

CSI WEBINAR SERIES KICKS OFF NEXT WEEK!

November 03, 2009—The Center for State Innovation will be hosting a series of webinars on “Innovations for Hard Times: Low-cost High-road Policy Ideas for State Executives.” The series will cover such topics as Green Jobs Training, Building Retrofit Programs, and Maryland’s StateStat Government performance initiative.

The series will begin on November, 10 with a discussion on Green Career Readiness Certificates. Please contact Breann Boggs at bboggs@stateinnovation.org if you have any interest in participating in the discussion.

Recent Reports in Energy and Environment

[Regional Green Building Case Study Project: A post-occupancy study of LEED projects](#)

The [U.S. Green Building Council’s](#) Chicago Chapter examines post-occupancy performance data, costs and benefits of 25 LEED-certified buildings in terms of energy and water efficiency, greenhouse gas emissions, occupant comfort, and other performance indicators.

[Five Emerging U.S. Public Finance Models: Powering Clean-Tech Economic Growth and Job Creation](#)

To benefit from the clean-tech revolution, the U.S. needs new financial instruments to provide capital for the rapid expansion of clean-tech industries. This report by [Clean Edge](#) analyzes five promising financing models: Clean Energy Deployment Administration (Green Bank), Clean Energy Victory Bonds, Tax Credit Bonds, Federal Loan Guarantees, and City Funds.

[Subsidizing Infrastructure Investment with Tax-Preferred Bonds](#)

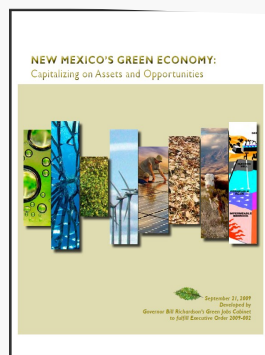
According to the [Congressional Budget Office](#), the tax revenue relinquished by issuing bonds is often greater than the fiscal benefit states and localities see in lower borrowing costs. This frictional loss could amount to as much as several billion dollars a year nationwide.

[Energy Self Reliant States](#)

The thirty-six states with renewable energy goals or mandates could meet their energy needs through renewable fuels produced in-state. The [New Rules Project](#) examines the debate between centralized and decentralized renewable energy strategies, and supports state and local production. Effective planning strategies such as least-cost energy planning, energy efficiency, demand reduction, and distributed generation can be tapped at the state (not federal) level.

FEATURED REPORT: NEW MEXICO’S GREEN ECONOMY

September 29, 2009—New Mexico [Governor Bill Richardson](#) established the Green Jobs Cabinet in January 2009 with the charge to examine and report on clean energy opportunities and strategies in the state. The Cabinet recently completed a report, [New Mexico’s Green Economy: Capitalizing on Assets and Opportunities](#), that provides an overview of New Mexico’s green economy; examines opportunities for job creation and economic development; develops a green economy workforce development strategy; and outlines recommendations for growing the state’s clean energy sector.



Spotlight on State Innovations

Innovative Financing for Transportation Infrastructure

October 27, 2009

Minnesota [Governor Tim Pawlenty](#) announced that the Minnesota Department of Transportation will increase the use of Public Private Partnerships to finance new transportation projects. P3’s leverage financial and planning resources from both public and private sector entities to complete projects more efficiently and to better target specific economic development and transportation goals. Governor Pawlenty also directed Mn/DOT to identify additional freeways that would benefit from installation of [MnPass](#) congestion-priced, high-occupancy toll lanes.

Major Wind Energy Project Completed

October 21, 2009

After completing one major wind energy project, Montana [Governor Brian Schweitzer](#) cemented a deal to construct an even larger wind farm. Completed in October 2009, the Glacier Wind Farm produces 210 mw and created over 250 construction jobs. The new Rim Rock project will include an additional 206 turbines and will produce 309 mw, making it one of the largest wind projects in the region. It will also create more than 500 construction jobs.



Great Appliance Swap Out

October 16, 2009

New York [Governor David Paterson](#) proposed the [Great Appliance Swap Out](#) program to provide incentives for consumers to recycle old appliances and purchase new, energy efficient ones. Pending federal approval, the program would use ARRA funds to issue up to 170,000 rebates to customers purchasing eligible high-efficiency appliances (refrigerators, clothes washers, freezers and dishwashers) totaling \$16.8 million. If approved, the rebates will be offered in February 2010 and range from \$50-\$105 for a single appliance and up to \$555 for the purchase of three appliances. A greater rebate will be offered to consumers who recycle old appliances. Only appliances with the [Energy Star](#) label that are up to 30 percent more efficient than standard models will qualify. A higher rebate may be available for consumers who purchase three appliances that meet the [Consortium for Energy Efficiency’s](#) standards, which are higher than Energy Star.

UPCOMING DOE WEBINAR:

[Financing Program Support for ARRA Recipients](#)

November 12, 2009 1:00P.M. EST, 60 min.

This will be the first in a series of webinars to support ARRA recipients who are launching energy efficiency and renewable energy financing programs. This session will highlight some of the resources that are now available and will review a range of financing program options that cities and states can consider. Learn more and register at: <http://www.eere.energy.gov>

CONTACT US

Visit us online at: www.stateinnovation.org, **Mail:** 1180 Observatory Drive, Suite 7122, Madison WI 53706
Fax: (608) 262-9046, **Tel:** (608) 890-2400, **Email:** info@stateinnovation.org