

# Advancing the New Energy Economy in the Midwest: Sustained Coordination and Implementation Meeting

## *Executive Meeting Summary*

*June 7, 2011 | Columbus, Ohio*

*Sponsored by: Midwestern Governors Association, National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO); Association of State Energy Research & Technology Transfer Institutions (ASERTTI); Clean Economy Network; Corporation for a Skilled Workforce; Great Plains Institute*

The MGA provided travel reimbursement to 14 state employees for a total of over \$12,000. Fifty-three professionals from throughout the region attended.

The meeting featured three panels in the morning:

### **State**

Bill Grant, *Deputy Commissioner, Minnesota Office of Energy Security*  
Teresa Kittridge, *President, Minnesota Renewable Energy Marketplace*  
Stephen Konya, *Chief of Staff, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity*  
Karen Massey, *Deputy Director, Missouri State Environmental Improvement and Energy Resources Authority*

### **National Partners**

Lauren Bigelow, *Board of Directors, Clean Economy Network*  
John Cuttica, *Executive Committee, Association of State Energy Research & Technology Transfer Institutions*  
Kate Marks, *Managing Director, National Association of State Energy Officials*

### **Private Sector**

Jason Hall, *Executive Director, Missouri Technology Corporation*  
Curt Magleby, *Director, Government Affairs, Ford Motor*  
Mike Bull, *Manager of Environmental Policy, Xcel Energy* (scheduled but not able to participate)

The afternoon was devoted to breakout sessions that were focused on energy efficiency, advanced transportation fuels-including enhanced oil recovery and transmission/smart grid. From the breakouts some consensus emerged:

- Manufacturing is still very important to the Midwest.
- The new energy economy is regional in nature.
- Investment, capital, supply chains and the energy system do not respect political borders.
- A barrier to collaboration in the new energy economy is that the energy, workforce and investment worlds speak and think differently and know different networks of people.

Possible regional items to convene states around include:

- Discuss post-ARRA environment:
  - What can be learned from this undertaking?
  - What worked and what didn't?
  - How are states moving forward after this funding runs out?
- Look at challenges presented by expanding shale gas industry (regulations, taxes, infrastructure, workforce development and housing).
- Discuss future of coal generation in the face of coming EPA regulation (how to avoid rate shocks, reliability issues)
- Better coordination of foreign delegations to the Midwest.
- Map labor markets and industry sector hubs.

- Work more closely on sharing information about smart grid, electric vehicle and other refueling infrastructure.
- Establish a “battery consortium” of state economic and workforce development officials, educational institutions and industry leaders.

After the meeting, the MGA conducted a survey of all meeting participants. Fourteen meeting attendees completed the survey. Here is a sample of the results of the text questions:

***What did you find most valuable about the meeting?***

- “Networking opportunities...one resulted in an immediate partnership opportunity with a community college in another state”
- “Meeting some new people and connections. And hearing much consensus on need to keep making progress on energy efficiency and alternatives.”
- “Having the opportunity to meet and network with people working in my job area from other states.”

***What did you find least valuable about the meeting?***

- “The private sector panel, while quite valuable with the Ford speaker, could have used other private viewpoints. Also, the federal panel really did not address the current state of play in Washington DC on these issues.”

***Is there anything additional you would like to share about the meeting and/or do you have ideas for future meetings?***

- “I walked away with an overall concern that the goal of having the Midwest work together as an ‘economic block’ (my words) for clean energy projects/economic development is unattainable. Need to define some achievable goals to work toward. This is my gut feeling but would like to be proved wrong!”
- “We need to continue to meet more often. One day was not enough time to address all of the issues “

Full meeting notes can be found here:

[http://www.midwesterngovernors.org/June7meeting/CandI\\_full\\_notes.pdf](http://www.midwesterngovernors.org/June7meeting/CandI_full_notes.pdf)