

Sustainable Economy

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2009

CSI Event: State Policy Directors 2009 Annual Meeting

September 15, 2009

CSI's Second Annual Meeting of State Policy Directors in Washington, DC was a great success, spurring a number of useful policy discussions which we plan to continue through webinars. Highlights included a meeting with federal agency officials and the White House on new agency initiatives and a "lightning round" of suggested low-cost or revenue-neutral policy options. In attendance this year were state Policy Directors and other state officials from 13 states and DC.



State Innovation: California's Renewable Energy Targets



September 15, 2009

California [Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger](#) signed an executive order that required California to produce 33 percent of its energy needs using renewable sources by 2020. The target, which is the most aggressive in the nation, follows a series of actions aimed at decreasing the state's reliance on fossil fuels. These include a 2006 law that required California to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions 25 percent by 2020 and a 2008 executive order that streamlined the approval process for startup renewable energy projects.

[Click here to read more from ACEEE on state energy efficiency standards](#)

State Innovation: The Green Bank of Kentucky

September 2, 2009

Kentucky [Governor Steve Beshear](#) has announced the creation of "The Green Bank of Kentucky" which will fund energy efficiency improvements to state facilities. The state has initially capitalized the revolving loan fund with \$18.75 million from Kentucky's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act allocation, and is seeking legislative authority to augment these funds with additional federal grants. Loans will be distributed on a competitive basis to state agencies for such projects as smart energy temperature controls, water conservation and weather stripping. The project is a part of the Governor's comprehensive "Intelligent Energy Choices for Kentucky's Future" energy plan.



RECENT PUBLICATIONS

[Better Coordination of Transportation and Housing Programs to Promote Affordable Housing near Transit](#)

U.S. DOT and U.S. HUD
August 2009

The report outlines strategies developed by FTA and HUD to continue and expand coordination in the area of mixed-income and affordable housing near transit over the 3-year period between FY 2008 -FY 2010.

[Restoring the Trust: An Index of State Constitutional and Statutory Provisions and Cases on Water Resources and the Public Trust Doctrine](#)

Center for Progressive Reform
September 2009

After decades of unwise water policies and practices, water resources in the United States are increasingly overdrawn and overwhelmed. This report explores the application of the public trust doctrine to the protection of surface water and groundwater resources.

[Getting on Track: Record Transit Ridership Increases Energy Independence](#)

Environment America Research and Policy Center
September 2009

To make us more energy independent and reduce pollution, we need to build a transportation system that uses less oil, takes advantage of alternative fuels, and shifts our travel to more energy efficient modes of transportation. The expansion of public transportation options addresses these concerns.

[Fighting Oil Addiction: Ranking States' Oil Vulnerability and Solutions for Change](#)

National Resource Defense Council
August 2009

Our national addiction to oil affects every state. However, the rankings in this report clearly show that oil dependence hits drivers in certain states harder than others. This report highlights the disparate impact of high oil prices on individual states.

STATE REPORTS

[Maryland's Energy Industry Workforce Report: Preparing Today's Workers for Tomorrow's Opportunities](#)

Maryland's Governor's Workforce Investment Board
September 2009

This report assesses the current and projected need for jobs in the "green" economy and develops 15 recommendations. Specific implementation strategies proposed in the report range from developing a bachelors degree in technical and professional studies to building competency models for targeted occupations.

[State Economic Development Plan](#)

Connecticut's Department of Economic and Community Development
September 2009

This plan proposes a strategic course in five year intervals for the next 20 years, discussing transportation, housing market and affordability, education, workforce, healthcare, tech transfer, taxation, availability of capital, energy costs and supply, and culture and tourism.

[Statewide Freight Plan](#)

Maryland Department of Transportation
September 2009

This plan examines the current and long-range freight system performance and recommends areas of needed investment and public policy reform. Issues discussed range from reducing congestion and bottlenecks to improving coordination between planning agencies.

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