

## SEASONS GREETINGS FROM CSI!

We'd like to wish you all happy year-ending and enjoyable holidays. If you would like to support the work of the Center for State Innovation by making a year-end gift, we invite you to use our [secure server](#).

## Spotlight on State Innovation

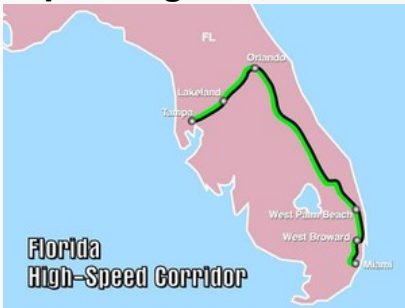
### Western Energy Depends on Coordination

December 17, 2009

The [Western Governors Association](#) held a [two-day meeting](#) to address issues in developing an energy portfolio that is clean, diverse, reliable and reasonably priced. Plenary sessions focused on the impacts of drought and climate change on electricity generation and transmission systems; changes in demand for electricity due to increased numbers of plug-in electric vehicles; and barriers to building new transmission, especially high voltage, long-distance transmission that could open up many of the geographically isolated renewable energy areas. The Governors agreed that "coordination among states, the federal government, all segments of the industry and non-governmental organizations is essential for the region to meet its clean energy needs."



### Expanding Rail, Creating Jobs



December 16, 2009

Florida [Governor Charlie Crist](#) signed legislation establishing a comprehensive framework for the state's current and future passenger rail system. The bill, [HB 1B](#), which passed during the recent special session, includes plans to increase support for SunRail and Tri-Rail and creates two agencies to plan and build future passenger rail systems of all types across Florida. This will include development of a High Speed Rail Corridor that connects Tampa,

Orlando, and Miami. Governor Crist emphasized the importance of the jobs and economic development that will result from passenger rail throughout the Sunshine State, as well as the transportation and environmental benefits.

### Collaborating for Cleaner Air

December 4, 2009

New Mexico [Governor Bill Richardson](#) signed an executive order directing new emission reduction strategies, and maintaining a state government implementation team. The effort will be overseen by the state's [Clean Energy Development Council](#), which includes representatives from the state Environment Department, Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department, the New Mexico Department of Transportation, Regulations and Licensing Department, Department of Finance and Administration, Department of Taxation and Revenue, the General Services Department, Department of Agriculture, Office of the State Engineer and Office of the Governor. The team will also consult with representatives from the Public Regulation Commission.



## Recent Publications

### [America on the Move: State Leadership in the Fight against Global Warming and What it Means for the World](#)

This report by [Environment America Research & Policy Center](#) reviews dozens of individual state policies, federal policies based on state models, and new federal policies, in which states will play a key role, and finds that based on these policies state actions will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by approximately 536 million metric tons by 2020. This reduction represents 7 percent of U.S. greenhouse gas (GHG) in 2007, and is more GHG than is currently emitted by all but eight countries.

### [Electric Vehicle Policy for the Midwest - A Scoping Document](#)

The [New Rules Project](#), details for the [RE-AMP Network](#), the implications of electric vehicles (EVs) on Midwest energy. This report offers an overview of public and private efforts to expand the use of EVs with a specific focus on activities in the eight RE-AMP states (IL, IA, MI, MN, ND, OH, SD, and WI), examines the GHG implications of expanded use of EVs and compares that to other strategies, discusses policy options for promoting effective EV use and recommends next steps for RE-AMP members.

## State Reports

### [2009 New York State Energy Plan](#)

The State Energy Planning Board presented [Governor David A. Paterson](#) with a number of specific policy initiatives that represent a blueprint for the state's transition to a clean energy economy that will stimulate investment, create jobs and help meet the energy needs of residents and businesses over the next ten years. According to the Plan, every dollar invested in electric efficiency is expected to return \$2.60 to the New York State economy, and achieving the Governor's goal of increasing energy efficiency 15 percent by 2015 would help reduce electric prices and provide aggregate retail bill savings of as much as \$1.4 billion in 2015.

### [Pennsylvania Final Climate Change Action Plan](#)

Pennsylvania is currently responsible for 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions, but could slash this number by 30 percent in the next ten years by following the 52 recommendations contained in the Plan presented to Governor Edward Rendell on December 18. The Advisory Committee and the Department of Environmental Protection led a stakeholder driven process to develop, discuss and analyze the work plan, incorporating a diversity of viewpoints, including public comments.

*If you have a program or report you'd like other states to know about, something you think we should include in the newsletter, or other questions or comments, please contact us:*

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