



Addressing greenhouse gas emissions from the buildings sector is essential to achieving state and local climate and equity goals, as is engaging and investing in our communities. There remains vast opportunity for energy efficiency improvements in our region's residential and commercial buildings, and significant work to center energy equity in that work. To do so, we must engage communities that have been historically marginalized and/or excluded from energy decision-making processes.

The Solutions for Low-Carbon States and Communities project delivers innovative efficiency and decarbonization solutions for new and existing buildings. These solutions are intended for state and community leaders across agencies to break down silos and take a more collaborative approach to implementing climate policies and achieving goals. This project utilizes stakeholder engagement, resource and tool development, and technical assistance to deliver customizable solutions to state and community energy decision-makers. Many state and community agencies are under-resourced or bandwidth constrained and can benefit from the support offered by NEEP's technical assistance, collaboration opportunities, and resources.

Through this project, NEEP develops and shares best practices for policy and program design related to home energy labeling, building energy benchmarking, building performance standards, high performance schools, and community-wide policy initiatives. New in 2022, we will host topic-specific cohorts to engage states and communities in a focused effort to increase the market penetration of benchmarking, labeling, performance standards, and school initiatives. This project supports collaboration between state and community stakeholders to more rapidly advance clean energy initiatives while increasing equitable access to energy efficiency programs across the region.

NEEP's 2022 Project Outcomes

1. Seven additional jurisdictions develop innovative strategies to reduce carbon emissions, such as zoning requirements, zero energy/decarbonization planning, and zero energy schools
2. Three additional jurisdictions adopt home energy labeling and retrofit policies and programs to improve the energy efficiency of existing homes
3. Three additional jurisdictions adopt policies for existing commercial buildings including benchmarking and building performance standards.

NEEP's 2022 Strategies and Activities

Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration: NEEP engages key stakeholders to share expertise and lessons learned to help states and communities achieve their decarbonization goals. NEEP will engage stakeholders in a facilitated learning exchange to guide development of benchmarking and disclosure programs, zero energy schools, and other related decarbonization efforts. NEEP will contribute to and leverage state and national resources to inform community resources and planning.

- Develop a network of local energy champions; convene and facilitate NEEP's topical working groups (e.g. schools, residential labeling, building performance standards, etc.); develop topic-specific cohorts (i.e. project specific engagements with multiple communities to advance initiatives)

NEEP's 2022 Strategies and Activities Continued

Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration Continued

- Monitor, communicate, present, and coordinate with national and regional organizations (e.g., Massachusetts Facilities Administrators Association (MFAA), state specific ZE working groups, NH Local Energy Solutions, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), Energy Efficient West Virginia (EEWV) Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), , Vermont's energy labeling working group, USDN, Rocky Mountain Institute Building Accelerators, Equitable Decarbonization/Environmental Justice Group, NAACP's Center for Equity in the Sustainable Building Sector, and National Association of Realtors®)

Technical Assistance: NEEP provides direct technical assistance to states and communities on areas such as home and building labeling, benchmarking, zero energy plans, and whole home retrofit solutions.

- Present to government staff, relevant committees, and other community members
- Develop fact sheets and other guiding materials
- Assist with development and implementation of state and local energy efficiency policy
- Provide guidance to multiple state and local governments through topic-specific cohorts to rapidly advance efforts in communities throughout the region

Tracking and Analysis: NEEP tracks state and community initiatives, analyzes data and trends, and promotes these regional highlights in various forms.

- Update existing and develop new maps, dashboards, and other interactive tools that track trends related to labeling, benchmarking, building energy performance standards, high performance schools, retrofits, and community climate commitments
- Customized tracking and analysis based on stakeholder interests

Tools and Reports: NEEP advances the development of strategies, tools, and best practices to move communities forward in their efficiency planning by providing best practice tools and resources developed by NEEP and others (e.g., U.S. DOE, U.S. EPA, Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS), Institute for Market Transformation (IMT), New Buildings Institute (NBI), and others).

- Maintain and update [CAPEE](#) with at least one new module based on input from the Regional Communities Working Group.
- [Maintain and update Online Resource center](#)
- Maintain and develop resources to advance zero energy schools at the community and state levels
- Highlight exemplary projects, policies, and programs as determined by stakeholder needs
- Maintain and update data in [Home Energy Labeling Information eXchange \(HELIX\)*](#)
 - Expand usage of [Energy Estimator](#) – Powered by HELIX and ClearlyEnergy
- Maintain, update, and expand the usage of [Building Energy Analysis Manager \(BEAM\)*](#)
- Center for Building Performance Standards – solutions for building owners & policy makers

NEEP's 2022 Strategies and Activities Continued

Thought Leadership: NEEP influences the narrative around home energy labeling, building energy benchmarking, building performance standards, whole-home retrofits, and community-wide planning initiatives positioning NEEP and its partners as consistent, reliable expert sources of information and resources.

- NEEP 2022 Summit and other events to share work and influence decision makers
- Schools Summit to focus on public school buildings as an avenue for health, productivity, and environmental stewardship
- Develop communications program (blogs, interviews, articles, joint papers) to broadcast work, building a broader cohort of engaged partners
- Highlight and champion solutions in regional and national forums
- Develop a series of short podcasts
- Facilitate facility tours
- *ACE in an Instant* regional newsletter
- Representation on national committees, and regional and state boards and committees

Project Staff



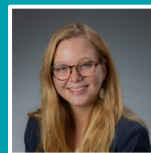
John Balfe



Bryan Evans



Carolyn Sarno Goldthwaite



Emme Luck



Kai Palmer-Dunning



Andy Winslow