

Energy Efficiency: Options for State Legislation

Howard Geller



Presentation at the
NCSL Energy Efficiency Institute
Denver, CO
June 24, 2008

Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEET)

- ❑ Public interest initiative promoting greater energy efficiency in AZ, CO, NV, NM, UT, and WY
- ❑ Founded in 2001 and based in Boulder, CO
- ❑ Working on state legislation, expansion of state, local and utility energy efficiency programs, program design, and consumer education
- ❑ Majority of funding provided by the Energy and Hewlett Foundations, U.S. Department of Energy, and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

www.swenergy.org

State Policies for Achieving Higher Energy Efficiency

- Energy savings goals or standards
- Utility energy efficiency policy
- Financial incentives
- Public sector policies
- Building energy codes and home retrofit
- Appliance efficiency standards
- Transportation policies

Statewide Energy Efficiency

Goals

- ❑ Utah: Governor adopted goal of 20% improvement in efficiency of energy use statewide by 2015
- ❑ New Mexico: Governor adopted goal of reducing energy use per capita 10% by 2012 and 20% by 2020, relative to energy use per capita in 2005
- ❑ Goals can be for specific forms of energy (e.g., electricity) or all types of energy; specific sectors or all sectors

Utility Energy Efficiency Policies

- ❑ CO legislation directed the PUC to set energy savings goals for utility programs and provide utilities with performance-based incentives (CO HB 07-1037)
- ❑ NM set energy savings requirements in law and also directed the PUC to provide utilities with incentives (NM HB 08-305)
- ❑ NV added energy savings from utility efficiency programs to the state's RPS (AB 05-3) and requirements for the PUC to remove disincentives that gas utilities face if they implement EE programs (SB 07-437)

Financial Incentive Policies

- ❑ CO adopted a Clean Energy Fund to co-fund EE and RE projects throughout the state (HB 07-246)
- ❑ NV provides property tax abatement for new commercial buildings LEED silver or above (AB 07-621)
- ❑ NM adopted tax credits for highly efficient new homes and commercial buildings (HB 07-534)
- ❑ UT adopted tax credits for purchasers of clean and efficient vehicles (HB 07-122)

Public Sector Energy Efficiency Policies

- ❑ AZ requires state agencies to reduce energy use per unit of floor area 15% by 2011 (relative to use in 2001); also purchase ENERGY STAR products (HB 03-2324)
- ❑ CO and NV adopted legislation to facilitate use of ESCOs and performance contracting to retrofit public sector buildings
- ❑ CO requires new state buildings to meet LEED gold standards (SB 07-51)
- ❑ TX and UT have established low-interest loan funds for financing retrofits of public buildings (Utah – HB 07-351)

Building Energy Code and Weatherization Policies

- ❑ CO law requires local jurisdictions to adopt up-to-date energy codes (HB 07-1146)
- ❑ Pending legislation in AZ sets goals for improving the energy efficiency of new residential and commercial buildings (HB 08-2766)
- ❑ CO and WY have adopted legislation to provide state funding for expanding weatherization of low-income households (CO – HB 06-1200; WY – HB 06-0124)

Appliance Efficiency Standards

- ❑ AZ adopted standards on products not covered by federal standards in 2003 (HB 03-2390) Pending legislation in 2008 would set efficiency standards on pool pumps
- ❑ NV adopted lamp efficiency standards in advance of federal standards in 2007 (AB 07-178)
- ❑ States generally follow the lead of CA in adopting state appliance standards

Vehicle Efficiency

- ❑ Adopt CA Clean Car Standards (Pavley bill)
- ❑ Fees and rebates on clean, efficient vehicles (e.g., vary state sales tax or registration fee based on MPG)
- ❑ Pay-as-you-drive auto insurance
- ❑ Replacement tire efficiency standards
- ❑ Require and/or fund truck stop electrification
- ❑ Set up and fund clunker scrapage programs

SWEEP:

Dedicated to More Efficient Energy Use in the Southwest

Resources available online at:

www.swenergy.org

Howard Geller, Executive Director
Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP)

303-447-0078

hgeller@swenergy.org