



Clean EnergyEnvironment
MUNICIPAL NETWORK



Clean Energy-Environment Municipal Network

Clean energy strategies help local governments achieve important environmental and economic objectives, including:

- Reducing emissions of air pollutants and greenhouse gases.
- Lowering energy costs.
- Improving energy reliability and security.
- Increasing local economic development.
- Meeting sustainability and green building goals.
- Improving public health and quality of life.

The Clean Energy-Environment Municipal Network is a new informational resource network designed to:

- Assist local governments in their efforts to invest in and promote clean energy strategies to advance their priorities, and
- Provide opportunities to showcase leadership by local governments.

What Is EPA Doing to Assist Local Governments?

EPA offers or is developing resources to aid and recognize local government action:

- Comprehensive database of planning, policy, technical, analytical, and information resources for municipalities.

Clean Energy Savings Potential

EPA estimates that state and local cost-effective clean energy policies could cut the expected growth in electricity demand in half by 2025, and meet additional demand through cleaner energy supply. This would prevent the need for 300 power plants, and save over 900 billion kWh or \$70 billion in energy bills. It would also avoid the greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of 80 million vehicles annually by 2025.¹

What Is Clean Energy?

Clean energy includes demand- and supply-side resources that offer clean, reliable, and low-cost ways to meet our growing energy demand. Energy efficiency measures reduce demand for energy generation, which reduces the amount of fuel needed to power our daily lives. Renewable energy sources avoid the use of fossil fuels, and combined heat and power can provide much greater energy output for the amount of fuel used. Transportation clean energy strategies include fuel-efficient technologies, renewable fuels, and other transportation options that reduce energy demand.

- Easy access to a set of clean energy programs and resources that EPA offers to assist local governments (see next page).
- A ***Municipal Clean Energy Best Practices Guidebook***.
- Case studies on the clean energy actions of local government to help others replicate successes.

What Can Local Governments Do?

Local governments can tap into the ***Clean Energy-Environment Municipal Network***, a publicly accessible information sharing resource. Municipalities can use the Network to:

- Access tools and resources designed to help inform clean energy policy decisions.
- See what clean energy policies are being used by other local governments.
- Determine whether to formally join one or more of EPA's partnership programs that support clean energy best practices and take advantage of additional resources available to partners.

For More Information, Visit:

<http://epa.gov/cleanenergy/stateandlocal/network.htm>.

¹ This estimate is based upon EPA analysis of independent evaluations of the potential for cost-effective energy efficiency investments to help meet the nation's growing demand for energy and electricity, including a 2004 meta-analysis that examined the results of 11 different studies that estimated the potential for energy efficiency in various states and regions in the country and for the United States, as a whole.

U.S. EPA Clean Energy Programs for Local Governments

ENERGY STAR

ENERGY STAR brings government agencies, school systems, and private building owners and managers a proven energy management strategy to save energy and money while demonstrating environmental leadership. Resources include: tools for tracking buildings' energy use, online trainings, communications kits, financing information, and case studies. Local governments and school systems can become ENERGY STAR partners, apply for the ENERGY STAR label for high performing buildings, take on the ENERGY STAR Challenge to improve energy efficiency by 10 percent or more, and bring the ENERGY STAR Challenge to others in their community. Visit: http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=challenge.bus_challenge_asso for details.

Green Power Partnership

Green power is an environmentally friendly electricity product that is generated from renewable energy sources. Buying green power is easy, and it can offer a number of environmental and economic benefits over conventional electricity. The U.S. EPA's Green Power Partnership assists local governments that are buying or planning to buy green power. The EPA offers credible benchmarks for green power purchases, market information, and opportunities for recognition and promotion of leading purchasers. Visit: <http://www.epa.gov/greenpower> for details.

Combined Heat and Power Partnership

Combined Heat and Power (CHP) is an efficient, clean, and reliable approach to generating power and thermal energy from a single fuel source. The CHP Partnership is a voluntary program that seeks to reduce the environmental impact of power generation by promoting the use of CHP. The Partnership can assist local governments in evaluating and implementing new projects and promoting their energy, environmental, and economic benefits. See: <http://www.epa.gov/chp> for details.

Landfill Methane Outreach Program

Landfill gas is the natural by-product of landfills that can be captured and used as an energy resource with air quality and greenhouse gas benefits. The U.S. EPA's Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP) is a voluntary assistance program that helps to reduce methane emissions from landfills by encouraging the recovery and use of landfill gas. LMOP offers technical assistance, guidance materials, software tools, and assistance creating partnerships and finding financing for projects. Visit: <http://www.epa.gov/lmop> for details.

Heat Island Reduction Initiative

Heat Islands describe urban air and surface temperatures that are higher than nearby rural areas. EPA's Heat Island Reduction Initiative offers outreach materials, tools, and guidance that provide communities with information to develop projects, programs, and policies to implement strategies that reduce heat islands and save energy. Visit: <http://www.epa.gov/hiri/index.html> for details.

Office of Transportation and Air Quality: State and Local Resources website offers useful information, tools, and resources to help local governments achieve their air quality and transportation objectives. Visit: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/stateresources/index.htm> for details.

SmartWay Transport Partnership is a collaborative voluntary program between EPA and the freight industry to increase the energy efficiency and energy security of our country while significantly reducing air pollution and greenhouse gases. See: <http://www.epa.gov/smartway> for details.

SmartWay Grow & Go is a program developed by EPA to promote the environmental benefits of renewable fuels and is a renewable fuel component for EPA's existing SmartWay Transport Partnership. See: <http://epa.gov/smartway/growandgo> for details.

The National Clean Diesel Campaign is a collection of successful voluntary programs all designed to reduce emissions from the diesel fleet. Visit: <http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel> for details.

Best Workplaces for Commuters is a business/government voluntary initiative offering innovative solutions to commuting challenges faced by employers and employees. See: <http://www.bestworkplacesforcommuters.gov> for details.

EPA's Green Vehicle Guide is a consumer-oriented web site providing information about the environmental performance of cars and light trucks. Visit: <http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles> for details.