



## **Improving Energy Efficiency, Indoor Air Quality, and Educational Outcomes in School Facilities: Opportunities for State Energy Office and School Leader Collaboration**

August 13 –14, 2024  
Monona Terrace, Madison, WI  
Hall of Ideas, Rooms G-J  
1 John Nolen Dr, Madison, WI 53703

### **AGENDA**

This in-person National Association of State Energy Officials’ (NASEO) convening of State Energy Offices, school district leaders, and other K-12 public school stakeholders will explore the nexus between modernized, highly energy-efficient school facilities and improved educational outcomes. Participants will hear from exemplary Midwest school districts on practices to support holistic school quality, as well as establish new or fortify existing relationships between same-state stakeholders and learn how to effectively navigate existing federal funding opportunities, public-private financing, and elective pay federal tax incentives.

#### **Event Objectives:**

- Strengthen relationships between same-state energy and school officials and stakeholders.
- Identify shared priorities and goals between energy and education stakeholders by discussing requisite facility energy-efficiency and performance to aid in achieving educational outcomes.
- Discuss the role of public-private partnerships and approaches on how to direct federal funding for energy efficiency and indoor air quality improvements to under resourced school districts.
- Explore best practices and examples around data management, policy, and long-term capital planning from local school districts and practitioners.

#### **Tuesday, August 13, 2024**

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Central Time

**Continental Breakfast**

9:00 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

**Welcome Remarks**

NASEO and state agency partners in Wisconsin will welcome participants and provide an overview of the meeting.

Speakers:

- Joe Pater, Director, Wisconsin Public Service Commission, Office of Energy Innovations
- Sandy Fazeli, Senior Managing Director, NASEO

9:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

**Setting the Stage: Energy Efficient and Healthy Schools for Improved Educational Outcomes**

This session will showcase various State Energy Office-led indoor air quality grant and planning programs, emphasizing their importance in advancing school health, safety, and educational attainment priorities.

Moderator:

- Michael Lynn, State Program Administrator, Minnesota Department of Commerce Division of Energy Resources

Speakers:

- Craig Schiller, Executive Director, Collaborative for High Performance Schools
- Charles Schneider, Project Director, School Decarbonization, Center for Green Schools
- Heather Feigum, Executive Director, Cooperative Educational Service Agency 10, Program Manager, Focus on Energy

10:45 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**Networking Break**

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Federal Programs and Technical Support**

This session will focus on federal funding, financing, technical support, and recognition opportunities serving schools and their broader communities. Federal government representatives will highlight programs for school districts to maximize budget, staffing, and technical capacity that help improve the overall quality of school facilities.

Speakers:

- Sydney Applegate, Science, Technology, and Policy Fellow, U.S. Department of Energy
- Caterina Hatcher, ENERGY STAR National Manager, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Laura Carpenter, Advisor for Partnerships and Technical Assistance, U.S. Department of Energy

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

### **Stretching Investments with Financing and Tax Incentives**

This session will provide information about federal tax credits, direct pay, and transferability opportunities for tax-exempt schools to invest in efficiency and beneficial electrification measures. It will also cover energy savings performance contracts and the role of owners' representatives to defray remaining system costs for budget constrained school districts.

#### Moderator:

- Rebecca Puck Stair, Director of the Energy Conservation and Management Division, New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department

#### Speakers:

- Sara Ross, Co-Founder, UndauntedK12
- Wyatt Ross, Energy and Sustainability Engineer, CMTA

12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

### **Networking Lunch**

1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

### **The Journey is Just as Important as the Destination: Making Electric School Buses a Reality for Students**

This session will underscore the importance of not only a healthy learning environment, but a healthy method of transportation to and from school. Speakers from relevant nonprofits and the private sector will showcase the latest in zero-emission school bus technology and will cover the current landscape of available funding opportunities and business models that can help ensure equitable access to this technology for school districts, regardless of size or funding. The panel will focus on actionable policies and programs for both states and school districts.

#### Moderator:

- Craig Schiller, Executive Director, Collaborative for High Performance Schools

#### Speakers:

- Sue Gander, Director, Electric School Bus Initiative, World Resources Institute
- Rachel Chard, Deputy Director, Electric School Buses, CALSTART
- Joshua Williams, Senior Midwest Regional Manager, Market Development, Highland Electric
- Alexander Cook, Chief Engineer, First Student

2:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

### **Networking Break**

3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

**Leadership in the Midwest: Exemplary School District Case Studies**

Hear directly from pioneering school districts in the Midwest on strategic approaches to enhancing energy efficiency and indoor air quality. Gain insights from school districts recognized through federal grant awards and annual recognition programs, as well as districts utilizing innovative technologies and planning responses to transform educational environments while setting a new standard for leadership in the region.

Moderator:

- Joe Pater, Director, Wisconsin Public Service Commission, Office of Energy Innovations

Speakers:

- Heather Feigum, Executive Director, Focus on Energy
- Jerrud Rossing, Middleton Cross Plains School District, Wisconsin

4:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Interactive Planning Exercise**

Speakers:

- Sandy Fazeli, Senior Managing Director, NASEO
- Craig Schiller, Executive Director, Collaborative for High Performance Schools

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

**Networking Reception**

**Wednesday, August 14, 2024**

8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

**Continental Breakfast**

8:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

**Public-Private Partnerships: Capacity Building and Technical Assistance for Facility Managers**

This session will focus on resources and professional development opportunities for school district facilities staff, including resources that assist with managing complex capital projects and long-term facilities planning. This discussion will touch on the role of energy services companies, owners' representatives, local government agencies, and other entities in both financing and administering energy efficiency projects and expanding the capacity of school district facilities management teams.

Moderator:

- Kari Moeller, Energy Market Transformations Team Supervisor, Minnesota Department of Commerce

Speakers:

- Cory J. DeGross, Electrical Systems Manager, Madison Metropolitan School District
- Mandela Barnes, President, Forward Together Wisconsin
- Charles McGinnis, Vice President, Sales and Development, Johnson Controls, Inc.

9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

**Sustainable and Resilient Design: Schools as Innovation and Community Hubs**

In times of crisis, schools often become more than just centers of learning—they transform into vital community gathering points. This session explores the need for K-12 schools to modernize their facilities to both support those that rely on schools as emergency shelters during disasters and serve as innovative design demonstrations for building resilient and sustainable buildings.

Moderator:

- Joe Pater, Director, Wisconsin Public Service Commission, Office of Energy Innovations

Speakers:

- Andrew Weiland, Business Manager, Oregon School District
- Maria Welch, Design Specialist, Architect + Associate, Bray Architects
- Kathy Kuntz, Director, Dane County Office of Energy and Climate Change

10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

**Networking Break**

11:00 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.

**Day 2 Interactive Report Out Session**

Moderators:

- Jasmine Xie, Senior Program Manager, NASEO
- Craig Schiller, Executive Director, Collaborative for High Performance Schools

11:50 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Closing Remarks and Adjourn**

Speakers:

- Joe Pater, Director, Wisconsin Public Service Commission, Office of Energy Innovation
- Jasmine Xie, Senior Program Manager, NASEO

**About the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO)**

NASEO is the only national non-profit association for the 56 governor-designated State, Territory and District of Columbia Energy Offices. Formed by the states in 1986, NASEO facilitates peer learning among state energy officials, serves as a resource for and about State Energy Offices, and advocates the interests of the State Energy Offices to Congress and federal agencies.

**About Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS)**

The Collaborative for High Performance Schools (CHPS) is a nonprofit organization that works to ensure all K-12 students have access to environments that support learning and wellness. CHPS helps facilitate and inspire transformational change in America’s education system by changing the way schools are designed, constructed, and operated.

**About the U.S. Green Building Council Center for Green Schools**

The Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council is a global leader in advancing green schools and providing the resources needed to create sustainable, healthy, resilient, and equitable learning environments. The Center for Green Schools is driving the green school movement by working directly with those implementing sustainability within school systems and offering a wide array of initiatives that accelerate action.