

# Regional Offices

## Regional Offices are EERE's principal link to its state and local stakeholders.

The mission of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) is to:

1) Dramatically reduce dependence on foreign oil; 2) Bring clean, reliable and affordable technologies to the marketplace; and 3) Make a difference in the everyday lives of Americans by enhancing their energy choices and quality of life.

EERE maintains a network of six Regional Offices (ROs) that work with local, state and regional stakeholders to accomplish EERE's mission. The ROs are EERE's principal mechanism for delivering energy efficiency and renewable energy programs at the regional, state, and local levels. They provide EERE with valuable feedback on program performance and on needs and opportunities unique to specific states and localities. In addition to the 50 states, the ROs serve Washington, DC; Puerto Rico; the Northern Marianas; and three U.S. territories.

Because of the diversity that exists among regions, states, and localities, no single set of EERE technologies and practices is universally applicable. Rather, EERE's success depends on millions of individual choices at the local level – by homebuilders and home owners, small businesses, industries, utilities, car or appliance buyers, and many others. All of these decisions are based on diverse local geographic, environmental, and economic conditions. Local experts know local needs and opportunities best.

EERE's success in developing and deploying efficient and clean energy technologies is dependent on Federal energy programs integrated with those at the regional, state and local levels.

The ROs facilitate this integration by forming partnerships with regional, state, and local organizations, both public and private. For example, ROs and the states partner to identify and address local needs in the State Energy Program (SEP), in which states develop and submit plans for funding by EERE. Each state's plan must address certain statutory measures. After these minimum requirements are met, a state may request funds for almost any energy efficiency or renewable energy activity that best meets its citizens' needs.

The state and local partnerships that are established through the ROs are the primary vehicle through which the Department of Energy joins with states, localities, and others at the regional level. Working collaboratively, they identify and meet the needs of individual citizens, cities, counties, and states across the nation.

## Regional Offices

### Southeast Regional Office

75 Spring Street, SW, Suite 200  
Atlanta, GA 30303-3308  
Phone: 404-562-0555  
E-mail: Jim.Powell@ee.doe.gov  
WebSite: [www.eere.energy.gov/regions/southeast](http://www.eere.energy.gov/regions/southeast)  
Serving: AL, AR, FL, GA, KY, MS, NC, SC, TN, PR, U.S. Virgin Islands

### Northeast Regional Office

JFK Federal Building, Suite 675  
Boston, MA 02203-0002  
Phone: 617-565-9700  
E-mail: Hugh.Saussy@ee.doe.gov  
WebSite: [www.eere.energy.gov/regions/northeast](http://www.eere.energy.gov/regions/northeast)  
Serving: CT, MA, ME, NH, NY, RI, VT

### Midwest Regional Office

One South Wacker Drive, Suite 2380  
Chicago, IL 60606-4616  
Phone: 312-353-6749  
E-mail: Peter.Dreyfuss@ee.doe.gov  
WebSite: [www.eere.energy.gov/regions/midwest](http://www.eere.energy.gov/regions/midwest)  
Serving: IL, IN, IA, MI, MN, MO, OH, WI

### Central Regional Office

1617 Cole Boulevard, MS-1521  
Golden, CO 80401-3305  
Phone: 303-275-4826  
E-mail: Bill.Becker@ee.doe.gov  
WebSite: [www.eere.energy.gov/regions/central](http://www.eere.energy.gov/regions/central)  
Serving: CO, KS, LA, MT, ND, NE, NM, OK, SD, TX, UT, WY

### Mid-Atlantic Regional Office

The Wanamaker Building  
100 Penn Square East, Suite 890  
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3396  
Phone: 215-656-6950  
E-mail: Ellen.Lutz@ee.doe.gov  
WebSite: [www.eere.energy.gov/regions/mid-atlantic](http://www.eere.energy.gov/regions/mid-atlantic)  
Serving: DC, DE, MD, NJ, PA, VA, Wv

### Western Regional Office

800 Fifth Avenue, Suite 3950  
Seattle, WA 98104-3122  
Phone: 206-553-1004  
E-mail: Julie.Riel@ee.doe.gov  
WebSite: [www.eere.energy.gov/regions/western](http://www.eere.energy.gov/regions/western)  
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# Regional Offices

**Regional Offices work with states, localities, and other key groups to achieve important national goals, among them:**

- **Reducing America's dependence on foreign oil.** The ROs support more than 80 coalitions in EERE's Clean Cities Program – coalitions that advance DOE's FreedomCAR goals and help increase the visibility of renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies.
- **Extending energy efficiency benefits to the nation's poorest households.** The ROs administer EERE's funding to 950 local agencies that have weatherized more than 5 million homes since 1976 under the Weatherization Assistance Program. ROs also facilitate training and peer exchange among state and local Weatherization agencies.
- **Increasing the reliability and efficiency of electricity generation, delivery, and use.** ROs work with stakeholders and policy makers to identify opportunities, barriers, and issues critical to Distributed Energy (DE), Wind and Hydropower, and other energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies used for electricity generation. The ROs are instrumental in the delivery of EERE programs like GeoPowering the West and Wind Powering America.
- **Helping to spur the creation of a domestic bioindustry.** ROs work with the public and private sectors at the state and local levels to encourage biomass resource development.

- **Achieving the goals of the Federal Energy Management Program.** ROs serve the regional Federal marketplace through SAVEnergy audits, alternative financing, and integration of the full EERE opportunity portfolio. RO staff bring Federal energy managers together with key utility contacts, state and Federal partners, and the network of regional resource providers.
- **Increasing the energy efficiency of industry, buildings and appliances.** ROs assist in the delivery of EERE programs such as the State Energy Program, Rebuild America, and State Industries of the Future at the state and local levels.

The ROs carry out their mission by:

- Managing and helping to deliver EERE programs at the regional, state and local levels;
- Serving as EERE's liaison to State Energy Offices, other agencies, associations, and stakeholders;
- Supporting and helping to deliver special initiatives of the President, Secretary, and Assistant Secretary; and
- Creating regional, state and local partnerships to maximize the impact of EERE's technologies and programs.

Programs administered through the ROs include: Weatherization Assistance Program, the State Energy Program, Clean Cities, Rebuild America, Building Energy Codes, Energy Smart Schools, Energy Star, Federal Energy Management Program, Wind Powering America, Million Solar Roofs, Industries of the Future, Distributed Energy, and GeoPowering the West.

## *A Strong Energy Portfolio for a Strong America*

*Energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy will mean a stronger economy, a cleaner environment, and greater energy independence for America. Working with a wide array of state, community, industry, and university partners, the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy invests in a diverse portfolio of energy technologies.*



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