

# OEMR Monthly Newsletter

February 2023



The Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources (OEMR) is responsible for coordinating energy and mineral resource planning and policy development for the State of Idaho.

## Brinteaser

True or False? In 2021, Idaho had the lowest average natural gas rate in the U.S.

## PROGRAMS

### State Energy Loan Program

The State Energy Loan Program offers low-interest loans to develop energy projects for homes and businesses located within Idaho. [Link](#)

### Government Leading by Example Program

OEMR is accepting applications from select rural cities and counties that want to save energy in existing public buildings. Approved applicants receive an energy audit and may qualify for cost-share funding on energy efficient retrofits. [Link](#)

### National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program

NEVI was enabled through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to provide states with federal funding to strategically deploy EV charging infrastructure and establish an interconnected network of EV charging stations across the US. [Link](#)

### Energy Resilience

## OEMR NEWS

### LINE Commission Met on January 25th



The Leadership in Nuclear Energy (LINE) Commission met on January 25th. Topics discussed included the Idaho Cleanup Project, the INL Oversight Office, INL directives, the DOE Nuclear Energy Office, the nuclear fuel cycle, the State Nuclear Policy Working Group, the Advanced Energy Consortium, and INL and state collaborations. The next LINE Commission will take place in Idaho Falls on May 3rd. More information on the LINE Commission can be found at: <https://line.idaho.gov/>.

### Governor Little Recognizes Energy Efficiency



On January 26th, four of the eight 2022 Leadership in Energy Efficiency Award recipients were acknowledged by Governor Little for their 2021 energy efficiency improvements and/or programming. Combined, all eight recipients saved over 10,600,00 kWh and over \$600,000. The recipients recognized on the 26th were:

## Grant Program

The ERG Program provides discretionary cost match funding awards to Idaho utilities for investments in measurable grid resiliency upgrades across Idaho. OEMR is looking to support projects that demonstrate an immediate need and offer a high level of impact towards the goal of grid resilience. The grant program will be administered in multiple funding cycles over the next 5 years. More information coming soon.

## Idaho Awards for Leadership in Energy Efficiency

The annual Idaho Awards for Leadership in Energy Efficiency honors facilities for achievements in reducing energy consumption over the past year. [Link](#)

- J.R. Simplot-Smokey Canyon Mine
- Involta, Inc.
- Boise State University (pictured)
- Brigham Young University-Idaho

## Surveys

OEMR is seeking feedback from K-12 public education, agricultural, and rural sectors. Feedback will help OEMR understand energy needs and develop programs to support Idaho communities.

[K-12 Public Schools Energy Efficiency Survey](#)

[Energy Independent Communities Survey](#)

[Agricultural Energy Efficiency Survey](#)

## Sign up for Other OEMR Newsletters

Weekly Grants Newsletter. [Link](#)

Electric Vehicle Newsletter. [Link](#)

## FEDERAL FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

OEMR tracks federal funding opportunities and posts notifications to our website. For more information, visit our Federal Funding Opportunities page ([link](#)) and subscribe to our Weekly Grants Newsletter ([link](#)).

For further Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding opportunities please visit the DOE Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Program & Funding Opportunity Announcements ([link](#)). For further funding opportunities from the DOE please visit: Grants.gov ([link](#)), EERE Funding Exchange ([link](#)), and OCED Funding Exchange ([link](#)).

## Idaho National Laboratory Opens Application Period for 2023 K-12 Education Grants

INL's K-12 Education Program has opened the application period for its STEM grants. INL's K-12 STEM program cultivates Idaho's education landscape by leveraging partnerships and resources to grow science, technology, engineering and math opportunities for all. The program seeks to align future workforce needs with STEM education in Idaho. Over the past decade, INL has awarded nearly \$5 million to support STEM education in Idaho. The grant application period is open **Jan. 24** through **Feb. 28**. More details and grant applications can be found at: [stem.inl.gov](http://stem.inl.gov)

[Read More](#)

## Additional Funding Opportunities

- Wood Innovation Projects, Community Wood Energy. [Link](#)

- Regional Direct Air Capture Hubs. [Link](#)
- Clean Hydrogen Electrolysis, Manufacturing, and Recycling. [Link](#)
- Transmission Siting and Economic Development Grants Program. [Link](#)
- Home Energy Rebate Program. [Link](#)

# CALENDAR

## February 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|
|        |        |         | 1         | 2        | 3      | 4        |
| 5      | 6      | 7       | 8         | 9        | 10     | 11       |
| 12     | 13     | 14      | 15        | 16       | 17     | 18       |
| 19     | 20     | 21      | 22        | 23       | 24     | 25       |
| 26     | 27     | 28      |           |          |        |          |

**February 13:** Virtual BLM Solar Scoping Meeting. [Link](#)

**February 16:** DOE Public Meeting on Proposed Distribution Transformers. [Link](#)

**February 22:** Lava Ridge Wind Open House Meeting, Lincoln County Community Center, 2-4 pm

**February 23:** Lava Ridge Wind Open House Meeting, Canyon Crest Event Center, 5-7 pm

**February 24:** Lava Ridge Wind Open House Meeting, Virtual. [Link](#)

**March 18:** Public Comments for the Lava Ridge Environmental Impact Statement are due. [Link](#)

# RECENT ARTICLES

- [BLM seeks public input on proposed Lava Ridge Wind Project](#) (KMVT)
- [U.S. strikes at China with EV battery deal](#) (E&E News)
- [U.S. approves design for NuScale small modular nuclear reactor](#) (Reuters)
- [Group dedicated to clean energy future holds first education day at Idaho Capitol](#) (Idaho Capital Sun)
- [BLM favors wind turbine arrangements with less impact to Minidoka](#) (Boise State Public Radio)
- [How the White House found EJ areas without using race](#) (E&E News)
- [Idaho Energy Freedom hosts education day at state capitol](#) (KTVB)
- [Gov. Little appoints Ed Schriever to Northwest Power and](#)



Answer to the Brainteaser:  
A) True



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