientist, University of California, Berkeley

Breakout 3 (Flatirons 4, Lobby Level)

Powering Safely in the Lithium-Ion Era

As lithium-ion batteries expand across electric vehicles, grid-scale storage, and consumer devices, safety education is more critical than ever – particularly for emergency responders, who are first on the scene when something goes wrong. This session covers key risks—thermal runaway, off-gassing, and fire behavior—across diverse settings like roadways, battery energy storage system sites, and aircraft – and highlights State Energy Office-led coordination efforts around first responder training.

Moderator:

John Williams, Chief Policy Officer, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority; Past Chair, NASEO Board of Directors

Presenters:

Captain Richard Birt (Retired), Founder, Solar And Fire Education

Shauna Beland, Director of Energy Programs and Policy, Solar, Workforce Development, Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources

Eric Stoutenburg, Chief Development Officer, Eolian Energy

2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. (***Concurrent Sessions***)

Breakout 1 (Flatirons 3, Lobby Level)

Cruel Summers: Wildfires, Drought, and Resilience

Extended and increasingly hot summers leading to drought and wildfires are placing a growing strain on electric grid reliability, our built environment, and community health and safety. Hear from experts on strategic investments to mitigate impacts on critical grid operations, and cross-agency adaptation planning to keep communities safe and ensure the lights stay on in the face of compounding hazards.

Moderator:

Rebecca "Puck" Stair, Director, Energy Conservation and Management Division, New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Presenters:

Jennifer Gimbel, Senior Water Policy Scholar, Colorado Water Center, Colorado State University

Del Shannon, Dams and Hydropower Lead, Knight Piésold Consulting

Jared Leader, Senior Director, Research and Industry Strategy, Resilience, Smart Electric Power Alliance

Breakout 2 (Meadows Ballroom, Lobby Level)

Maximizing Flexible Distributed Energy Resources and Grid Storage

As demand for affordable, reliable power grows, flexible distributed energy resources and grid storage offer a path forward. This session explores how State Energy Offices, utilities, and private sector partners can scale these resources to maximize grid efficiency while lowering costs for businesses and consumers alike.

Moderator:

Nick Burger, Deputy Director, Energy Administration, District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment; Member, NASEO Board of Directors

Presenters:

Melissa Bailey, Director, State Energy Office, Vermont Department of Public Service

Kyle Fleming, Director, U.S. Virgin Islands Energy Office

Lucie Drummond, Senior Director, Market Policy, Voltus

Breakout 3 (Flatirons 4, Lobby Level)

Rethinking Transmission Across Regions

Interregional transmission has the potential to strengthen grid reliability, lower costs, and create a more flexible and resilient energy system—but realizing those benefits requires planning that looks beyond traditional regional boundaries. This session will examine the growing need for stronger coordination across regions, highlight progress and emerging approaches underway today, and explore opportunities for State Energy Offices to improve interregional transmission planning for the future.

Moderator:

Representative, Office of Resiliency, Arizona Executive Office of the Governor

Presenters:

Lissa Pawlisch, Assistant Commissioner, Federal and State Initiatives, Division of Energy Resources, Minnesota Department of Commerce

Celina Cunningham, Acting Commissioner, Maine Department of Energy Resources

Henry Wilhelmus, Electricity Program Manager, Indiana Office of Energy Development

Dr. Ben Fitch-Fleischmann, Director, Markets and Transmission, Interwest Energy Alliance

4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (**Concurrent Sessions**)

Breakout 1 (*Flatirons 3, Lobby Level*)

Plugged In: State-Fleet Partnerships for Freight Electrification

As zero-emission freight scales beyond pilot projects, states and stakeholders face practical challenges around cost, charging infrastructure, and market readiness—compounded by regulatory uncertainty around advanced clean trucks and advanced clean fleets rules and nitrogen oxides standards. This session examines how State Energy Offices are building stronger public-private partnerships through state-specific Electric Fleet (eFleet) Networks.

Moderator:

Alexa Voytek, Deputy Director of Programs, Innovation and Transportation, Communications, Office of Energy Programs, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

Presenters:

Julie Staveland, State Energy Office Director and the Assistant Division Director, Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy; Secretary, NASEO Board of Directors

Jillian DiMedio, Senior Policy Analyst, Transportation Electrification and Hydrogen, Oregon Department of Energy

Matt Lerman, Senior Program Manager, Infrastructure, Colorado Energy Office

Francesca Wahl, Director, Global Charging Policy, Tesla

Breakout 2 (*Flatirons 2, Lobby Level*)

Exploring the Western Governors' Permitting Alignment and Coordination Task Force (PACT)

This session will provide a forum for discussion of the recently established PACT, a multi-state task force designed to accelerate transmission permitting. Topics to be explored include how this 12-state initiative will approach identifying pathways to speed transmission permitting, resolving cross-jurisdictional challenges, and elevating regional priorities.

Moderators:

Ben Brouwer, Bureau Chief, Energy Bureau, Montana Department of Environmental Quality; Member, NASEO Board of Directors

Presenters:

Holly Rachel Smith, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Electricity, U.S. Department of Energy

Lindsey Mayer, Special Assistant to the Director, Utah Office of Energy Development

Brant Johnson, Senior Vice President, Development, Grid United

Ray Gifford, Launch Team, The Western Transmission Consortium

Breakout 3 (Flatirons 4, Lobby Level)

The Rising Cost of Keeping Warm: What States Can Do About Home Heating Costs

This winter, U.S. households will pay a bigger share of their income to stay warm. This discussion-driven session will explore what drives household heating costs, what is actually in a customer's bill, the energy efficiency programs available, and customer support strategies states can use to keep energy affordable for those who need it the most.

Moderator:

Steven Chybowski, Director, Energy Efficiency Policy and Programs, Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources

Presenters:

Morgan Hoy, Senior Manager, Policy and Strategy, American Gas Association

Tracy Smetana, Energy Affordability Office Director, Energy Division, Minnesota Department of Commerce

Campbell Delahoyde, Director, National Association of State Energy Officials

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5:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. *(Prefunction Area, Lobby Level)*

NASEO's 40th Anniversary Welcome Reception

Conference attendees are invited to the reception celebrating 40 years of NASEO elevating State and Territory Energy Office innovations and collaborating with NASEO's private and public sector Affiliate Partners.

Thursday, October 29, 2026 – Open to All Registered Attendees

8:30 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. *(Flatirons 1, Lobby Level)*

Turning Points in Federal Energy Policy: NASEO's 40 Years of Bipartisan Success

This session traces four decades of pivotal moments in federal energy policy, highlighting how NASEO and State Energy Offices have consistently built bipartisan approaches to shape lasting, effective solutions.

Presenters:

Carol Sue Tombari, Principal, Carol Tombari Consultation; NASEO Founding Board Member (Texas)

Kelley Smith Burk, State Energy Office Growth Lead, ICF; Former Chair, NASEO Board of Directors (Florida)

8:45 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. (*Flatirons 1, Lobby Level*)

From Idea to Impact: How State Energy Offices Accelerate Technology Research and Innovation

This session will explore how states are supporting emerging energy technologies from concept to deployment, featuring examples of successful programs and the policy, program, and partnership strategies driving energy innovation forward.

Moderator:

Dr. Andrew McAllister, Commissioner, California Energy Commission;
Parliamentarian, NASEO Board of Directors

Presenters:

John Williams, Chief Policy Officer, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority; Past Chair, NASEO Board of Directors
Dr. Sam Gage, Program Manager of Industrial Transformation, CLEAResult Energetics LLC

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9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. (*Flatirons 1, Lobby Level*)

National Laboratory of the Rockies – Energy Innovation and State Coordination

Our national laboratories are key partners helping states to advance their policy goals, including technical assistance and commercialization support to both new and existing businesses to strengthen their economies. Hear from the National Laboratory of the Rockies on how it partners with states and stakeholders to enhance national and state wellbeing and stimulate economic growth.

Moderator:

Dr. Will Toor, Executive Director, Colorado Energy Office; Vice Chair, NASEO Board of Directors

Presenter:

Jud Virden, Laboratory Director, National Laboratory of the Rockies; President, Alliance for Energy Innovation

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. – **Networking Break** (*Prefunction Area, Lobby Level*)

10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. (*Flatirons 1, Lobby Level*)

The Energy Impacts of Emissions Reporting and Differentiated Natural Gas — an “Every Region” Energy, Environmental, and Economic Opportunity

Amid shifting federal reporting requirements for greenhouse gas emissions from petroleum and natural gas systems, buyers and sellers of natural gas are exploring verifiable, voluntary reporting options to maintain access to critical data for claiming federal tax credits, complying with export rules, and meeting clean energy goals. This session will explore the private sector's approach to a potential verifiable voluntary emissions framework and the economic opportunities associated with tracking this data.

Moderator:

Vince Maiden, Director, Virginia Department of Energy

Presenters:

Brad Crabtree, Global Head of Commercial Policy, ExxonMobil Low Carbon Solutions

Zach Keith, Director, Business Development and Sustainability, Low Carbon Products, Williams

Josh Carlisle, Senior Director, Environmental, Health, Safety, Regulatory and Sustainability, BKV Corporation

11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. (*Flatirons 1, Lobby Level*)

**Data Center Design, Operation, and Load Management Inside the Fence Line:
Leveraging Lessons Learned**

This session draws on real-world lessons to explore facility design strategies that enable demand flexibility and energy efficiency, load management approaches that support reliability, and the policy frameworks states are using to build effective partnerships with host communities, utilities and data centers.

Moderator:

Joe Hagerman, Director, Energy and Natural Resources Division, Mississippi Development Authority

Presenters:

John Clinger, Senior Director, Energy and Data Center Solutions, ICF

Sydney Henry, Western Energy Policy Lead, Energy and Location Strategy, Google

Travis Wright, Vice President, Utility Engagement, QTS Data Centers

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12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. – **Networking Lunch** (*Flatirons 1, Lobby Level*)

1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. (**Concurrent Sessions**)

Breakout 1 (*Flatirons 3, Lobby Level*)

The Upside of Large Loads: Making the Most of Data Center Growth

This session focuses on energy technology decisions within data centers that have broader impacts on the grid and other resources. It will explore how states and industry partners can turn those impacts into opportunities.

Moderator:

Christine Knapp, Director, Energy Programs Office, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Presenters:

Mark Ardire, Director, Data Center Solutions, LG HVAC Solutions Global
Christina Hayes, Head of Government and Regulatory Affairs, GridCARE
Aroon Vijaykar, Chief Commercial Officer, Emerald AI
Krish Sivakumar, Head of Product, Verrus

Breakout 2 (*Meadows Ballroom, Lobby Level*)

Geothermal Heating and Cooling: In the Loop on Affordability and Resilience

Geothermal heating and cooling systems are some of the most efficient and reliable heating and cooling technologies available, with underground systems that can last for decades. With State Energy Offices steering demonstration projects, financing solutions, and education campaigns, it is time to “dig in” on geothermal.

Moderator:

Kristin Hanks-Bents, Energy Division Administrator, Iowa Economic Development Authority

Presenters:

Dominique Gomez, Deputy Director, Colorado Energy Office
Chris Schinnerer, Secretary of Energy and Environment, Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment
Matthew Garlick, Chief Executive Officer, The Grey Edge Group, LLC
Dan King, Chief Geoscience and Policy Officer, Darcy Solutions
Lauren Quillan, Senior Director, External Affairs and Policy, Xcel Energy

Breakout 3 (*Flatirons 4, Lobby Level*)

Mine Your Own Business: Developing a Domestic Critical Materials Economy

The next American industrial revolution is coalescing from piles of rocks, dead batteries, innovative processing techniques, abundant and deliberate federal funds, and a workforce that largely does not yet exist. The economic benefits are profound, and the national security implications of building resilient domestic supply chains cannot be overstated.

This session will highlight ongoing state, federal, and academic efforts, and explore how they can be organized into a unified strategy.

Moderator:

Emily Wilbur, Director, Division of Energy, Missouri Department of Natural Resources; Member, NASEO Board of Directors

Presenters:

Dr. Jeremy Mehta, Chief of Staff Critical Minerals, Materials, and Manufacturing, Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation, U.S. Department of Energy

Dr. Tammie Borders, Associate Laboratory Director, Critical Minerals and Advanced Alloys, National Energy Technology Laboratory

Alicia Polo y La Borda, Executive Director, Critical Minerals Strategy and Advancement, Colorado School of Mines

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. (**Concurrent Sessions**)

Breakout 1 (*Flatirons 3, Lobby Level*)

Measuring What Matters: Evaluating Grid and Community Resilience Outcomes

As states implement projects funded through the Grid Resilience Formula Grant program, tracking the right metrics is essential to demonstrating impact and guiding future investment. This session will examine how states are measuring both grid performance and community-level resilience outcomes, sharing practical approaches for data collection, reporting, and communicating results to stakeholders and policymakers.

Moderator:

Brooks Rumenik, Director, Office of Energy, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

Presenters:

Joe Hagerman, Director, Energy and Natural Resources Division, Mississippi Development Authority

Chris Yunker, Director, Resilient Analytics, A Stanley Consultants Company

Dr. Myles Collins, Policy Researcher, Energy Markets and Policy Department, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Eduardo Andujar, Fellow, Energy and Natural Resources Division, Mississippi Development Authority

Breakout 2 (*Meadows Ballroom, Lobby Level*)

The Nexus of Transportation, Housing, and Land Use: How States Are Pursuing Win-Wins for Affordability and Sustainability

In 2024, Colorado passed six bills that mandated transit-oriented zoning, eliminated parking minimums near transit, legalized accessory dwelling units statewide, and required

local housing-needs assessments — all layered on top of a 2021 rule requiring the Colorado Department of Transportation and the state's Metropolitan Planning Organizations to model and cap transportation emissions. Other states are also exploring policy options to support more integrated housing and transportation policies. This session unpacks how the state transportation-housing policy stacks came together, what changes have resulted from these policies, and where challenges remain around local control and implementation capacity.

Moderator:

Kelly Blynn, Senior Policy Advisor, Land Use and Transportation, Colorado Energy Office

Presenters:

Elizabeth Mahony, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources; Member, NASEO Board of Directors

Robert Spotts, Manager, Power Ahead Colorado, Denver Regional Council of Governments

Matt Frommer, Smart Growth Program Director, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project

Breakout 3 (Flatirons 4, Lobby Level)

State Energy Convening Power: Forging Shared Interests among Energy Stakeholders

State Energy Offices often serve as conveners, bringing together utilities, local governments, community organizations, and other stakeholders to shape energy priorities, inform policy and planning, and guide program design. This session explores how State Energy Offices are designing stakeholder engagement models that build trust and consensus across diverse interests and drive coordinated action.

Moderator:

Sara Bazemore, Director, Energy Office, South Carolina Office of Regulatory Staff

Presenters:

Maren Mahoney, Director, Office of Resiliency, Arizona Executive Office of the Governor

Ben Brouwer, Bureau Chief, Energy Bureau, Montana Department of Environmental Quality; Member, NASEO Board of Directors

Jennifer Grove, Assistant Director, Energy Division, State Energy Office, Washington State Department of Commerce

Ethan Tremblay, Deputy Commissioner, Maine Department of Energy Resources

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. ***(Concurrent Sessions)***

Breakout 1 (Flatirons 3, Lobby Level)

Building Better, Faster: The Offsite Construction Opportunity

The 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act sets the stage for a boom in offsite construction and State Energy Offices have an opportunity to shape the energy use of these units. Experts will provide insight into the changing policy landscape and an introduction to the range of offsite construction methods, from modular and panelized systems to manufactured housing, highlighting how each approach creates distinct opportunities for energy efficiency.

Moderator:

Josh Elliott, Deputy Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Energy

Presenters:

William Xia, Director, Program Operations and Partnerships, Clean and Resilient Buildings, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (invited)

Jay Sugnet, Housing Senior Manager, City of Boulder

William Jenkins, Vice President of Sustainability, Clayton Homes

Breakout 2 (Flatirons 2, Lobby Level)

Deep-Dive: The Energy Impacts of Emissions Reporting and Differentiated Natural Gas Workshop

Energy companies use emissions reporting data for a variety of purposes, including energy facility mapping, federal tax credit qualification, clean energy standard compliance, and to meet energy export requirements. This session will invite states and private sector leaders to discuss the potential energy and economic benefits of greenhouse gas reporting for the petroleum and natural gas sector, and will explore the potential for a consistent, state-driven greenhouse gas reporting framework to meet the energy needs and priorities of the states. The session will also preview a potential NASEO Working Group on Greenhouse Gas Reporting and Differentiated Natural Gas.

Moderators:

Jeffrey Genzer, General Counsel, National Association of State Energy Officials

Brandon Mooney, Executive Director, Natural Gas Innovation Network; Vice President, CO2EFFICIENT

Breakout 3 (Flatirons 4, Lobby Level)

Strengthening the Workforce for High-Performance Buildings

Join this interactive discussion on strategies states are using to support the building construction and energy efficiency workforce in delivering high-quality installation outcomes and construction practices, translating to greater energy and utility bill savings.

Moderator:

Kristofor Anderson, Director, Energy Resources, Georgia Environmental Finance Authority; Treasurer, NASEO Board of Directors

Presenters:

Michael Sangaline, Senior Advisor, Office of Innovation, Affordability and Consumer Choice, U.S. Department of Energy

Elizabeth Mahony, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources; Member, NASEO Board of Directors

Rupa Deshmukh, Senior Strategist, State Programs, Division of Clean Energy, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities

Michelle Butler, Senior Manager, Workforce Development, Colorado Energy Office

Madeline Salzman, Associate Director of Market Solutions, Earth Advantage

Friday, October 30, 2026 – Open to All Registered Attendees

8:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. (*Flatirons 1, Lobby Level*)

Washington Update: 2026 Congressional End Game and NASEO's 2027 Policy Priorities

This discussion with NASEO's General Counsel will provide the latest news on Congressional and federal agency priorities.

Moderator:

David Terry, President, National Association of State Energy Officials

Presenter:

Jeffrey Genzer, General Counsel, National Association of State Energy Officials

8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. (*Flatirons 1, Lobby Level*)

Sustaining Energy Progress – 40 Years of State Leadership through the U.S. State Energy Program

State Energy Offices have leveraged U.S. State Energy Program funds to develop innovative solutions to address the nation's energy needs over the past 40 years. This session highlights breakthrough ideas State Energy Offices have created and identifies best practices for states looking to implement new and innovative energy programs.

Presenters:

David Terry, President, National Association of State Energy Officials

Robert Jackson, Executive Director, RESTART Institute; Former Chair, NASEO Board of Directors (Michigan); Secretary, NASEO Institute Board of Directors

8:45 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. (*Flatirons 1, Lobby Level*)

Strategic Energy Planning to Support Governors' Energy Priorities

Thirty-nine gubernatorial elections in November will result in new and returning governors advancing policies that expand energy-related economic development and improve energy affordability. Many State Energy Offices will take the lead on strategic energy planning aimed at supporting and informing their governors and state legislatures policy decisions. This session will explore the energy policy outlook for states with a focus on the role of strategic energy planning in advancing new policies and programs.

Moderator:

Bettina Bergoo, Deputy Director, Virginia Department of Energy

Presenters:

Curtis Thayer, Executive Director, Alaska Energy Authority; Member, NASEO Board of Directors

Kelly Speakes-Backman, Director, Maryland Energy Administration

Emily Wilbur, Director, Division of Energy, Missouri Department of Natural Resources; Member, NASEO Board of Directors

Chris Schinnerer, Secretary of Energy and Environment, Oklahoma Secretary of Energy and Environment

9:45 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. – **Break** (*Prefunction Area, Lobby Level*)

10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. (*Flatirons 1, Lobby Level*)

Cashing in on Efficiency: Capturing Value at Residential Resale

When real estate markets recognize the upgrades State Energy Offices fund, everybody wins. Homeowners see home value, agents grow their value proposition, and states have proof of program impact. This session will highlight partnerships and opportunities bridging the gap between energy efficiency improvements and the real estate market.

Moderator:

Janine Benner, Director, Oregon Department of Energy; Member, NASEO Board of Directors

Presenters:

Robin LeBaron, Presidential and Co-Founder, Pearl

Craig Foley, Chief Sustainability Officer, LAER Realty Partners; Sustainability Subject Matter Expert, National Association of REALTORS Executive Committee

10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. (*Flatirons 1, Lobby Level*)

Home Energy Rebates at Scale: How States Are Bringing Down Energy Bills

Across the country, State Energy Offices are creating real, lasting energy savings for residents with the Home Energy Rebate programs. This session will highlight lessons learned and celebrate successes across the country.

Moderator:

Blaise Caudill, Deputy Director, Office of Resiliency, Arizona Executive Office of the Governor

Presenters:

Mary Hubbard, Program Manager, Home Energy Rebates Program, State and Community Energy Programs, Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation, U.S. Department of Energy

Kara Saul Rinaldi, President and Chief Executive Officer, AnnDyl Policy Group, LLC
Kristofer Anderson, Director, Energy Resources, Georgia Environmental Finance Authority; Treasurer, NASEO Board of Directors

Mitchell Horrie, Energy Incentives and Rebates Supervisor, Public Service Commission of Wisconsin

Rob Curis, Director, Government Affairs, Lowe's Companies, Inc.

Sydney Gilliam, Program Executive, Home Energy Rebate Programs, IEM

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (*Flatirons 1, Lobby Level*)

Wrap-up and Adjourn

Presenters:

David Terry, President National Association of State Energy Officials

Molly Cripps, Director, Office of Energy Programs, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation; Chair, NASEO Board of Directors