



State of New York
Governor David A. Paterson

Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States Meeting on Clean Energy Cooperation Hosted by the State of New York

September 25-26, 2008
New York, NY

Executive Summary

On September 25-26, 2008, leaders from state executive offices, energy agencies, and public utility commissions from the Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic States convened to identify opportunities to advance regional cooperation on clean energy. The specific objectives were to identify:

1. Key clean energy issues that would benefit from collaboration among states in the region;
2. Next steps for regional cooperation beyond this particular meeting; and
3. Strategies for sustaining ongoing intergovernmental collaboration around clean energy issues regionally

At the meeting, the states agreed to pursue collaboration in four main areas, for which working groups were established:

1. State/Federal relations on clean energy and climate change policy;
2. Joint efforts to address ocean energy issues;
3. Tapping the potential of bioenergy; and
4. Building a stronger regional renewable energy market.

The four working groups developed priority issues for collaborative action, goals, key players, lead individuals, and some specific action items.

Area #1: State/Federal Clean Energy Relations: How the federal government can best support state efforts to advance clean energy

Priority

The states are interested in reforming state-federal clean energy relations. The states propose to identify strategies to influence legislative debates on federal climate change bills in Congress, especially key provisions that could accelerate clean energy deployment and innovation in the region. The states will work to reach agreement on recommendations for federal legislation that supports state interests and objectives in advancing clean energy.

NYSERDA and the New York Governor's Office will serve as leads to work with key representatives from energy agencies, public utility commissions, congressional delegations, and Governors and their advisors to develop region-based recommendations. The working group will be chaired by Janet Joseph, NYSERDA and Navis Bermudez, NYS Washington, DC.

Goals

- Educate state congressional delegations about why a national carbon program makes sense and why it should be designed to work with and for states, including the specific role of the states in a national program.
- Influence the final composition of federal climate change legislation to ensure alignment with states' interests.
- Develop recommendations on approaches to advance clean energy technology innovation with a focus on establishing a state/federal clean energy deployment partnership.

Actions

- Establish a shared position and message by February 2009.
- Develop a document to describe state climate change activities in the region and key principles.
- Develop and provide recommendations to Governors so that states deliver a consistent message.

Area #2: Collaborative Efforts to Address Ocean Energy Issues

Priority

Create a forum for dialogue to advance cooperation and coordination among Minerals Management Service (MMS) - federal agency responsible for regulating renewable energy projects on OCS - and the region's coastal states that are currently planning for offshore wind development.

New York State and the U.S. Offshore Wind Energy Collaborative (USOWC) will serve as lead entities to work with representatives from state energy and coastal management agencies (Maine through Delaware). The working group will be chaired by Phil Cherry, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control and Greg Watson, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs.

Goals

- Develop a consistent, efficient approach to integrate state and federal planning and regulatory activities for offshore wind projects.
- Develop a mechanism and advance cooperation on offshore renewable energy development as part of state-based ocean planning initiatives.

Actions

- Conduct outreach to representatives from state energy and coastal management agencies from the region.

- Arrange meeting with MMS as soon as possible and pursue state/federal cooperation agreements.
- Convene meeting to discuss states' programs and standards.
- Ensure use of states' recommendations in MMS program development.

Area #3: Tapping the Potential of Bioenergy

Priorities

- Advance regional collaborative opportunities to expand and ensure the sustainable use of bio-energy and advance implementation of low carbon fuel standards.
- Establish model rule for emissions from small bio-heating units.
- Establish safety standards for these units that are compatible with the European market.
- Cooperate at a regional level on the structure of a low carbon fuel standard.
- Develop consistent regional standards to ensure sustainable biomass resource management and to guide development of supply infrastructure.

The lead entities for these efforts will be NESCAUM (model rule, low carbon fuel standard), CONEG (regional biomass standards), and Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources and NYSERDA (all actions), working with the Biomass Energy Resource Center, state energy and agriculture agencies, and other stakeholders. The working group will be chaired by Dwayne Breger, Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources and Jeff Peterson, NYSERDA.

Goals & Actions

- Create a regional market in Northeastern U.S for high-performance European bio-heating technologies, and support the possibility of U.S.-based manufacturing.
- Establish protocols for lifecycle assessment of biofuels and identify their carbon footprint.
- Establish a sustainable resource management standard and supply infrastructure for biomass fuel that protects the resource and provides developers with a clear standard.

Area #4: Building a Stronger Regional Renewable Market: Increasing Multi-State Cooperation, Coordination and Harmony in State Renewable Policies and Programs

Priorities

- Explore opportunities to increase coordination among state renewable energy policies and programs (RPS and REC markets), build more robust region-wide markets, and facilitate permitting and development of multi-state transmission and generation projects.
- Develop state recommendations for a Federal RPS.
- Advance the concept of a regional "clean energy corridor." Concepts to be explored include coordination of technology research, developing centers and networks for technology innovation, advancing clean energy business incubators and clearinghouse, promoting regional government procurement of renewable energy, assisting local

governments with capacity building for renewable projects, and sharing and promoting new finance and policy strategies.

New York Governor's Office, Connecticut Clean Energy Fund, NYSERDA, and CESA will serve as lead entities for these efforts. The working group will be chaired by Lise Dondy, Connecticut Clean Energy Fund, and Phil Giudice, Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources.

Goals

- Influence the debate on the design of any federal RPS to protect and support state RPS policies.
- Develop a regional strategy to communicate how to promote the region as an attractive place for renewable energy projects and industry.
- Identify near term opportunities for multi-state actions to advance clean energy industries and a favorable climate for renewable energy project development in the region.

Actions

- Convene a high-level strategy group of senior energy agency and executive office energy advisors to explore joint opportunities for advancing a clean energy corridor and market.
- Through a series of conference calls, the strategy group will identify opportunities for cooperation in building regional markets and a clean energy industry, and for how best to promote the regions strengths in this sector, with specific "action" recommendations to be presented to the next NEMAG meeting in New Jersey.

Next Steps

There was strong consensus that a continuing forum for supporting dialogue, information sharing, peer-to-peer learning and cooperation among the states in the region on renewable energy progress is of high value and should be pursued. Key next steps coming out the meeting include follow-up on actions outlined by each of the working groups and planning for a follow-on meeting that the State of New Jersey will host in 2009.