

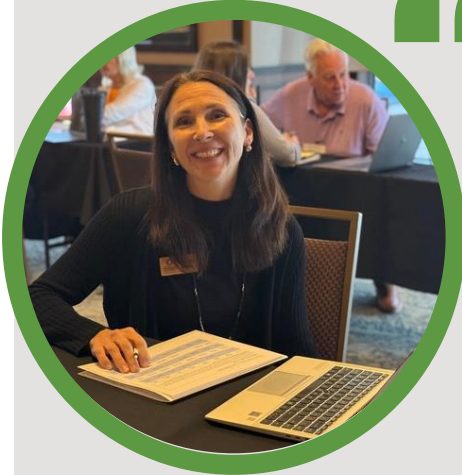


CENTER FOR THE
NEW ENERGY
ECONOMY

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

2025 Impact Report

Leadership



As the Center for the New Energy Economy (CNEE) enters its 15th year, we are meeting this crucial moment of high electricity demand and affordability challenges with our core focus of bipartisan energy policy convenings, developing solutions that work for state leaders and their constituents. 2025 was an incredibly impactful year with new programming in Western states and the mid-Atlantic. CNEE's interdisciplinary team of energy policy and regulatory experts continues to support the creation of a responsible and reliable new energy economy for all Americans.

SUZANNE TEGEN, PH.D.
ACTING DIRECTOR

Our Team



Suzanne Tegen, Ph.D.
Acting Director



Carlyn Petrella
Senior Policy Analyst



Jeff Ackermann
Senior Policy Advisor



Alexandra Evans
Policy Analyst II



Michael Richard
Senior Policy Advisor



Ellen Eisenbeis
Policy Analyst I



Susan Delja
Senior Program Manager



Jack Portman
Research Associate



Trina Hoffer, Ph.D.
Research Manager



Evelyn Peterson
Administrative Coordinator

Who We Are

Founded in 2011 as a department of [Colorado State University](#) by Colorado's 41st Governor, Bill Ritter, Jr., the [Center for the New Energy Economy \(CNEE\)](#) works to advance constructive, bipartisan approaches to energy policy. The Center advances CSU's land-grant mission by assisting governors, legislators, and regulators across the United States as they navigate the complex economic, technological, and social dimensions of the energy transition.

CNEE's work is grounded at the state level, where energy policy decisions most directly shape economic opportunity, reliability, and community outcomes. By fostering education, engagement, and inclusive dialogue, we help policymakers and stakeholders to better understand energy challenges and identify durable, practical solutions.

Vision

CNEE envisions a **responsible, secure, and resilient energy economy** – one that is powered by innovation, informed by data, and advanced through bipartisan policy solutions that expand opportunity and strengthen communities.

Mission

The Center for the New Energy Economy **convenes, educates, and connects** policymakers, communities, and energy experts to foster constructive dialogue that supports the development of informed, inclusive, and durable state energy policy. To fulfill our mission, the Center engages in four key areas of work.



CNEE staff and attendees throughout the July 2025 CELA in Golden, Colorado.

Key Areas of Work

State Policy Engagement

We work directly with governors' offices, legislators, and state regulators to support informed decision-making. Our nonpartisan approach helps states navigate complex issues such as energy affordability, reliability, energy project siting, and market design.

Education and Convening

Through forums, workshops, and peer-learning networks, CNEE creates trusted spaces for policymakers and stakeholders to engage across political, geographic, and industry lines. Our convenings encourage constructive dialogue on challenging energy and climate issues, recognizing that energy plays a central economic role at the state level.

Research, Data, and Tools

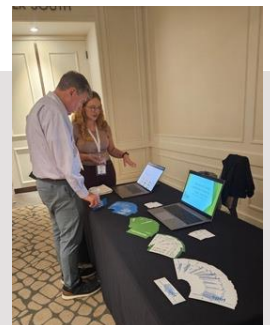
CNEE develops and shares policy-relevant research, data, and analytical tools to help states better understand energy systems, market trends, and policy options. Our work supports evidence-based solutions that reflect real-world constraints and opportunities.

Community-Centered Engagement

We prioritize engagement with communities at the forefront of energy innovation and transition, recognizing that durable policy outcomes depend on local context, lived experience, and trust. These relationships strengthen both the quality and impact of our work.

Our Values

CNEE staff are committed to upholding Colorado State University's values, including accountability, integrity, inclusiveness, innovation, civic responsibility, freedom of expression, and excellence in teaching and research.



CNEE Staff at various events throughout 2025. From left - Acting Director Suzanne Tegen, Ph.D. at Climate Week 2025; CNEE staff exploring Jack's Solar Garden; CNEE staff at the CSU Energy Institute; and CNEE Policy Analyst Ellen Eisenbeis speaking with a legislator at the NCEL National Forum.

2025 News & Updates

CNEE Joins the CSU Energy Institute

In July, CNEE officially joined Colorado State University's [Energy Institute](#), a collaborative hub for energy research, education, and outreach with a mission to develop energy and carbon solutions at a scale that achieves global impact. Our work continues to expand as we share research and development on the latest energy technology developments, identify the policy tools needed to deploy innovative technologies at scale, and support community-led, durable transitions to a more diverse energy economy.



We've worked closely with CNEE for years, so making this partnership official under the Energy Institute is both exciting and deeply aligned. This strengthens how we connect research and policy to real-world impact, and reflects CSU's commitment to innovation and collaboration.

BRYAN WILLSON, PH.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ENERGY INSTITUTE

CNEE staff incorporated new insights from the Energy Institute into our convenings, research, and partnerships. This includes the work at CSU's [Methane Emissions Technology Evaluation Center](#) (METEC) where researchers field test, develop, and demonstrate emissions leak detection and quantification technologies for use at oil and gas facilities. CNEE has also begun to work closely with the many research labs located at the Powerhouse Campus in Fort Collins, including the new [Grid Modernization Initiative](#), a program that will translate interdisciplinary research innovations into practical, scalable solutions for the modern electric grid.

In 2025, we were delighted to welcome Executive Director of the Energy Institute Bryan Willson to the Clean Energy Legislative Academy. Bryan spoke to legislators about the impacts of methane and regulatory and technological approaches to monitor and minimize these costly emissions.

CNEE Expands Staff

CNEE welcomed two new colleagues this year. Jack Portman joined our team in April as a Research Associate, bringing a strong background in building energy efficiency and retrofits.

Michael Richard joined us in September as a Senior Policy Advisor, having served as a Maryland PUC Commissioner for 10 years and who previously served at the Maryland Energy Administration, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the Nuclear Energy Institute.



CNEE staff exploring the Energy Institute campus at various events throughout 2025.

Partnerships & Projects

In 2025, the Center continued our partnerships with the **Conservative Energy Network (CEN)** and the **National Caucus of Environmental Legislators (NCEL)** to bring their legislative expertise to our Clean Energy Legislative Academy (CELA). Both organizations collaborate with CNEE on emerging energy policy topics and attend CELA to offer their unique perspectives and support to participants throughout the event and after.



From left - CNEE Senior Policy Advisor Michael Richard, CEN CEO John Szoka, and CNEE Senior Program Manager Susan Delja together at the 2025 National Conservative Energy Summit.

Susan Delja and Michael Richard attended CEN's 2025 National Conservative Energy Summit in Cleveland, Ohio. As a Former Maryland PUC Commissioner, Senior Policy Advisor Richard spoke on a panel highlighting the role of state regulators.

Ellen Eisenbeis and Alexandra Evans participated in NCEL's 2025 National Forum in Boston, Massachusetts. They presented CNEE's policy tracking tools, the Advanced Energy Legislation (AEL) Tracker and the State Policy Opportunity Tracker (SPOT) for Clean Energy to Forum attendees, including CELA alumni legislators.



From left - CNEE staffers Ellen Eisenbeis and Alexandra Evans present CNEE's policy tracking tools at NCEL's 2025 National Forum in Boston.

CNEE's Acting Director Suzanne Tegen, Ph.D. co-leads the **International Energy Agency's (IEA) Task 62** — Social Science for Collaborative Wind Energy Planning & Participation — to foster international knowledge sharing, best practices, and collaborative local relationships between project host community members, local authorities, and developers. The task's goal is fair, responsible, and sustainable energy development.

The IEA task has more than 30 members from 15 countries ranging from scientists and researchers to government officials and industry representatives.



Photo: Land based wind farms. (Photo credit: NREL Image Gallery 50666, Dennis Schroeder)



Social Science for Collaborative Wind Energy Planning & Participation

The IEA Task 62 [report](#) is available on our website.

Senior Policy Advisor Jeff Ackermann joined the latest cohort of **RMI's Regulatory Lab (Reg Lab)**. The Reg Lab is a collaborative initiative designed to empower Public Utility Commission staff across the country with practical tools and peer learning to tackle today's most pressing energy challenges. This cohort focused on strategies to contain electric utility costs while enabling critical investments for reliability and resilience — a mission that's more important than ever as we navigate rapid grid modernization and load growth. As faculty, Jeff helped regulatory staff to test assumptions about cost drivers and develop innovative approaches to manage costs across utility planning, investment, and operations.

Partnerships & Projects CONT.



CNEE's consultant, Pam Eaton, joined Northeast Wyoming's economic development leaders for a tour the Wyoming Integrated Test Center (left to right) Mike Shober, Vice President, Energy Capital Economic Development; Pam Eaton, CNEE Consultant; Rusty Bell, Director, Office of Economic Transformation, Gillette College Foundation; Brandi Harlow, Northeast Regional Director, Wyoming Business Council; Sharon Buccino, Acting Director, Powder River Basin Resource Council; Kathy Lenz, Business and Economic Development Manager for Senator Cynthia Lummis; and Jim Ford, Operations Manager, Wyoming Integrated Test Center and Campbell County Commissioner.

Utah's San Rafael Energy Lab to learn how the state is preparing for advanced nuclear reactor research projects. Pam and Suzanne also toured coal plants, solar development sites, and other important facilities in Emery and Carbon counties.

The interest in the evolution, expansion, and integration of clean energy technologies by community members and leaders in Wyoming and Utah helped shape CNEE's 2025 Evolving Electric Grid Academy.

Senior Policy Advisor Michael Richard and Senior Policy Analyst Carlyn Petrella lead the Center's growing portfolio of work advancing policy solutions on transmission planning, resource adequacy, and large load integration.

In line with this work, Michael partnered with the **Connected Grid Initiative (CGI)** to engage with policymakers from states' executive and legislative branches, public utility commissions, and transmission development stakeholders to advance CGI's vision for a modernized electric grid — one that meets society's evolving needs while supporting economic growth and environmental stewardship.

In late 2025, CNEE began work with the **Advanced Load Integration for Grid Needs (ALIGN) Initiative**, a joint project led by CNEE, Duke University's Nicholas Institute and GRACE Lab, and the Georgetown Climate Center. The ALIGN Initiative aims to advance research, inform policy, and promote regulatory engagement to address the fast-moving challenges associated with the rapid increase of large load additions to the grid, while protecting ratepayers and limiting, to the extent possible, the addition of new fossil fuel generating assets. Through the Initiative, the team discussed protecting residential customers amid rapid data center growth with Virginia lawmakers, and designed a program for PJM-state legislators on integrating large load additions while upholding cost-causation principles, environmental goals, equity considerations, and the public interest. The program was launched in early 2026.

In spring 2025, Pam Eaton, consultant to **CNEE's Energy Transition** team, visited western coal communities to learn firsthand about their changing economies and the economic opportunities they are pursuing. In Gillette, Wyoming, Pam joined a coal fields tour led by Rusty Bell, the Director of Economic Transformation at Gillette College, and Jim Ford, Campbell County Commissioner. Pam also visited the **Wyoming Integrated Test Center** to learn about the history and distribution of the Powder River Basin's coal resources and the various projects being developed to extend and expand the use of coal, including the Dry Fork Station's carbon capture projects. The tour included Gillette College's comprehensive workforce development campus that provides hands-on training for nursing, welding, and other in-demand jobs in the region.

Pam and CNEE's Acting Director, Dr. Suzanne Tegen, visited Emery and Carbon Counties in Utah — home to two coal plants, and expanding utility-scale solar development. Geri Gamber, of the Southeastern Utah Association of Local Governments, and Utah State Representative Christine Watkins secured a tour of

Partnerships & Projects CONT.

CNEE consistently evaluates emerging energy policy and technology trends and assesses them through the lens of a policymaker. The CNEE Research Team developed a series of two-page [Policy Opportunity Briefs](#) that outline topics relevant to today's western energy policy landscape. In conjunction with the release of these briefs, CNEE hosted a series of webinars for state officials to learn from subject matter experts. This is an ongoing series with more briefs and webinars planned for 2026.



CNEE's [2025 Policy Opportunity Briefs and Webinars](#) are available on our website.

CNEE contributed to a report required by the Colorado legislature under [House Bill 23-1247](#). The report, led by **Colorado's Energy Office and Energy and Environmental Economics, Inc. (E3)**, examines the potential for the deployment of advanced firm dispatchable energy technologies in three rural regions of Colorado. CNEE facilitated community engagement meetings to listen to community leaders' opinions on these technologies and to note the concerns communities have about technologies sited near them. The report was distributed to the Colorado legislature in December 2025. Follow up community engagements, led by CNEE, will take place in early 2026.



RAP's Announcement of the Council of Commissioners.

CNEE's Senior Policy Advisor Michael Richard joined the **Regulatory Assistance Project's** newly launched [U.S. Council of Commissioners](#), a distinguished group of nine former state utility commissioners. The Council's mission is to reframe the national energy debate toward constructive, solutions-driven reforms that ensure energy is clean, affordable, and reliable. Drawing on deep regulatory experience, the Council provides guidance to current utility regulators, legislators, governors, and consumer advocates as they navigate the transition to a clean energy future. Richard's participation strengthens CNEE's engagement with state policymakers and supports other collaborative projects.

As part of the **Conveners Network's States Deployment Initiative**, CNEE worked through the year with state energy, air, and environmental quality offices as they crossed the finish line with submission of their state Comprehensive Climate Action Plans to the U.S. EPA.

CNEE's work with **The Nature Conservancy** continues to play a pivotal role in advancing pragmatic, science-based clean energy policy across the country. Through this collaboration, CNEE provided TNC's North America Climate Mitigation Program and state business units with expert policy research, analysis, facilitation, and stakeholder engagement support. This partnership also supported our state policy tracking tools, informed TNC's renewable energy strategy, and equipped TNC with timely, actionable insights to accelerate durable climate policy solutions.

By the Numbers

The Clean Energy Legislative Academy



CELA attendees, faculty, and staff together in July 2025.

Our annual [Clean Energy Legislative Academy \(CELA\)](#) brings together a bipartisan cohort of state legislators for an intensive four-day event. CELA provides attendees the information and resources they need to develop effective state-level clean energy policy.

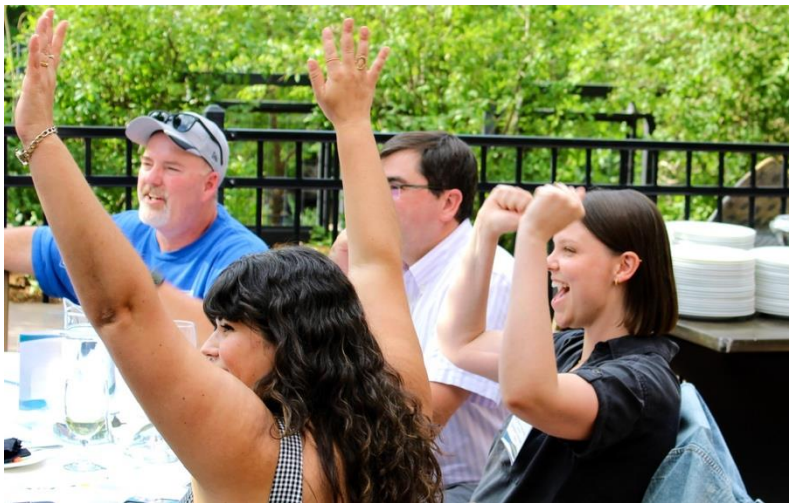
Our politically neutral forum provides an opportunity to learn about clean energy policy, discuss state-specific challenges, and speak candidly. In 2025, CNEE partnered with the Conservative Energy Network (CEN) and the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators (NCEL) to provide bipartisan information and messaging techniques.

1,229

Alumni-sponsored bills

249

Alumni-sponsored bills enacted



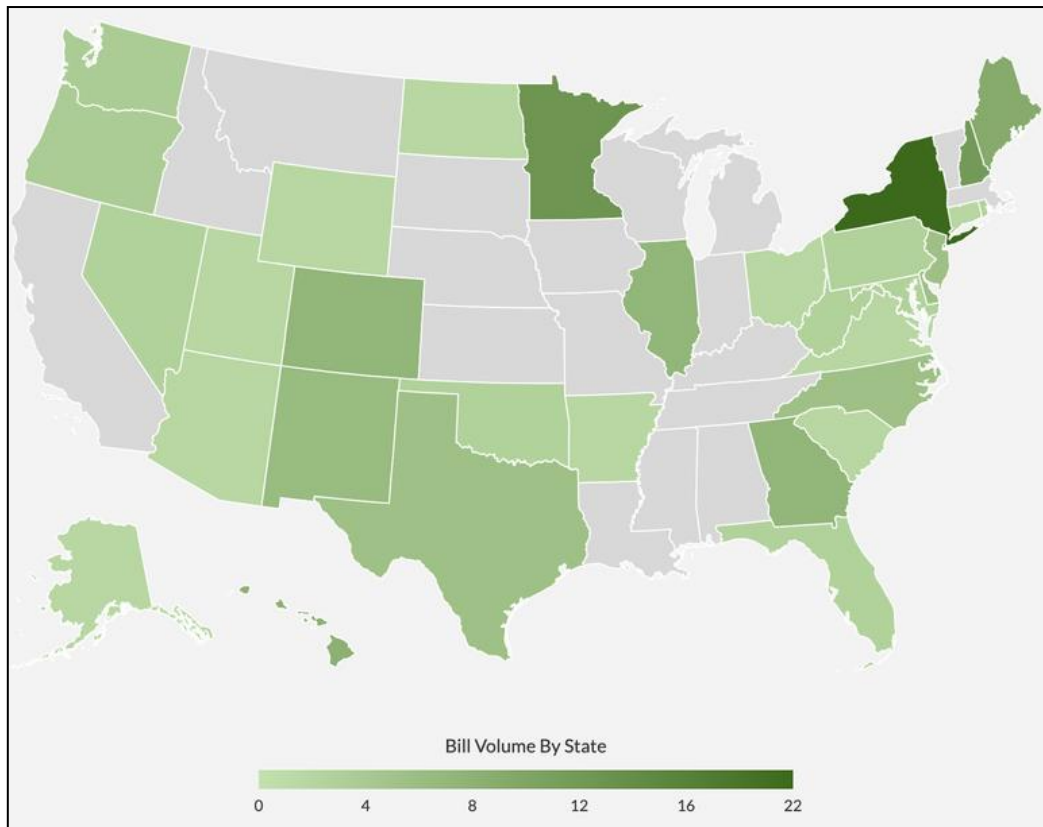
CELA attendees celebrate and talk during the opening dinner's energy-themed Jeopardy game.



The Academy brings **state legislators from across the political spectrum and the country** together. Legislators learn from a team of expert faculty about a variety of issues, network with peers, and develop strategies to make their states more competitive in the clean energy marketplace.

In addition to the access to subject matter experts that the Academy offers, CNEE's Research Team provides legislators with energy policy issue briefs and state-specific briefs. Each state brief covers existing policies and policy opportunities as well as context for the state's energy landscape. These [publicly available briefs](#) are designed to give state legislators an overview of the policies that may benefit their state.

Legislation Introduced by CELA Alumni



Using the myTracker feature of the [Advanced Energy Legislation \(AEL\) Tracker](#), CNEE tracks the number of energy-related bills introduced (1,229) and enacted (249) by CELA alumni legislators. This map shows CELA states by the number of advanced energy bills introduced by our alumni since 2018. CELA alumni's advanced energy-related legislation is enacted at a higher rate (20%) than the average for advanced energy-related legislation generally (17%).

Legislative Snapshots from CELA Alumni

- Colorado [House Bill 25-1267](#) - directs the Division of Oil and Public Safety to adopt rules concerning retail electric vehicle charging including minimum standards for retail charging equipment and methods of retail sale at publicly accessible charging stations. The bill also expands the allowable uses of money in the electric vehicle grant fund and the community impact cash fund.
- New Hampshire [Senate Bill 25-233](#) - directs the state's Grid Modernization Advisory Group to consider emerging reliability challenges and the role that energy storage might play in addressing those.
- New Mexico - [House Bill 25-93](#) - allows utilities to include advanced grid technologies in their applications for grid modernization projects and requires including advanced grid technologies in integrated resource plans.

CELA: What Attendees Have to Say



Representative Gonzalez (CO) speaks with Representative Watkins (UT) and CNEE's Susan Delja.

"Being able to have clean energy information presented in a non-partisan way is key to helping address energy issues at their core. Given the current environment, it is very important as a legislator to be given the facts and information in a traditional setting. This academy focused on energy types, problems, and potential solutions."

Representative Ryan Gonzalez (R-Colorado)



Representatives Paschal (CO) and Moore (KY) and CELA Faculty Jonathon Monken bond over an introductory game.

"I'm so pleased with the information, resources, and connections I made at CELA. I'm really looking forward to filing and passing new bipartisan legislation next year that will lower Kentucky's energy prices and our carbon footprint."

Representative Adam Moore (D-Kentucky)



Senator Brooks (MD) attends faculty 1-on-1 sessions.

"This has been a model of what a thoughtful well-executed convening should look like. The depth of expertise from the presenters — spanning grid resilience, affordability, clean energy innovation, and equity — was not only impressive, but refreshingly practical. Each session offered actionable insights and bipartisan pathways that I can take back to Maryland and employ. Thank you for your commitment to empowering state legislators and for creating a space where solutions, not slogans, can prevail."

Senator Benjamin Brooks (D-Maryland)

Convenings

The Regional Energy Academy

The inaugural **Regional Energy Academy**, hosted in Boise, Idaho, in November 2025 built on the success of CELA. The event brought together a **bipartisan cohort of Western state legislators** from Wyoming, Utah, Montana, and Idaho for a two-day event to learn from energy experts and each other and to discuss evolving energy challenges and opportunities in the region.

The Center welcomed three legislators from each state, representatives from the Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources, and expert speakers to engage on issues of transmission, resource planning, advanced firm power, nuclear workforce development, and more.



Street art welcomed Regional Energy Academy attendees to Boise, Idaho.

Energy Transition Academy

Continuing our [Energy Transition](#) work, CNEE hosted a virtual academy webinar series for **leaders of coal communities** in Arizona and New Mexico. Key takeaways from the academy included:

- In rural energy communities, **affordability and reliability** remain of utmost concern.
- When working with communities that host energy or other large infrastructure projects, it is vital that the project's **community benefits** are defined, measurable, and enforceable.
- The infrastructure and skills required for geothermal generation are similar to those of the oil and gas industry, offering **opportunity** for existing wells and workforce to transition to geothermal.
- Communities are concerned with **data centers** being sited near their residents. Just like with other infrastructure projects, leaders should ensure that they offer real benefits and that there is transparency throughout the data center siting, development, and operations processes.

Alumni Engagement

Continued engagement with attendees of our convenings is a priority for CNEE. **We provide year-round support to our alumni** including drafting research briefs and providing technical support.

- In late 2025, CNEE hosted an online video call with CELA alumni where attendees heard from subject matter experts regarding energy policy analysis tools available to legislators.
- In response to a CELA alumni request, CNEE Senior Policy Advisors Michael Richard and Jeff Ackermann presented to Oklahoma state legislators about how renewable resources can be integrated into an all-of-the-above energy approach.



Left to right: Taylor Hickerson, Bryan Willson, Senator Cathy Kipp, Kate Siegel Shimko, Alex Evans, Kenneth Reardon, Cassandra Mosley, and Amber Krummel outside the Advanced Beam Laboratory at CSU.

By the Numbers

Policy Tracking Tools & Briefs

50,000+

advanced energy bills tracked across the 50 states and D.C. in the **AEL Tracker**

35

clean energy policies analyzed across 50 states on the **SPOT for Clean Energy**

50+

State and energy policy briefs updated regularly

The Advanced Energy Legislation (AEL) Tracker



Search the Advanced Energy Legislation Tracker
Sign up for myTracker to create a personalized list of bills to track.

Go to myTracker

Filter By: Reset all Filters

States: [Dropdown]

Policies: [Dropdown]

Years: [Dropdown]

Keywords: [Text Input]

Find Bills

Visualizations

Select a bill to view more details about the bill. Each bill opens in a new tab.

This search found 140 bills.

Bill Number	Primary Sponsor	Status
RI H9999	Joseph Solomon (D)	Introduced
IL HB4105	Martin McLaughlin (R)	Introduced

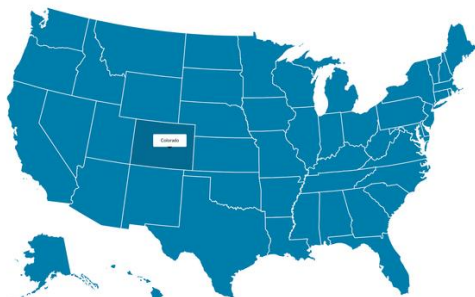
The [AEL Tracker's](#) free database contains over 50,000 advanced energy-related bills introduced since 2013 across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Legislation is sorted by our research team into 10 policy categories and tagged with keywords to make the database highly searchable. Users can create a free myTracker account to track and receive notifications on a personalized list of legislation. Users can also view visualizations of searches, including maps and graphs.

The State Policy Opportunity Tracker (SPOT) for Clean Energy



Clean Energy Policy by State
Select state on the map below or use the drop-down menu.

Choose a State for more details
Select a State
Download Full 50 State Gap Analysis



The [SPOT for Clean Energy](#) is a hub of information on both existing state clean energy policies and, uniquely, future policy opportunities. Our research team synthesizes information related to 35 clean energy policies at the state level and documents whether a given state policy exists and where it stands related to four to six policy components. Also providing downloadable and informative energy policy briefs, this resource is a planning tool for states to use as they develop their own clean energy policy roadmaps.

Educate, Convene, Inspire



From top left - The CNEE team together at the July 2025 CELA; top right - members of the CNEE team together after a tour of Jack's Solar Garden in Colorado; bottom left - Research Associate Jack Portman has a 1-on-1 with a state legislator at CELA; middle bottom - members of CNEE's energy transition team on a tour; bottom right - CNEE staff attend a tour.

As we look ahead, the Center for the New Energy Economy's staff is proud of the progress reflected in this report. We remain steadfast in our commitment to the work still to come. Guided by the relationships and expertise that we continue to build, and the lessons learned that strengthened us throughout 2025, we approach the years ahead with renewed purpose. Together with our partners, we are committed to shaping a resilient and collaborative energy future for states across the nation.



The New Energy Economy is about our future, our kids' future, our grandkids' future. I think in order to survive we need to produce and consume energy differently. If we do not, our legacy for our children will be a world inferior to that we live in.

**GOVERNOR BILL RITTER, JR.
FOUNDER**

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