

NARUC-NASEO-NGA Midwest Regional Roundtable: Equity Considerations in Electricity Planning and Policy

AGENDA

Objectives:

- Convene and increase connections between Public Utility Commissions, State Energy Offices, Governor's Office, and Consumer Advocate staff from MN, MI, WI, IL, IA, IN, MO.
- Explore how equity is being incorporated into energy state-level programmatic, regulatory, and policy work.
- Identify state and regional challenges, opportunities, and needs.
- Spotlight innovative and equity-focused work being done by Midwestern states.
- Provide an educational opportunity for attendees on relevant energy-related topics.
- Develop an action plan to address equity issues related to a relevant energy-centered topic.

Day 1 – Tuesday, June 6, 2023

8:00 - 9:00 am Breakfast
9:00 - 9:30 am Welcome, Introductions, and Overview of Objectives
9:30 - 11:15 am State Roundtable Discussion – Different States' Approaches to Equity One speaker per state agency. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What state or federal policies or drivers guide your agencies' equity strategy? • Have you/how have you engaged with stakeholders in your work? • How does your agency currently incorporate equity into distribution system planning, energy efficiency programs, or affordability considerations? • What are your state's specific challenges when it comes to incorporating equity into these issues? <p style="text-align: center;"><i>There will be a 15-minute break during this session.</i></p>
11:15 am - 12:30 pm Stakeholder Engagement as a Foundation of Equitable Decision Making - Minnesota Case Study Agencies in Minnesota have been pursuing stakeholder engagement in different ways with different drivers, strategies, and tactics. Speakers will explore these experiences, including challenges, lessons learned, and available tools, followed by contributions from other states and discussion about how valuable practices can be adapted, replicated, or enabled in other states. <p>Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy Division</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michelle Gransee, Deputy Commissioner • Sherron Taylor, Director of Community Outreach & Equity Projects <p>Minnesota Public Utilities Commission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will Seuffert, Assistant Executive Secretary • Dr. Tera Dornfeld, Public Engagement Regulatory Specialist

12:30 - 1:30 pm Lunch
1:30 - 2:30 pm Approaches to Incorporating Equity into Decision Making or Program Design Meaningfully utilizing input received from stakeholders in the outcomes of state agency work can be challenging. Participants will use real world experiences and questions about options for, and approaches to, equity in decision making and program design through facilitated discussion to identify alternatives that can be considered at home. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All participants
2:30 - 3:30 pm Incorporating Equity into Energy Efficiency Programming Expert speakers will share insights and prompt discussion among participants about what equitable energy efficiency (EE) programs look like in design and delivery and how EE can be used as a tool to lower energy burden and improve affordability. The topic will be presented in a regional context. Participants will also hear about EPA's Energy Savings and Impacts Scenario Tool (ESIST). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quinn Parker, CEO, Encolor Consulting • David Tancabel, Senior Utility Policy Analyst, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
3:30 - 3:45 pm Break
3:45 - 4:45 pm Incorporating Equity into Distribution System Planning and Distributed Energy Resources Expert speakers will share insights on approaches to distributions system planning and/or incorporation of distributed energy resources (DERs) and prompt discussion among participants. Emphasis will be on real-world examples. The topic will be presented in a regional context. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jennifer Yoshimura, Advisor, Electricity Infrastructure, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory • Sally Talberg, Talberg Policy Solutions
4:45 pm Wrap Up & Preview Day 2 Day 1 sessions will have provided the foundation for Day 2 sessions where attendees will engage in coordinated state action planning using frameworks and tips they heard throughout the day.
5:00 pm Adjourn
6:00 pm Optional No-Host Dinner at Nearby Restaurant

Day 2 - Wednesday, June 7, 2023

8:00 - 9:00 am Breakfast
9:00 - 9:30 am Day 1 Recap, Reflections, Overview of Day 2
9:30 am - 12:00 pm State Action Planning This will be an opportunity for Commissions, State Energy Offices, Governor's Office staff, and Consumer Advocates to work in small groups to determine what equity-focused decision making will look like in their state / agency in the context of EE or affordability or distribution system planning. The main objective is to support collaboration among the state attendees and ensure everyone leaves with some concrete actions they can take when they get home, leveraging others' expertise. <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Potential activities / focus areas could include:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Discussing who the relevant stakeholders are in their state/region and how to effectively engage on specific topics (DSP, EE, affordability)○ Building from strategies that have been shared or used in the past and how they can be improved going forward○ Outlining a spectrum of decisions that the state will be making in the near future and how to actively incorporate equity into their decision making (aligned with state-specific goals and jurisdiction)○ Creating an initial outline for one potential policy, program, or regulation related to the topic and describing how equity would be incorporated into the initiative <p><i>There will be a 15-minute break during this session.</i></p>
12:00 - 1:30 pm Working Lunch: Report Outs/Group Discussion
1:15 - 1:30 pm Re-cap and Next Steps
1:30 pm Adjourn