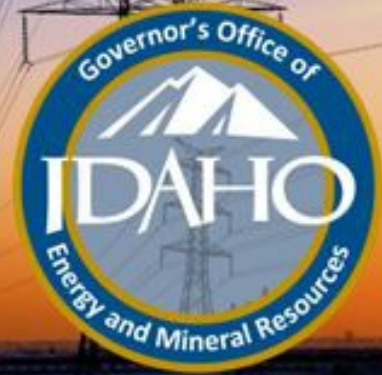


# OEMR Monthly Newsletter

## January 2025



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.

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### Brinteaser

Idaho's energy sector contributes \$6.3 billion to our state's GDP and creates approximately how many jobs?

a.) 375,000 b.) 50,000 c.) 112,000 d.) 3,000

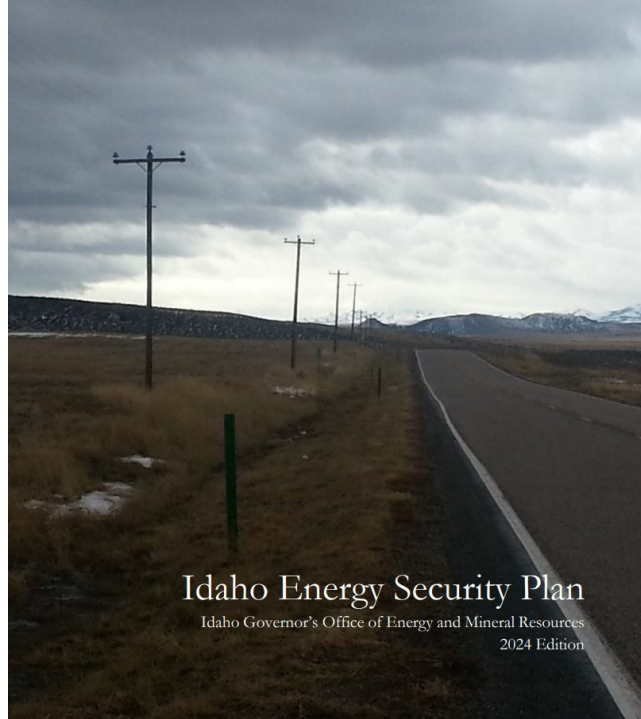
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## OEMR NEWS

### 2024 Idaho State Energy Security Plan Approved by DOE

In September 2024, OEMR submitted its 2024 State Energy Security Plan (SESP) to the United States Department of Energy (DOE). OEMR is excited to announce DOE has completed its review of the plan and has determined that Idaho has fully addressed all six elements of the SESP required by Congress. Among these six elements are a state energy profile including resource interdependencies, identification of hazards to the energy system, a comprehensive risk assessment, and a risk mitigation approach.

To read the 2024 SESP, click on the [link](#).



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## Idaho NEVI Program Releases Round 1 Request for Qualifications (RFQ)

On December 30, 2024, OEMR, the Idaho Transportation Department and the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality released the RFQ for Round 1 of the Idaho NEVI Program.

Round 1 focuses on developing EV fast charging sites in Pocatello, Bliss and Lewiston. The RFQ is the first step of the Round 1 solicitation process. The RFQ will short-list applicants based on their proposed key personnel, installation experience, and project understanding and approach. The RFQ is followed by the second solicitation step, the Request for Applications (RFA). Short-listed applicants will be invited to respond to the RFA where they will be evaluated based on their technical approach to site development.

The RFQ and other supporting documentation can be found at [itd.idaho.gov/business](https://itd.idaho.gov/business) under the "Design-Build" tab. Applicants should regularly check this website for updates. Applications will be accepted until February 20, 2025, at 5:00 PM (MDT). The State will discuss the NEVI Program RFQ during a pre-application meeting for interested applicants on January 16, 2025, at 1:00 PM (MDT).

For more information about Idaho's NEVI Program, visit [evidaho.org](https://evidaho.org). Please send questions and comments to [NEVI@itd.idaho.gov](mailto:NEVI@itd.idaho.gov).



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## **K-12 Energy Enhancement Program (KEEP) Application Period to Open this January**

OEMR is excited to announce that the application period for the Rural K-12 Energy Enhancement Program (KEEP) will open this January. KEEP will assist eligible applicants in creating and implementing strategies to reduce energy and tax burdens, increase energy resilience, and increase energy savings.

Eligible projects include installation of energy efficient lighting, HVAC upgrades, weatherization, and purchase and installation of energy efficient appliances and equipment.

For additional information, please continue to check our [website](#) for updates or register for our newsletter.



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## **Leadership in Energy Efficiency Awardees to be Announced this February**

The Idaho Governor's Office of Energy and Mineral Resources is reviewing applications for 2024 Leadership in Energy Efficiency Awards. Winners will be announced and notified this February. The application period for the 2025 awards will open this Spring.





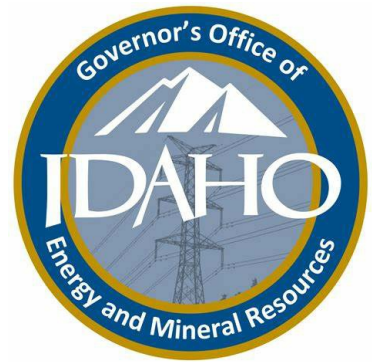
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## PROGRAMS

### **National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program**

NEVI provides states with federal funding to strategically deploy EV charging infrastructure and establish an interconnected network of EV charging stations across the US. Applications will be accepted until February 20, 2025.

[Link](#)



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### **K-12 Energy Enhancement Program**

The Rural K-12 Energy Enhancement Program (KEEP) provides retrofits for K-12 school facilities to implement strategies that reduce energy and tax burdens, increase energy resilience and increase energy savings. The application period will open this January.

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### **State Energy Loan Program**

The State Energy Loan Program offers low-interest loans to develop energy projects for homes located in Idaho.

Applications are now open! [Link](#)

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### **Idaho Awards for Leadership in Energy Efficiency**

The annual Idaho Awards for Leadership in Energy Efficiency honors businesses and government entities for achievements in reducing energy consumption over the past year

Applications will open this Spring.

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### **Energy Resilience Grant Program**

ERGP fosters strategic investments that demonstrate measurable improvements to grid resiliency, deliver modernized grid infrastructure, and mitigate risks from increased electrification and disruptive events. Funding is available to electric grid operators, electricity storage operators, electricity generators, transmission owners and operators, distribution providers, and fuel suppliers.

[Link](#)

OEMR will reopen the application period.

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## Sign up for Other OEMR Newsletters

**K-12 Energy Enhancement Newsletter.** [Link](#)

**Funding Opportunities Newsletter.** [Link](#)

**Electric Vehicle Newsletter.** [Link](#)

**Home Energy Rebates Newsletter.** [Link](#)

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

OEMR tracks funding opportunities and posts notifications to our website. For more information, visit our Funding Opportunities page. [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](#)).

### **Renewable Energy Siting through Technical Engagement and Planning (R-STEP) and Technical Provider**

Through this R-STEP Opportunity, The Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) is requesting applications from TA providers who have a deep understanding of renewable energy planning, siting, and permitting topics (e.g., environmental impacts, tax policies, land use, zoning ordinance development) and demonstrated experience providing advisory, educational, or technical assistance services. Selected TA providers will provide technical support to R-STEP collaboratives to improve their understanding of priority LSRE siting topics, inform the development of state-based resources, and strengthen the ability of collaboratives to serve as a trusted source of information within their states. Full applications due 1/9/2025. [Link](#).

### **Systems Biology Research to Advance Bioenergy Crop Production**

This opportunity will advance the ability to determine, predict, and optimize biomass feedstock production. The research requested by this opportunity will aim to identify molecular mechanisms underlying bioenergy feedstock productivity under varied and at times suboptimal environmental conditions and determine the roles microbes and microbial communities play in supporting plant productivity and vigor. Full applications due 3/26/2025. [Link](#).

### **Human-Centric Analytics for Resilient & Modernized Power Systems**

This opportunity intends to improve risk assessment and communication for grid operators in the age of big data. Grid transformation trends, which include the integration of renewable energy and electric vehicle charging, are changing long-standing assumptions about power system operations. This is causing significant gaps in assessing and resolving systematic uncertainties in power grids. Full applications due 3/20/2025. [Link](#).

### **Good Jobs in Clean Energy Prize**

The Prize is designed to encourage coalition-building in communities across the country that focus on creating quality jobs and fostering an equitable and inclusive workforce in clean energy sectors. Full applications due 1/31/2025. [Link](#).

### **Blue Sky Training Program for Grid Scale Energy Storage Systems**

This Program will train first responders, law enforcement agencies, local communities, utilities, authorities having jurisdictions, and others on how to respond to unanticipated failures of an energy storage system (ESS). This opportunity will bring together these stakeholders to participate in planning exercises and boots-on-the-ground drills that will outline roles and responsibilities to ensure the safety of the hosting community, personnel, and infrastructure. Full applications due 2/2/2025. [Link](#).

### **Commercial Direct Air Capture Pilot Prize**

The U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management (FECM) announced up to \$52.5 million, made available through President Biden's Investing in America agenda, to advance carbon dioxide removal technologies that reduce legacy carbon dioxide pollution by removing it directly from the atmosphere to counter-balance emissions from hard-to-abate sectors, such as aviation and shipping. Applications due 2/7/2025. [Link](#).

### **Wind Turbine Technology Recycling**

This opportunity will help develop technology solutions to improve the recyclability of wind energy technologies, especially for tough-to-recycle materials such as fiber-reinforced composites that can be found in wind turbine blades and nacelles, and rare earth element magnets that are found in wind turbine generators. Full applications due 2/11/2025. [Link](#).

### **Accelerate Training & Hiring for Geothermal Heat Pumps (GHP PATHs) Prize**

The prize encourages the rapid development of partnerships and programs that scale the hiring and training of GHP workers in all communities. GHP PATHs Prize competitors participate in three contests – Connect, Engage, and Execute – to transform their ideas into reality in months, rather than years. Full applications due 2/12/2025. [Link](#).

### **Solar with Wildlife and Ecosystem Benefits 2**

This funding opportunity will award up to \$11 million for research and development, technical assistance, and stakeholder engagement activities that improve the compatibility of large-scale solar (LSS) facilities with wildlife and facilitate the dual use of land for agricultural and solar energy production, also known as agrivoltaics. Topic area 1 will focus on projects that improve stakeholders' ability to implement strategies that increase the compatibility of LSS facilities with wildlife and ecosystems. Topic area 2 will focus on projects that will develop and disseminate informational resources, make research and data more accessible, educate new audiences, facilitate collaborations between stakeholders from different sectors, and provide technical assistance on agrivoltaics. Full applications due 5/2/2025. [Link](#).

### **Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas**

As part of the Biden-Harris Administration's Investing in America agenda, the U.S.



Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) opened applications for up to \$400 million to spur innovative, community-focused, clean energy solutions for rural and remote communities across the United States. Applications due 8/28/2025. [Link](#).

### **Renewable Integration Management with Innovative High-Voltage Direct Current Power Circuit Breakers**

This opportunity will support research and development related to high voltage direct current (HVDC) power circuit breakers. It aims to support grid modernization and the advancement of wind energy by reducing the cost of high-voltage circuit breaker technology, therefore supporting widespread adoption of HVDC transmission systems. Full applications due 2/28/2025. [Link](#).

### **American-Made Large Animal and Solar System Operations (LASSO) Prize**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that applications are open for \$850 million in federal funding for projects that will help monitor, measure, quantify, and reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sectors as part of President Biden's Investing in America agenda. Full applications due 3/6/2025. [Link](#).

### **American-Made Challenges' Lighting Prize**

The Lighting Prize (L-Prize) is designed to advance the U.S. clean energy economy for next-generation LED lighting, encouraging innovators to engage in advanced lighting system development that leads to transformative designs, products, and impact. The L-Prize will reward innovations that move rapidly to improve lighting performance, resulting in energy, emissions, and cost savings for American businesses and consumers. Intent to submit forms due 4/1/2025. [Link](#).

### **American-Made Promoting Registration of Inverters and Modules with Ecolabel (PRIME) Prize**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) opened the American-Made Promoting Registration of Inverters and Modules with Ecolabel (PRIME) Prize, a \$2.7 million competition that promotes ecolabel registration to standardize and improve domestic inverter and solar photovoltaic (PV) module sustainability. The PRIME Prize seeks to increase registration of solar modules and inverters through the EPEAT ecolabel. EPEAT is an ecolabel operated and maintained by the Global Electronics Council for certain electronic products, including solar PV modules and inverters. The prize aims to help manufacturers meet the criteria for EPEAT product standards and make their products more attractive to purchasers with sustainability goals. Register to compete by 4/17/2025. [Link](#).

### **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Carbon Utilization Procurement Grants**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced it is making \$100 million available to support states, local governments, and public utilities in purchasing products derived from converted carbon emissions. The goal of this opportunity is to speed up adoption of advanced carbon management technologies, creating a market for environmentally sustainable alternatives in fuels, chemicals, and building products sourced from captured emissions from industrial and power generation facilities. Full applications due 4/30/2025. [Link](#).

### **FY 2025 Continuation of Solicitation for the Office of Science Financial Assistance Program**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced up to \$500 million in funding for basic research in support of DOE's clean energy, economic, and national security goals. The funding will advance the priorities of DOE's Office of Science and its major programs,

including Advanced Scientific Computing Research, Basic Energy Sciences, Biological and Environmental Research, Fusion Energy Sciences, High Energy Physics, Nuclear Physics, Isotope R&D and Production, and Accelerator R&D and Production. Applications open until 9/30/2025. [Link](#).

### **Electric Infrastructure Loan & Loan Guarantee Program**

The electric program makes insured loans and loan guarantees to nonprofit and cooperative associations, public bodies, and other utilities. Insured loans primarily finance the construction of electric distribution facilities in rural areas. The guaranteed loan program has been expanded and is now available to finance generation, transmission, and distribution facilities. The loans and loan guarantees finance the construction of electric distribution, transmission, and generation facilities, including system improvements and replacement required to furnish and improve electric service in rural areas, as well as demand side management, energy conservation programs, and on-grid and off-grid renewable energy systems. Applications are now open. [Link](#).

### **Solar 4R Schools**

Solar 4R Schools educates students about renewable energy by placing solar installations on school property, along with a data monitoring system and a curriculum package. Energy generated by these small-scale solar-electric systems helps participating schools offset a portion of their electricity use. This program is funded by Clean Energy Your Way Program participants and implemented by Idaho Power. Applications are accepted and continuously reviewed on March 1st and October 1st every year. [Link](#).

### **U.S. Department of Energy's Northwest Onsite Energy Technical Assistance**

The U.S. Department of Energy's Northwest Onsite Energy Technical Assistance Partnership (TAP) works in the four-state region of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington using a regional TAP model that ensures end users can transition to clean energy with guidance and support that reflects local considerations. TAPs provide no-cost technical assistance tailored to your organization's goals and offer guidance on incentives, programs, and policies that are applicable to your specific situation. More information can be found on their website. [Link](#).

### **Clean Energy to Communities Program**

The program connects applicants to national laboratory experts and customized, cutting-edge analysis to achieve clean energy systems that are reflective of local and regional priorities. By bringing together innovative technology, state-of-the-art modeling, and unique abilities to test clean energy plans before installing them in the field, the program can help close the gap between clean energy ambitions and real-world deployment. [Link](#).

### **Rural Energy Savings Program**

The Rural Energy Savings Program (RESP) provides loans to rural utilities and other companies who provide energy efficiency loans to qualified consumers to implement durable cost-effective energy efficiency measures. Full applications open now. [Link](#).

### **Battery Workforce Challenge Program**

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced its new Battery Workforce Challenge Program, a comprehensive workforce development program designed to build and train a diverse, domestic workforce and to promote job creation for battery and electric vehicle (EV) technicians, electricians, skilled workers, and engineers. Applications out now. [Link](#).



### **January:**

- NEVI RFQ Pre-Application Webinar (1/16/25)
- KEEP Application Period Opens

### **February:**

- NEVI RFQ Application Deadline (2/20/25)
- Announcement of 2024 Idaho Awards for Leadership in Energy Efficiency

### **Spring:**

- 2025 Idaho Awards for Leadership in Energy Efficiency Application Period Opens

## **RECENT ARTICLES**

**Idaho National Laboratory, new non-profit foundation launch partnership** | Idaho Business Review

**Construction of Idaho Power's new Pocatello operations center to be finished in February** | Idaho Press

**NERC adopts 2 new standards to boost extreme weather reliability** | Utility Dive

**US Forest Service Approves Stibnite Gold Mine in Valley County** | Idaho News 6



Answer to the Brainteaser:

**B.**

**50,000 jobs**



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