

NASEO's 2017 Mid-Atlantic Regional State Energy Officials Meeting

June 26-27, 2017
Hershey, Pennsylvania

Maryland Energy Administration

Maryland's Energy Policy Issues:

- Grid of the Future
 - Maryland's Public Service Commission recently began a 12-18 month long proceeding to address a variety of topics, including competition and consumer choice, rate design, interconnection, electricity data access/sharing, energy storage, etc.
- Energy Affordability
 - Maryland has some of the highest electricity prices in its region so MEA is constantly working to facilitate more affordable energy.
- Energy Efficiency
 - Maryland recently reauthorized and extended its energy efficiency resource standard and is currently in the process of planning how the state will achieve maximum benefits at the least cost to ratepayers.
- Offshore Wind
 - MEA participated in the Offshore Renewable Energy Credit (OREC) proceeding. The Maryland PSC recently approved two projects totaling 368MW of offshore wind capacity.
- Solar Deployment in Rural Maryland
 - The increase in solar development in Maryland has raised concerns among the agriculture, forest conservation, and land preservation communities.

State Energy Program Activities:

Maryland's SEP funds administrative costs and salaries, rather than specific activities. That said, the following are examples of activities which benefit from SEP funding:

- MEA encourages the implementation of CHP technologies in eligible industrial facilities, critical infrastructure facilities (including healthcare, wastewater treatment, and essential state and local government facilities), and to encourage the implementation of CHP technologies that leverage biogas/biomass as a fuel source in industrial and critical infrastructure facilities.

- MEA administers the Maryland Smart Energy Communities (MSEC) program, a cooperative State and local government initiative designed to assist local governments in adopting long term energy efficiency, renewable energy, and transportation goals.
- MEA pursues a communications program designed to educate the public on energy efficiency, renewable energy, transportation, and other energy issues.
- MEA implements a Commercial and Industrial (C&I) grant program for projects that will lead to deep electricity retrofits of at least 15% electricity savings in commercial and industrial buildings.
- Implementing energy programs designed to increase the use of biomass in the State of Maryland (e.g. clean burning wood stoves, animal waste to energy, commercial wood boilers, etc.).
- MEA uses SEP funding to fund staff salaries and travel to provide policy and direction in administrative proceedings, advising technical and policy working groups, and in support of the Governor and Maryland's General Assembly.
- MEA works with stakeholders statewide to contribute to the development of alternative fuel markets and the reduction of liquid petroleum in Maryland by increasing the deployment of electric, compressed natural gas, and propane vehicles.

Other (Non-SEP) Activities:

- MEA monitors federal actions as well as issues with PJM to help ensure that cost allocations involving Maryland ratepayers are appropriate.
- MEA researches and analyzes best practices for energy policy in other states to pursue in Maryland.
- MEA is currently in the process of developing an updated energy plan for the State of Maryland.