

National Council on Electricity Policy
2024 Annual Meeting
Embassy Suites Phoenix Tempe
Phoenix Ballroom
4400 South Rural Rd, Tempe, AZ 85282



Engaging with Communities to Support their Energy Future

October 29-30, 2024

Tuesday, October 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. MT

Wednesday, October 30 from 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. MT

Community engagement is an essential part of the energy system transition. Meaningful engagement can help build support for electricity system projects, unlock energy and community benefits, and mitigate foreseeable or unexpected harms. To develop community partnerships on energy-related projects, state agencies, utilities, developers, and other electricity policy stakeholders collaborate with local individuals and groups as partners on the changes happening in their communities.

At this meeting, NCEP focuses on pressing issues that benefit from community engagement, shares promising approaches to develop trust and partnerships with communities, and identifies potential areas for collaboration among state policy-makers for more effective community engagement.

Agenda		
Time	Session Title	Moderator
Tuesday, October 29, 2024		
<i>Setting the Table for Meaningful Design of Community Engagement</i>		
8:00 – 9:00	Breakfast provided through hotel	
8:30 – 9:00	Registration	
9:00 – 9:10	Workshop Welcome and Overview	NCEP Vice Chair Mike Dowd, Air Division Director, <i>Virginia Department of Environmental Quality</i>
9:10 – 9:40	A Broader Look at Community Engagement Stories from the front line about community engagement experiences from the installation of large-scale solar projects. Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Karl Hoesch, Doctoral Candidate, School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS), <i>University of Michigan</i> ● Mary Reilly, AICP, Land Use Policy Educator, <i>Michigan State University Extension</i> 	NCEP Vice Chair Jennifer Easler, Attorney, <i>Iowa Office of Consumer Advocate</i>

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Time	Session Title	Moderator
9:40 – 10:00	<p>Improving and Advancing Community Engagement in Regulatory, Policy and Planning Activities What we need to understand about community engagement as we design our processes. Principles of and broadly relevant approaches to community engagement.</p> <p>Speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jennifer Yoshimura, Advisor, <i>Pacific Northwest National Laboratory</i> 	Hon. Mary Throne, Chairman, <i>Wyoming Public Service Commission</i>
10:00 – 10:20	Break	
Case Studies Series from Member Perspectives – NGA, NCSL		
10:20 – 11:00	<p>NGA Hosted Session: Engaging Communities in Resource Siting Decisions Case studies incorporating community engagement into high-level energy resource siting decisions under high load growth and resource constraints. (<i>Featured states: Arizona, North Dakota</i>)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blaise Caudill, Deputy Director, <i>Arizona Governor’s Office of Resiliency</i> John Reiten, Policy Advisor, <i>North Dakota Office of the Governor (invited)</i> 	Dan Lauf, Energy Program Director, <i>National Governors Association</i>
11:00 – 11:40	<p>NCSL Hosted Session: Making Laws with the Community Case studies of community engagement in bottom-up and top-down lawmaking. (<i>Featured states: Colorado, New Mexico</i>)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senator Chris Hansen, <i>Colorado</i> Senator Steve Neville, <i>New Mexico</i> 	Bryan Law, Associate Director, <i>National Conference of State Legislators</i>
11:40 – 12:30	<p>Group Discussion of NGA and NCSL Examples Facilitated small groups discuss examples, leading to development of framework for engaging communities.</p>	Executive Committee with all participants
12:30 – 1:50	Lunch (provided)	

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Time	Session Title	Moderator
<i>Case Studies Series from Member Perspectives – NASUCA, NARUC</i>		
1:50 – 2:30	<p>NASUCA Hosted Session: Consumer Advocates Engaging with Communities Examples of how consumer advocate governance structure influences community engagement approaches. <i>(Featured States: Massachusetts, California, Arizona)</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jessica Freedman, Assistant Attorney General, <i>Massachusetts Office of the Attorney General</i> ● Mark Toney, Executive Director, <i>The Utility Reform Network</i> ● Cynthia Zwick, Executive Deputy Director, <i>Arizona Residential Utility Consumer Office</i> 	Joseph Pereira, Deputy Director, <i>Colorado Office of Consumer Counsel</i>
2:30 – 3:10	<p>NARUC Hosted Session: Deepening State Utility Commission Engagement with Customers This panel will share concrete examples of engaging communities in electricity-related decision making that informs utility commission decisions. Featured speakers will describe different approaches to establishing intervenor compensation programs that offer funding for a variety of customer types to participate in utility commission proceedings where they can express their preferences for utility investments that support their priorities. <i>(Featured States: Oregon, Washington)</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hon. Dave Danner, Chair, <i>Washington Utilities & Transportation Commission</i> ● Nolan Moser, Interim Executive Director, <i>Oregon Public Utilities Commission</i> 	Hon. Sarah Freeman, Commissioner, <i>Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission</i>
3:10 – 3:30	Break	
3:30 – 4:20	<p>Group Discussion of NASUCA and NARUC Examples Facilitated small groups discuss examples, leading to development of framework for engaging communities.</p>	Executive Committee with all participants
4:20 – 5:00	<p>Develop Framework Interactive group activity to develop framework for community engagement: identifying consistent and unique strategies, common principles, and potential areas for collaboration.</p>	Executive Committee with all participants
Optional No-host Dinner		

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Wednesday, October 30, 2024		
7:00 – 8:00	Breakfast provided through hotel	
8:00 – 8:10	Welcome, Day 1 Reflections	NCEP Vice Chair Jennifer Easler, <i>Attorney, Iowa Office of Consumer Advocate</i>
8:10 – 8:20	<p>Jan Brinch Award Presentation - ToNola Brown-Bland, Past NCEP President (via Zoom)</p> <p>In 2019, NCEP initiated an award in memory of Jeannette "Jan" Brinch, who energetically facilitated the National Council on Electricity Policy (NCEP) from 2014 to 2018 and passed away in 2018. Jan's career was marked by progress on energy and environmental issues from a wide range of public service positions. One of the hallmarks of her success in each of these roles was her desire to collaborate with others with diverse perspectives, positions, and organizations. This award honors other public servants who similarly view their positions as opportunities to bring people together to accomplish public interest goals in the electricity sector.</p>	John Espindola, Chairman, <i>Regulatory Commission of Alaska</i>
Case Studies Series from Member Perspectives – NACAA, NASEO		
8:20 – 9:00	<p>NACAA Hosted Session: Clean Air Agencies and Communities Addressing Impacts of State Policy Decisions</p> <p>Case studies of collaborating with communities to address externalities of state policy decisions. (<i>Featured States: California, New Jersey</i>)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Chanell Fletcher, Deputy Executive Officer of Environmental Justice, Tribal Affairs, and Border Relations, <i>California Air Resources Board</i> ● Kandyce Perry, Director, Office of Environmental Justice, <i>New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection</i> 	Mike Dowd, Air Division Director, <i>Virginia Department of Environmental Quality</i>
9:00 – 9:40	NASEO Hosted Session: State Energy Offices as Connectors between Communities and Clean Energy Developers	Kristofor Anderson, Energy Resources

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	<p>A sound relationship between clean energy developers and the communities they propose developments in is fundamental for the success of clean energy deployment. This session will outline case studies and examples from State Energy Offices serving as connectors between communities and clean energy developers and discuss some of the lessons learned in the states. <i>(Featured States: Hawaii, California)</i></p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cameron Black, Jobs and Outreach Branch Manager, <i>Hawaii State Energy Office</i> ● Hon. Noemi Otilia Osuna Gallardo, Commissioner, <i>California Energy Commission</i> 	<p>Director, <i>Georgia Environmental Finance Authority</i></p>
9:40 – 10:00	Break	
10:00 – 10:40	<p>Group Discussion of NACAA and NASEO Examples Facilitated small groups discuss examples, leading to development of framework for engaging communities.</p>	<p>Executive Committee with all participants</p>
10:40 – 11:20	<p>Revise and Finalize Framework Interactive group activity to finalize framework for community engagement: identifying consistent and unique strategies, common principles, and potential areas for collaboration.</p>	<p>Executive Committee with all participants</p>
11:20 – 11:30	Wrap up and adjourn	<p>Deborah Reynolds, Senior Regulatory Policy Specialist, <i>National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners</i></p>