Public Policy Leadership and Best Practices

MISSION

Inform state and local public policy adoption, implementation, and evaluation to achieve deep building decarbonization and reduce carbon emissions at least 40 percent by 2030.

Northeast states lead the nation in energy efficiency policies and most have adopted aggressive carbon emission reduction goals for 2030 and beyond. Increasingly, states include strategic electrification for "carbon efficiency" in ratepayer-funded energy efficiency programs including thermal efficiency, energy rating, demand response, energy storage, and distributed generation that enable customers to respond to electric grid reliability needs with load flexibility. This integrated approach to efficient building decarbonization addresses a growing range of public policy goals including energy affordability, grid reliability and resilience, peak load management, environmental sustainability, economic development, energy justice, and public health. These broader policy goals change program strategies as well the purpose, audiences, and approaches to program evaluation, measurement, and verification (EM&V).

NEEP assists state and local policy makers in the Northeast to assess, adopt, and implement integrated energy efficiency and demand-side policies and programs. This includes evolving best practices for EM&V and cost-effectiveness analyses, supporting the inclusion of efficiency in regional capacity markets, and making program and policy data available through tools and resources such as NEEP's Regional Energy Efficiency Database (REED).

LONG-TERM MARKET TRANSFORMATION GOALS

By 2025:

- All Northeast States adopt mandates to reduce carbon emissions 40% by 2030 and 80% by 2050, and implement statewide plans to reduce building sector carbon emissions.
- At least five Northeast States adopt a suite of policies and programs that effectively engage homes and buildings to serve as flexible load and avoid costly T&D additions.
- All Northeast States adopt ratepayer-funded demand-side resource programs to improve total building energy performance including electrification to displace direct fossil fuel use, and achieve at least 3% of prior year energy sales.

By 2030:

- All Northeast States adopt a suite of policies and programs that effectively engage homes and buildings to serve as flexible load and avoid costly T&D additions.

Regional Trends and Leaders:

Despite the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, state and local policies and plans to dramatically reduce building sector carbon emissions continued to grow in the NEEP region during 2020.

- Four states (MA, ME, RI, and VT) adopted strategic electrification legislation to reduce buildings and/or transportation GHG emissions
- To equitably decarbonize buildings, New York launched a statewide initiative with utilities to deliver clean, energy-efficient solutions to 350,000 energy-burdened households.
- Five cities (Boston, MA, Burlington, VT, New York City, Providence, RI, and Washington D.C.) completed detailed building decarbonization roadmaps with building energy efficiency and heating electrification.
- Maine and Connecticut established a State Climate Council to inform policies and programs to decarbonize.
- New York initiated a proceeding to evaluate the future of the natural gas system including what a transition away from fossil fuels will entail to ensure an equitable transition is equitable.
- Two states (NH and NY) advanced statewide multi-use energy data platforms to facilitate consumer data access.
- New Jersey's 2019 Energy Master Plan calls for a transition plan to fully electrify the building sector including space and water heating.

2021 Project Outcomes

NEEP's 2021 Project Outcomes:

- At least two more states join NY, MA, DC and VT with laws that require carbon emission reductions aligned with IPCC climate stabilization goals to reduce carbon emissions by at least 80% by 2050.
- Program administrators in 3 states join MA in developing/delivering EE programs integrated with other DERS (e.g. DR, storage).
- At least one other state joins NY in examining the transition from natural gas to efficient electric heating.

2021 Strategies and Deliverables

Stakeholder Engagement: NEEP convenes and facilitates information sharing among federal, state and local government agencies, efficiency program administrators, industry, researchers and other stakeholders to advance and implement public policies, including advanced EM&V and cost-effectiveness analyses, to accelerate energy efficiency and other demand side resources. 2021 activities and assistance include:

- Weekly public policy tracking updates for NEEP Allies and State Partners
- Six public policy updates included in webinars for NEEP Allies and State Partners
- A three-part webinar series on public policy leadership best practices
- Topical blogs, exemplars, newsletters
- Convene: Building Decarbonization Evaluation Advisory Group

Tracking and Analysis: NEEP tracks key policy metrics and state and local policies across the region to identify and report on trends and best practices in advancing efficient demand-side solutions to decarbonize. NEEP maintains an online policy tracker for legislative tracking by state. In 2021 we will revamp and expand our Regional Energy Efficiency Database (REED) to serve as a broader energy data resource.

- Update! Web-based Legislative Policy Tracker
- Bi-monthly regional policy tracker blogs (e.g., August 2019 Policy Tracker Blog) and quarterly REED Renderings Blog Series (e.g., REED Rendering #17)
- Re-envisioned! and expanded Regional Energy Efficiency Database including interactive policy snapshot
- Update! NEEP Evaluation, Measurement & Verification Resource Center
- **New!** Regional matrix with links to state carbon reduction goals and implementation roadmaps

Technical Assistance: NEEP provides customized technical assistance to respond to state and local government requests for research, analysis and/or comment in regulatory or other public policy proceedings or technical sessions, and /or to conduct research and/or analysis).

- Upon request:
  - Technical assistance via presentations or briefings
  - Response to public comment

2021 Strategies and Deliverables Continued

Research and Reports: NEEP prepares topical analyses and reports that highlight public policy progress and leadership, and identifies policy pathways forward across the region for public policies and energy efficiency program plans that accelerate energy efficiency and building decarbonization including.

- Quarterly trend analysis of reported demand side program impacts
- **New!** Building Decarbonization Public Policy Framework implementation guides (e.g. Building performance standards)
- **New!** Brief: Assessing available data to support building decarbonization policy goals
- **New!** Brief: Equitable and just transition to a decarbonized future

National/Regional Collaboration: NEEP leverages and contributes to state, federal and national resources to inform state and local public policy for energy efficiency and building decarbonization development. This includes sharing information with, contributing to, and presenting at regional and national public policy and EM&V conferences and collaborations (e.g., Association of Energy Service Professionals, American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, International Energy Program Evaluation Conference, National Association of State Energy Officials, Northeast Smart Heat Collaborative, U.S. DOE/U.S. EPA SEE Action, etc.).

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