



# NEEP 2014 QUARTERLY REPORT

## ANNUAL SUMMARY

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Energy efficiency has often been referred to as the least-cost, first-order resource for achieving reduced energy use and improving air quality. In 2014, NEEP continued to play its role—bringing stakeholders together to find solutions for the climate and economic challenges we face today. In this report, NEEP shares highlights of our 2014 achievements toward the goals in our annual [Business Plan](#). With the support of our sponsors, partners, and funders from across the region and nation, NEEP continues to keep the region a national efficiency leader by advancing innovation and best practices, supporting leading-edge policies, programs, and strategies, and collaborating on development of regional strategies that deepen, broaden, and accelerate energy efficiency on a regional scale. Some highlights of our work this year include:

**NEEP MISSION**  
Accelerate energy efficiency in homes, buildings & industry in the Northeast - Mid-Atlantic region.

#### Make Energy Efficiency Visible

- **NEEP’s 2014 Summit brought together efficiency experts from across the nation:** NEEP’s annual [Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit](#), held this year in Newport, R. I., was co-chaired by Tim Horan, President of National Grid Rhode Island, and Marion Gold, Commissioner of the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources. The Summit’s theme, *The Low-Carbon Future: Scaling up Efficiency in a Brave, New, Dynamic World*, challenged attendees to envision the elements necessary to reach a low-carbon future. A new component, the NEEP Power Talks, featured nine 18-minute talks delivered by leading efficiency experts who took a novel approach by sharing personal stories about their paths to efficiency and their visions for the future.
- **Northeast Business Leaders for Energy Efficiency recognized at the 2015 Summit:** This program allows NEEP [Sponsors](#) to profile a customer who demonstrates exceptional leadership and best practices in energy efficiency in the operations and maintenance of their business. The [2014 Business Leaders for Energy Efficiency](#) and the 2014 State Champions provide important examples of the economic and environmental benefits of energy efficiency. Following the Summit, NEEP continued our work with the awardees, engaging them to promote their achievements in local media and trade publications.
- **NEEP Sponsors provided critical support to accelerate energy efficiency across the region:** [NEEP’s 2014 Sponsors](#) represented 24 efficiency program administrators from across the region. Their strong commitment to energy efficiency as a critical clean energy, environmental, and economic solution complements our common goal to keep the region a national leader in energy efficiency policy and programs. Throughout the year, we focused on engagement of our Sponsors in NEEP projects. NEEP’s annual Summit also provided an opportunity to showcase our Sponsors’ commitment to efficiency, with many playing a key role—providing generous event sponsorship, input on program development, and nomination of the 2014 Business Leaders.
- **2014’s Word of the Year for NEEP’s Strategic Marketing and Communications team was “website:”** NEEP launched the redesigned [neep.org](#) in September. The website’s enhanced functionality—which includes interactive [state maps](#), a [searchable resource database](#), and a more dynamic presentation of [efficiency news](#)—is key to providing credible, accessible information to regional and national efficiency stakeholders. In addition to launching the new website, the SMC team brought visibility to NEEP’s work and the work of its partners via a variety of channels, including web and social media, press releases and media outreach, letters to the editor, opinion pieces, presentations, and speaking engagements.



## Reduce Building Energy Use

- **Supported states across the region in the adoption of advanced building energy codes:** We supported Vermont and Maryland as they became the first states in the nation to [adopt](#) the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)—the latest and most energy efficient model code. Staff also assisted Delaware and New York’s 2014 adoptions of the 2012 IECC. In particular, in Delaware, staff provided [testimony](#) at January’s public hearing for the [2012 IECC adoption](#), and in New York, we delivered testimony at two code hearings and submitted [comments](#) supporting adoption of the 2012 IECC/ASHRAE 90.1-2010 for commercial construction. And lastly, staff supported adoption of the 2012 IECC in the District of Columbia, which had finalized the code in 2013.
- **Completed the second phase of testing innovative building asset rating methodologies:** NEEP and the Massachusetts DOER continued to lead the [Massachusetts Raising the BAR \(Building Asset Rating\) Pilot](#). Two innovative methodologies were deployed across a sample of approximately 30 commercial office buildings in the Greater Boston area. After spending the first half of the year refining project protocols and finding solutions to modeling challenges, the BAR Pilot team compiled the collected data into reports for the building owners. Additionally, the teams performing the modeling completed final reports on lessons learned. In 2015, NEEP and DOER will embark on Phase 3 of the pilot, which will focus on extending the program beyond Massachusetts to help inform and shape the national asset rating conversation.
- **Updated the Northeast Collaborative for High Performance Schools Criteria for School Construction and Major Renovation (NE-CHPS 3.0):** NEEP released [NE-CHPS 3.0](#) on April 8 in conjunction with National Healthy Schools Day. This was supported by an exhibit at the [Massachusetts Green Schools Summit](#), a [press release](#), and a [blog](#). The updated criteria reflects the latest trends in high performance school construction throughout the region, incorporating, among other elements: electric vehicle charging; crime prevention through environmental design; enhanced commissioning requirements; the Zero Energy Performance Index (zEPI) scale; improved acoustics, and the New Buildings Institute’s [Advanced Buildings New Construction Guide](#) as a prescriptive pathway to meet the criteria’s energy usage requirements.

## Speed Adoption of High Efficiency Products

- **Published and disseminated the 2014-2015 Update to the Residential Lighting Strategy:** NEEP published the [third annual update](#) to the [Northeast Residential Lighting Strategy](#) (RLS). With support from contractors Energy Futures Group and Ecova, the report includes an analysis of developments in the lighting landscape and recommendations for program design into the future. The findings clarify the opportunities for and strategies to achieve critical success in the promotion of efficient lighting, thus keeping the region a national leader through the continuation of aggressive savings goals and program resources. NEEP began the dissemination for the RLS Update in December with a public webinar and an article in our newsletter, [Highlights](#).
- **The DesignLights Consortium® continued to evolve to serve member needs and support the accelerated adoption of quality, efficient LED lighting products:** Serving efficiency programs in 30 states and Canada, the [DesignLights Consortium’s](#) (DLC) primary product, the Qualified Product List (QPL), grew to include 73,676 products from 983 manufacturers by year end, including 50,000 new products. With this tremendous growth, the DLC QPL is well established as the leading list of quality, efficient LED commercial-sector products in North America. It is referenced by 73 energy efficiency programs, including [eight new members](#) in 2014. Members expressed a high level of satisfaction with the DLC, finding it to be a valuable resource with services that are professional, timely, and tailored to members’ needs.
- **Launched project with US DOE to demonstrate Advanced Lighting Controls, and develop and implement new training programs:** NEEP was awarded a three-year grant from the US DOE, and established a partnership with DOE to implement 10 demonstration projects in the Northeast, perform EM&V, develop case studies, and develop and implement supporting training programs.



Combined with specifications and qualified products lists, model program approaches, and a new savings estimation tool, this will provide a comprehensive demonstration and deployment initiative for [Advanced Lighting Controls](#). This partnership with DOE and other project participants is a great example of NEEP working with federal government, regional and national energy efficiency programs, and industry to leverage and support one another to transform markets and achieve impact at scale.

- **Published a Cold-Climate Air-Source Heat Pump (ccASHP) Specification:** With the publication of the [ccASHP specification](#), energy efficiency program administrators now have a model equipment and performance requirement specification. The metrics were developed for the specification to help regional stakeholders better identify products that perform under low-temperature conditions. The ccASHP specification was developed by an ASHP subcommittee facilitated by NEEP. Drafts of the specification developed by this group were circulated to industry stakeholders for feedback, in addition to discussions with manufacturers and regional stakeholders. The specification assures that units selected and installed will perform during the coldest parts of the winter season, which will strengthen the regional reputation of ASHPs and drive accelerated adoption of the technology.
- **Formed Working Group to lead the Home Energy Management System (HEMS) project:** NEEP initiated a HEMS Working Group to explore the potential energy savings opportunities associated with these systems. HEMS were identified in the regional [Business and Consumer Electronics Strategy Report](#) as a tool to effectively manage electronics, appliances, and other systems throughout the home. The group is managed by NEEP and the Home Performance Coalition, and brings together stakeholders ranging from utilities, service providers, manufacturers, national laboratories, efficiency advocates, the technology sector, and beyond. Through this group, NEEP is exploring the integration of HEMS products into energy efficiency programs.
- **NEEP's [Northeast Appliance Standards Project](#) drove strong federal appliance standards:** NEEP brought together regional stakeholders to engage in several key federal rulemakings, developing and contributing to public comments to voice the region's needs and perspectives. NEEP submitted letters to several dockets including on General Service Lamps, Furnace Fans, and General Service Fluorescent Lamps (GSFL)/Incandescent Reflector Lamps (IRL), and contributed to joint comments on Residential Boilers and Computers. DOE published final rules for several product categories including Electric Motors and Refrigerators and Freezers; these standards were based on recommendations by NEEP, other advocates, manufacturers, and others.

### Advance Knowledge & Best Practices

- **Comments submitted to US EPA on CAA 111(d) EM&V:** On June 2, 2014, the EPA issued its proposed [Clean Power Plan \(CPP\)](#) to cut carbon pollution from power plants by 30 percent from 2005 levels. The proposed draft rule includes state-specific goals for carbon dioxide reductions with guidelines for the development, submission, and implementation of state plans. In applying a "best system of emission reduction" standard, the EPA established four "building blocks" through which states can develop and implement their compliance plans, including demand-side energy efficiency to reduce the amount of electricity generation. EM&V Forum Director Julie Michals, with ACEEE's Steve Nadel, led the development and coordination of comments to EPA on its 111(d) EM&V guidelines and requirements. NEEP filed [joint comments](#) with 14 other stakeholders from across the country in November 2014.
- **Took a leading role on a number of key state and regional public policy fronts:** 2014 was a year of progress, change, and unforeseen challenges in [energy efficiency policy](#) across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states. Throughout the year, the Policy Team spent considerable time engaging with policymakers and partners to promote or defend our states' significant and effective efficiency programs and policies, and to advise and support innovative ideas to capture even more of the efficiency resource. Tracking trends in state energy efficiency investment and savings also remains a mainstay of our work, as do our electronic resources including the [NEEP blog](#), [Twitter](#), [Highlights](#), and the [Policy Snapshot](#).



## NEEP 2014 STRATEGIES AND PROJECTS

*Keep the region a national efficiency leader by advancing innovation and best practices, and leading-edge policies, programs and strategies that deepen, broaden and accelerate energy efficiency on a regional scale.*

STRATEGIES	OUTCOMES	PROJECTS
<b>VISIBILITY</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Increased media coverage and public understanding and support of energy efficiency as a critical energy resource</li> <li>➤ Northeast &amp; Mid-Atlantic region widely recognized as national energy efficiency leader</li> <li>➤ Visible business leadership for energy efficiency policies and programs</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit</li> <li>2. Northeast Business Leaders Recognition Program</li> <li>3. NEEP Sponsorship &amp; Partners Program</li> <li>4. NEEP Strategic Marketing &amp; Communications</li> </ol>
<b>BUILDINGS</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The region leads the nation in adoption of, and compliance with, progressive building energy codes</li> <li>➤ Markets value high efficiency homes, buildings</li> <li>➤ States, municipalities commit to maintaining, building high performance schools, public buildings</li> <li>➤ Model programs and resources address market barriers to energy efficiency retrofits in key market segments</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Building Energy Regulation</li> <li>2. Market Valuation of Building Energy Performance</li> <li>3. Building Energy Best Practices</li> </ol>
<b>PRODUCTS</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Northeast leads in penetration of high efficiency products</li> <li>➤ Higher baselines through appliance standards lock in market gains</li> <li>➤ Regulatory policy supports new technologies and strategies to advance high efficiency options</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. High Efficiency Residential Lighting</li> <li>2. DesignLights Consortium® SSL Qualified Products List</li> <li>3. Commercial Advanced Lighting Controls</li> <li>4. High Efficiency Emerging Technologies</li> <li>5. High Efficiency Business &amp; Consumer Electronics</li> <li>6. Appliance Efficiency Standards</li> </ol>
<b>KNOWLEDGE</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ States and local government commit to energy efficiency - top energy priority</li> <li>➤ Build greater transparency and consistency in EM&amp;V and reporting practices</li> <li>➤ NEEP secures funding for regional best practices project to advance industrial efficiency (<i>tent.</i>)</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Regional Evaluation, Measurement &amp; Verification Forum</li> <li>2. Public Policy Outreach &amp; Analysis</li> </ol>



## MAKE ENERGY EFFICIENCY VISIBLE

*Position the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region as the national efficiency leader with efficiency as a critical and tangible energy resource with significant and immediate impact on the economy, the region, and the planet.*

All NEEP staff contributes to our *Visibility* strategies, but the projects and objectives listed within this strategy relate specifically to our annual Summit, and the organizational marketing, communications, and development efforts of the Strategic Marketing & Communications Team. This work supports the strategies outlined in NEEP's 2014 Business Plan and maximizes NEEP's capacities for gaining visibility for efficiency and for promoting the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region as a national leader in energy efficiency.

### Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit

- **NEEP's 2014 Summit brought together efficiency experts from across the nation:** Each year, NEEP gathers efficiency experts from around the region and the country at the annual [Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit](#), an event designed to highlight the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region's commitment to and leadership for accelerating energy efficiency. In 2014 NEEP held the Summit in Newport, Rhode Island, chosen not just for its breathtaking views but also for the Ocean State's continued commitment to promoting energy efficiency as first-order energy resource. Co-chaired by Tim Horan, President of National Grid Rhode Island, and Marion Gold, Commissioner of the Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources the Summit's theme, *The Low-Carbon Future: Scaling up Efficiency in a Brave, New, Dynamic World*, challenged speakers and attendees to envision the elements necessary to reach a low-carbon future. The 2014 Summit introduced the NEEP Power Talks – nine 18-minute talks delivered by leading efficiency experts who were challenged to take a different approach to presenting by reaching out to attendees with personal stories about their paths to efficiency, the challenges they tackle in their work, and their visions for the future. The new format was met with rave reviews.
- **Nine NEEP Power Talk speakers delivered messages designed to inspire conversation, spur ideas and reimagine the Low-Carbon Future:** The new [NEEP Power Talk](#) format unveiled at the 2014 Summit featured utility executives, policy makers, technology innovators, and efficiency advocates who brought forth their knowledge and expertise to get Summit attendees talking about the future of the utility, climate change, data's role in advancing efficiency, and the role of public policy in making change happen.
- **Pre-Summit workshops tackled some of the most prevalent issues in the efficiency industry today:** Three workshops—[Cold Climate Air Source Heat Pumps - Warming up the Market](#); [Daybreak on Zero Net Energy Buildings: Illuminating our Future with Comprehensive Strategies for the Built Environment](#); and [Evaluating Energy Efficiency: 5 Top Things You Should Know About the Emerging Evaluation World](#)—brought together regional and national stakeholders to share ideas, build new relationships, and work towards effective efficiency solutions.
- **Successful event supported by diverse group of sponsors:** Thirty sponsors generously supported the 2014 Summit and over 20 of these sponsoring organizations attended the event to display their latest products, technologies, and services and meet with others in the efficiency industry.
- **Introducing Generation Y to the efficiency industry:** NEEP welcomed a record 15 students to the 2014 Summit as part of the annual Student Scholarship and Mentor Program, where students were able to meet industry professionals, learn about both conventional and



unconventional career paths to the efficiency industry, and share knowledge with other students.

- **Fourteen Business Leaders honored for their commitment to efficiency:** NEEP's annual [Northeast Business Leaders for Energy Efficiency](#) program recognized the efforts and achievements of businesses from Vermont to the District of Columbia who are demonstrating leadership by designing and implementing rigorous electric and gas efficiency programs with the assistance of their utility partners.
- **Two Rhode Island schools toured as teaching tools for current and future generations:** [Rhode Island is a long-time leader in high performance schools](#) and Summit attendees were able to tour two schools—East Bay Met School and Claiborne Pell Elementary School—where they were introduced to the buildings and technologies that serve as living laboratories for children as they learn about environmental stewardship and energy efficiency.
- **Keeping the region on top at the base of Mt. Washington:** On June 15-16, 2015 NEEP will host the tenth annual [Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit](#). Eversource and National Grid are once again Platinum Sponsors of the event, which will feature the NEEP Power Talks, topical pre-Summit workshops, the popular Business Leaders for Energy Efficiency program, and other exciting elements which are sure to draw the attention of industry professionals from around the region.

### Northeast Business Leaders for Energy Efficiency

- **Northeast Business Leaders for Energy Efficiency recognized at the 2015 Summit:** This is a unique opportunity for energy efficiency program administrators ([sponsors of NEEP](#)) to profile a customer who demonstrates exceptional leadership and best practices in energy efficiency in the operations and maintenance of their business. The [2014 Business Leaders for Energy Efficiency](#) and the 2014 State Champions provide important examples of the economic and environmental benefits of energy efficiency. This year's strong sample of regional business voices in support of energy efficiency highlighted a variety of projects and commitments to doing more with less energy use. Following the Summit, NEEP continued our work with the awardees, engaging them to promote their achievements in local media and trade publications. Their success stories became part NEEP's redesigned website where they are organized by state.
- **Two former Business Leaders—UMASS Medical Center and Sikorsky Aircraft—showed their support for efficiency:** Representatives from each business spoke at a [Regional Dialogue Meeting](#), co-hosted by the US DOE and NEEP, focused on developing best practice policies and investment models that address the barriers to greater investment in industrial energy efficiency and combined heat and power in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.
- **Success stories of Northeast Business Leaders for Energy Efficiency gain momentum in media:** Several Business Leaders were the topic of conversation in media coverage. Here is a sampling of these stories:
  - Massachusetts: [UMass Amherst](#); [Falmouth Ice Arena](#); [Cedar's Mediterranean Foods](#); and [Chestnut Hill Realty](#)
  - New Hampshire: [Durgin & Crowell Lumber Co., Inc.](#)
  - New York: [Union College](#)
  - Rhode Island: [RBS Citizens](#)
  - Washington, D.C.: [JW Marriott](#)
- **NEEP and partners wrap up Business Leaders Communication Initiative in Connecticut:** NEEP and Cater Communications completed a project funded by a grant from the Emily Hall



Tremaine Foundation to highlight business case studies and outline critical issues for business leaders related to energy efficiency and clean energy policies in Connecticut. NEEP worked with previous state Business Leaders on updating case studies, which were then shared with organizations, including Energize Connecticut, for use on their websites. As a result of these efforts, several op-eds were placed in Connecticut-based and regional media outlets to highlight the success stories of current and past Business Leaders:

- [Boston Globe](#): Many firms doing their part to reduce energy waste
- [New York Times](#): Coal pollution and climate change
- [Hartford Business Journal](#): Energy efficiency saves businesses money, protects environment
- [Hartford Business Journal](#): Obama's carbon reduction plan not bad for business

### NEEP Sponsorship & Partners Program

- **NEEP Sponsors provided critical support to accelerate energy efficiency across the region:** [NEEP secured 24 Sponsors](#), representing efficiency program administrators from across the region. Their strong commitment to energy efficiency as a critical clean energy, environmental, and economic solution complements our goal to keep the region a national leader in energy efficiency policy and programs. Throughout the year, we focused on engagement of our Sponsors in NEEP projects. NEEP's annual Summit also provided an opportunity to showcase our Sponsors' commitment to efficiency, with many playing a key role—providing generous event sponsorship, input on program development, and nomination of the 2014 Business Leaders.
- **Collaborated with NEEP Sponsors to develop strategies to support the region's ambitious efficiency goals:** Energy efficiency program administrators' engagement and leadership provided visibility for the benefits of efficiency, and helped develop strategies to meet energy and environmental goals. You can read about their contributions to the development and success of many projects and products throughout this report.
- **NEEP's 2014 Partners Program engaged leadership from across the nation:** [Ten organizations joined the NEEP Partners Program](#), a program in place since 2009 that brings together leadership from around the nation that supports NEEP and are committed to accelerating energy efficiency by encouraging new technologies and services and supporting a stable policy environment for efficiency programs and investments. Many Partners were also actively engaged in NEEP's 2014 projects and strategies, and participated in our annual Summit as sponsors, exhibitors, and workshop attendees and panelists.

### NEEP Strategic Marketing & Communications

- **2014's Word of the Year for NEEP's Strategic Marketing and Communications team was "website:"** After launching the initial stages of a website redesign in late 2013, the process picked up steam in 2014, culminating in early September with the newly redesigned [neep.org](#). The website's enhanced functionality—which includes interactive [state maps](#), a [searchable resource database](#), and a more dynamic presentation of [efficiency news](#)—is a key component in the team's overall goal of the website serving as a credible and highly trafficked resource for efficiency. In addition to launching the new website, the SMC team brought visibility to NEEP's work and the work of its partners via a variety of channels, including web and social media, press releases and media outreach, letters to the editor, opinion pieces, presentations, and speaking engagements. Over the course of the year NEEP shared news both proactively and reactively, working on national issues such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposed power plant rules, and regional issues like the [high cost of heating a home or business in the winter months](#).



- **NEEP urged states and consumers to “WHIP Winter:”** In response to the inevitable energy price spikes that go hand in hand with dipping temperatures, NEEP worked with a group of national, regional, and state stakeholders to develop a series of [messages and campaign elements](#) designed to help consumers of all economic brackets to prepare for the energy and economic effects of winter.
- **NEEP shared its story with local, regional, and national media outlets:** The SMC team worked across the organization to issue 17 press releases which highlighted its work and other important events and milestones. Here are some highlights:
  - January 7: [DesignLights Consortium® drives innovation with updates to SSL Qualified Products List](#)
  - January 29: [Annual report finds region leads nation in energy efficiency policy](#)
  - April 3: [EPA recognizes NEEP with 2014 ENERGY STAR® Sustained Excellence Award](#)
  - April 9: [NEEP releases updated school construction and renovation criteria - NE-CHPS 3.0 now available](#)
  - May 5: [NEEP names 2014 Northeast Business Leaders for Energy Efficiency](#)
  - May 30: [2014 Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit hits Newport](#)
  - June 2: [NEEP comments on 111\(d\)](#)
  - July 2: [Energy Efficiency gets a major boost in Delaware](#)
- **NEEP gained media attention through collaborative efforts to position the region as a national efficiency leader:** NEEP appeared in several media stories that brought attention to the region as a national energy efficiency leader, while also demonstrating the value of efficiency as a critical energy resource. Through its work and the work of its partners, NEEP provided reliable and credible information to media through 64 placements over the year. Here are some highlights:

General NEEP placements:

- February 3: [Fierce Energy](#) - Northeast US leading in energy policy, support, and investment
- March 21: [Cleaning & Maintenance Magazine](#) - A guide to greener schools
- April: [IMARK Now Magazine](#) - DesignLights Consortium: Playing a key role in the utility rebate market
- April 9: [Facilities Management News](#) - EPA honors energy-efficient ENERGY STAR partners across the nation
- April 21: [CT Mirror](#) - For CT business leaders, every day is Earth Day
- June 3: [Boston Globe](#) - Many firms doing their part to reduce energy waste
- June 3: [New York Times](#) - Coal pollution and climate change
- July 7: [Fierce Energy](#) - SB 150 expanding cost-effective utility energy efficiency options
- July 28: [Today's Energy Solutions](#) - DOE Invests \$6M to Support Commercial Building Efficiency
- July 30: [Green Building Elements](#) - Cambridge, MA Passes Energy Benchmarking Ordinance
- August: [Facilities Management](#) - Managing Multiple Lighting Options with one Control System
- August 25: [3BL Media](#) - LG Ecohybrid Heat Pump Dryer Earns 2014 ENERGY STAR Emerging Technology Award
- September 24: [Carlisle Mosquito](#) - Heat Pumps for Cold Climates? Yes, Indeed





- September 25: [NECN](#) - Massachusetts' Electric Rates Soar
- September 25: [WCVB](#) - National Grid Warns of Much Higher Electric Costs This Winter

**Business Leaders Recognition Program placements:**

- Massachusetts: [UMass Amherst](#); [Falmouth Ice Arena](#); [Cedar's Mediterranean Foods](#); and [Chestnut Hill Realty](#)
- New Hampshire: [Durgin & Crowell Lumber Co., Inc.](#)
- New York: [Union College](#)
- Rhode Island: [RBS Citizens](#)
- Washington, D.C.: [JW Marriott](#)

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## REDUCE BUILDING ENERGY USE

*Make possible a future in which all homes and buildings are zero net energy, through incremental yet aggressive improvements to building energy policies and programs.*

NEEP's *Buildings* strategies support the reduction of wasteful energy use in commercial, residential, and multifamily properties through support for public policies, incentive programs, advanced building energy codes and rating, and expansion of high performance schools and public buildings. The built environment is one of the largest users of energy, and improving home and building energy efficiency provides benefits to the economy, environment, and society.

### Building Energy Regulation

- **Supported states across the region in the adoption of advanced building energy codes:**
  - Supported Vermont and Maryland as they became the first states in the nation to [adopt](#) the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)—the latest and most energy efficient model code. We offered Vermont's [energy code update](#) team with guidance on renewable energy code provisions, participated in stakeholder meetings, testified at September's public hearing, and submitted [comments](#) responding to the code drafts. Vermont's new code was adopted in December and becomes effective in March 2015. In Maryland, we supplied the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development with responses to issues raised at October's code hearing, as well as information to counter-proposed weakening amendments. Maryland's new code was [adopted](#) un-amended in December and becomes effective for select counties in January 2015.
  - Supported Delaware and New York's 2014 adoptions of the 2012 IECC. In particular, in Delaware, staff provided [testimony](#) at January's public hearing for the [2012 IECC adoption](#), which was adopted in March and became effective in November. And in New York, we delivered testimony at two code hearings and submitted [comments](#) supporting adoption of the 2012 IECC/ASHRAE 90.1-2010 for commercial construction. The code was [adopted](#) in November and becomes effective in January 2015.
  - Supported adoption of the 2012 IECC in the District of Columbia, which had finalized the code in 2013.
- **Facilitated Energy Code Collaboratives in Delaware, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania:** NEEP supports [State Energy Code Collaboratives](#) as effective vehicles for bringing together diverse stakeholders to promote transparency and dialogue concerning energy code adoption and compliance. NEEP has played an active role in Delaware, New Hampshire, and Pennsylvania's Code Collaboratives since their inception. In 2014, NEEP:
  - Worked closely with Delaware's Energy Code Coalition as the state completed its [2012 IECC/ASHRAE 90.1-2010](#) adoption in March—which became effective in November. NEEP provided technical support related to the state's code amendments and worked with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Energy Conservation (DNREC) on code support training resources. The most notable of these resources are technical code field guides for code officials and home builders, which are specific to Delaware's new code and will be completed in early 2015.
  - Provided technical guidance to the New Hampshire Building Energy Code Compliance Collaborative, which convenes to advance strategies set in the state's [Code Compliance Roadmap](#). NEEP advised on two committees: one focused on enhancing code compliance, and the other on engaging the real estate community through greening the



Northern New England Real Estate Network. NEEP also led the Collaborative's pursuit of a home energy labeling program; see the Market Valuation section of this report for more information.

- Supported the [Pennsylvania Energy Code Collaborative](#)'s efforts to measure and achieve full code compliance, educate consumers, and incentivize energy efficiency. NEEP helped to shape the Collaborative's short-term goal of educating the design professional community on code compliance, as well as the long-term goal of engaging utilities in code compliance enhancement activities. NEEP also connected the Pennsylvania Collaborative with counterparts in Massachusetts to discuss codes and rating.
- **Supported ongoing code adoption efforts in New York and Connecticut:**
  - In addition to supporting New York's adoption of a new commercial energy code, NEEP helped prepare the state for future code adoptions. NEEP delivered [testimony](#) at a May Department of State (DOS) hearing supporting the proposed adoption of the 2012 IECC for residential construction, but the state has since decided to instead pursue the 2015 IECC. To aid this effort, NEEP facilitated the expediting of a residential 2015 IECC New York state cost-effectiveness analysis by Pacific Northwest National Laboratories (PNNL). NEEP also provided summaries of and commentary on the 2015 IECC and ASHRAE 90.1-2013 to the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and DOS. Lastly, NEEP provided technical support to NYSERDA staff on building code adoption, implementation, and enforcement issues such as online permitting and auto-adopt laws.
  - NEEP staff participated in Connecticut's review of the 2012 IECC in preparation for a potential adoption in 2015. Staff also convened a meeting of state stakeholders in October to discuss progress on issues related to building energy efficiency. Lastly, NEEP delivered [testimony](#) in February in support of a Connecticut bill ([SB 352](#)) mandating the state to adopt the 2015 IECC and provided recommendations for a bill ([SB 357](#)) allowing local stretch codes and phasing out LEED as the basis for state's above-code programs.
- **Supported cutting-edge code compliance enhancement efforts in Rhode Island:** National Grid, in partnership with the Rhode Island Code Commission, NEEP, and a contractor team, administers training programs (the savings from which it is allowed to claim as part of its regulatory proceedings) through its [Code Compliance Enhancement Initiative](#). NEEP participates in both the Implementation and Evaluation Working Groups. In 2014, the Implementation Working Group assessed and adjusted the training program being delivered in conjunction with the state's adoption of the 2012 IECC. The residential and commercial training programs, which feature in-field sessions and a 'circuit rider' program, held over 40 classes which drew over 700 attendees. NEEP also assisted this group's efforts to establish rules for third-party energy specialists, draft documentation tools, and develop a stretch code. The Evaluation Working Group continues to review the program's checklists and key performance indicators as well as refine a method for estimating the new construction to retrofit ratio from permit data in order to guide National Grid as they file to claim energy savings for the first time. Additionally, NEEP staff is conducting a comparison of [Rhode Island's version of the International Green Construction Code](#) with various standards; see the Market Valuation section of this report for more information. NEEP also purchased a code book for every building code office in the state to help advance this new code, which was finalized this summer.
- **Disseminated NEEP's utility claimed savings report:** In a January webinar, [NEEP](#) and [National Grid](#) presented on how utilities can claim savings from building code support activities. NEEP's presentation focused on the groundbreaking [code attribution report](#), while National Grid explained how the findings from this report have been utilized in the Code Compliance Enhancement Initiative. A similar [webinar](#) was delivered in April by NEEP allies. NEEP also



disseminated this report directly to stakeholders in Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania as well as to audiences at events throughout the year—most notably at the 2014 RESNET Annual Conference in February.

- **Extended knowledge and resources through NEEP’s Codes Leadership Group:** NEEP continued to grow the membership and knowledge base of its Regional Building Energy Codes Leadership Group. In 2014, NEEP organized and delivered two webinars ([1](#), [2](#)), focusing on items such as Delaware’s 2012 IECC adoption lessons, Vermont’s 2015 IECC development process, and Maryland’s 2012 IECC compliance support programs. In September, NEEP hosted the group’s annual in-person meeting in Philadelphia. This meeting focused on: 1) future codes opportunities; 2) the intersection of codes and building asset rating; 3) new code compliance developments in Pennsylvania and Maryland; and 4) NEEP’s adoption and compliance resources. In addition, NEEP provided the group with relevant and timely state, regional, and national energy code updates throughout the year.
- **Disseminated NEEP’s Building Energy Code resources to local and national audiences:** In February, NEEP presented alongside other members of the National Energy Codes Collaborative to the Construction Specification Institute on national, regional, and state energy code resources available to support implementation of and documenting compliance with energy codes and standards. In June, NEEP hosted a panel at its [2014 Summit Buildings Workshop](#) on the linkage between zero net energy buildings and building energy regulation and valuation. This panel assembled three presenters representing utility, federal regulatory, and real estate professional perspectives. In October, NEEP staff moderated a panel with representatives from the Rhode Island Building Code Commission, Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources, and National Grid on code compliance efforts and other building energy efficiency efforts underway in Rhode Island at USGBC’s Greenbuild conference in New Orleans.
- **Shared NEEP resources through leadership positions in other organizations:** NEEP’s Building Energy Codes Manager Darren Port participated on the consensus committee of this year’s 2015 International Green Construction Code (IgCC) code development hearings, offering testimony in support of favorable proposals. In his capacity as a member of the ICC’s Sustainability Membership Committee Governing Council, Mr. Port presented on IgCC adoptions in NEEP’s region at the ICC’s Annual Meeting in Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Port also sits on the ASHRAE 189.1 Council.
- **Developed regional Code Adoption and Compliance Toolkits:** As many states in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic region are poised to pursue the 2015 IECC—and with the 2017 goal of 90-percent compliance only three years away—NEEP developed Code Adoption and Compliance Toolkits in December to help streamline potential solutions. The Adoption Toolkit includes code analyses and comparisons, talking points on key issues, state-specific resources, useful code language, and stretch code guidance. Similarly, the Compliance Toolkit includes compliance assessment findings, guides and FAQs, state-specific training and enforcement materials, and guidance for utility-claimed savings frameworks. The toolkits will be updated periodically as new resources become available and as new needs arise in the region; items to be added to the toolkits in 2015 include a regional 2015 IECC residential guidebook and data on the correlation between code adoption and construction volume.
- **Supported stretch code and base code advancement in Massachusetts:** An update to Massachusetts’ 2009 [Stretch Energy Code](#) became necessary after the state [adopted the 2012 IECC](#) in July 2013. This update was not a political priority despite the fact that neglecting it would cause market confusion for [Stretch Code Communities](#), which comprise over half of the Commonwealth’s population. When the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) began soliciting general comments on the update in winter 2013, NEEP assembled a coalition of core stakeholders to support their efforts. To support and encourage comments, NEEP developed a comment template, wrote a [blog post](#), and hosted a webinar to provide



information about the update and next steps. NEEP also submitted two sets of its own [comments](#) promoting an update and encouraging alignment with the 2015 IECC. In addition, NEEP supported DOER late in 2014 to introduce strengthening amendments to Massachusetts' preliminary 2015 IECC draft and helped address workforce capacity concerns.

- **Maintained and updated NEEP's online codes resource center:** NEEP regularly updated its [building energy codes webpage](#) featuring the latest news, events, and resources on code adoption and compliance throughout the region. NEEP also tracked the status of state building energy codes and maintained a page of code resources. Staff also contributed a [2014 code adoption preview](#) blog and [mid-year update](#) detailing present and future code adoption activity in the region. The launch of NEEP's new website in the fall featured improved versions of the [Buildings Bulletin Board](#), [Codes Tracker](#), and [Resources](#) pages.
- **Maintained national network of energy code allies:** NEEP engaged with its national and regional codes counterparts, providing updates through monthly teleconferences with the Responsible Energy Codes Alliance (RECA), the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), the Institute for Market Transformation (IMT), and the Building Codes Awareness Project (BCAP). NEEP also participated in meetings with the National Energy Codes Collaborative, a joint partnership of the US DOE, PNNL, BCAP, NASEO, and the other regional energy efficiency organizations (REEOs). The National Collaborative, whose common goal is promoting state code adoption and enforcement policies set by the US DOE, convened monthly to discuss energy code issues, best practices, and opportunities to streamline efforts. NEEP also built partnerships with energy code advocates from organizations such as Bayer, Yankee Insulation, and the Global Cool Cities Alliance.
- **Conducted a comparison of the Northeast Collaborative for High Performance Schools Criteria and Rhode Island International Green Construction Code:** NEEP performed a comprehensive comparison of the [Northeast Collaborative for High Performance Schools 3.0](#) (NE-CHPS v3.0) criteria—a point-based green building program for the renovation of existing schools and construction of new schools—to Rhode Island's 2012 version of the [IgCC](#), an international green building construction code for commercial buildings. While both share similar green building categories—such as Energy, Water, Indoor Air Quality, and Site—no comparison existed previously. This analysis will help encourage policymakers to utilize the NE-CHPS criteria in pursuit of outstanding school construction.
- **Presented to University of Pennsylvania Architecture graduate students:** NEEP's Building Energy Codes Manager Darren Port presented to 13 University of Pennsylvania Department of Architecture graduate students in November on the importance of building energy codes and how design professionals can influence building efficiency. The presentation contained an overview of the code development process; explained and illustrated deep energy retrofits; and provided an introduction to the [Living Building Challenge](#) green building program.

## Market Valuation of Building Energy Performance

- **Completed the second phase of testing of innovative building asset rating methodologies in Massachusetts:** NEEP and the Massachusetts DOER continued to lead the [Massachusetts Raising the BAR \(Building Asset Rating\) Pilot](#), the second phase of which was launched in 2013. Two of the innovative methodologies tested in Phase 1 were more broadly deployed across a sample of approximately 30 commercial office buildings in the Greater Boston area. After spending the first half of the year refining project protocols and finding solutions to modeling challenges (with a particular focus on developing uniform methods for adequately gauging energy consumption in certain special use spaces like data centers, kitchens, and retail spaces), the BAR Pilot team compiled the collected data into reports for the building owners. In addition to delivering these reports, the team held meetings with the building owners, operators, and managers to more directly explain these findings and collect feedback. NEEP and DOER



presented initial findings from Phase 2 of the pilot at the [2014 Architecture Boston Expo](#). Additionally, the contractor teams performing the modeling completed final reports on lessons learned in this phase of the pilot. In 2015, NEEP and DOER will embark on Phase 3 of the pilot, which will focus on extending the program beyond Massachusetts to help inform and shape the national asset rating conversation.

- **Supported the US DOE's efforts to facilitate streamlined utility data access in the public sector:** Subsequent to NEEP's peer review of DOE's draft report on Energy Data Tracking and Analysis in the Public Sector, we continued to investigate options for streamlining utility data access, and to highlight best practices in utility data usage throughout the region. Strategies employed included: inclusion of a section on accessing utility data in our [benchmarking resource sheet](#); reference to data access strategies during a [quarterly webinar](#); a presentation by DOE's Mona Khalil to NEEP's Public Buildings Leadership Group at our [in-person meeting](#); and development of a draft report identifying best practice energy data tracking strategies from throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. These efforts built stakeholder awareness while helping NEEP plan for future outreach and education campaigns on the subject.
- **Supported residential building energy labeling efforts in New Hampshire:** Due to interest from the N.H. Building Energy Code Compliance Collaborative in pursuing a home energy labeling program, NEEP led the establishment of a Residential Labeling Subcommittee earlier this year. This subcommittee aimed to develop recommendations for a home energy labeling program for the state's fall legislative sessions. NEEP headed this effort by refining a matrix surveying existing labeling efforts nationwide, developing the first draft of formal recommendations, and organizing subcommittee communications. NEEP arranged for US DOE to join the most recent meeting of the subcommittee to provide insight on how DOE's Home Energy Score tool could be used to promote code compliance in the state. By the end of 2014, the subcommittee had nearly finalized its recommendations, which will be voted on at the next Collaborative meeting in early 2015.
- **Developed resources to support energy efficiency valuation in real estate transactions:** In response to growing interest in home energy labeling in several of our states, NEEP began to develop a suite of resources targeted at real estate professionals, home buyers/renters, and progressive home builders. These resources, including training materials for REALTORS® and appraisers, checklists for prospective home buyers and renters, and home energy efficiency talking points for participants in real estate transactions, will be deployed in early 2015 in coordination with a training and webinar program.
- **Advanced multifamily retrofits campaigns in Rhode Island and throughout the region:** In November, NEEP convened the [NEEP Multifamily Stakeholder Group](#) for a webinar highlighting two exceptional multifamily initiatives in the state of Rhode Island: 1) National Grid-Rhode Island's multifamily benchmarking programs; and 2) the [Green and Healthy Homes Initiative's](#) (GHHI) leading-edge work addressing health in multifamily buildings. Earlier webinars in 2014 presented the Stakeholder Group with: 1) an overview of NEEP's 2014 whitepaper, "[Increasing Energy Efficiency in Small Multifamily Properties in the Northeast: Recommendations for Policy Action](#);" and 2) Efficiency Maine's Multifamily Retrofit Program and the Vermont Fuel Efficiency Partnership.
- **Shared best practices at the Energy Foundation's Multifamily Advocates Meeting:** NEEP's Darren Port spoke at the [Energy Foundation](#)-sponsored Multifamily Advocates Meeting in October. This meeting brought together national leaders in advancing the retrofit and energy efficiency of [multifamily buildings](#). Following the initiative's launch in the spring of 2014, participants dove deeper into the barriers and solutions to the financing and retrofit of multifamily buildings. Mr. Port presented on a panel entitled "Opportunities in Affordable Housing and Energy Efficiency," providing an overview of affordable multifamily housing and energy efficiency programs and highlighting overlapping issues and complementary activities.



NEEP detailed the importance of energy efficiency retrofits, as well as the common barriers and challenges to integrating energy efficiency at scale.

- **Supported implementation of Cambridge, Massachusetts' Building Energy Usage Disclosure Ordinance:** Following NEEP's stakeholder outreach and support efforts earlier in 2014, Cambridge, Mass. enacted a [Building Energy Usage Disclosure Ordinance](#) in the summer. In conjunction with the City Council's review of the proposed ordinance, NEEP submitted personalized letters of support to each Cambridge City Councilor, and NEEP's Carolyn Sarno [testified](#) before the City Council during its June 24 hearing. NEEP shared news of the enactment via social media broadcasts, [a blog relaying events leading to passage](#), and contribution by NEEP's Executive Director Sue Coakley to an [article on the ordinance's passage](#). NEEP participated in stakeholder meetings to provide technical assistance throughout the implementation process. Passage of this ordinance is significant because it creates a system that will send previously unavailable signals about building energy usage to market actors, creating a market-based mechanism to encourage investment in building energy efficiency.
- **Maintained and updated NEEP's online rating resource center:** NEEP regularly updated its [building energy rating](#) webpage featuring the latest news, events, and resources on commercial energy benchmarking and home energy labeling. Launch of NEEP's new website in the fall featured improved versions of the [Buildings Bulletin Board](#) and [Resources](#) pages, which help to accelerate building energy rating efforts throughout the region by providing state and municipal officials with relevant news and resources.
- **Peer reviewed a Keystone Energy Efficiency Association Energy Education Foundation publication:** NEEP provided peer review of the Foundation's publication, "Tracking to Save Energy: A Comprehensive Guide to Municipal Benchmarking for Pennsylvania." This provided opportunity to disseminate NEEP resources and insights related to building energy rating and disclosure ordinances to state stakeholders.
- **Published and disseminated a Multifamily whitepaper:** NEEP's whitepaper, "[Increasing Energy Efficiency in Small Multifamily Properties in the Northeast: Recommendations for Policy Action](#)," was distributed across the region and nation. The paper—which contains information on market characterization and data analysis, market barriers, current policies and recommendations, and ratepayer-funded multifamily energy efficiency program design and operation—was shared with:
  - the *Network for Energy, Water and Health in Affordable Buildings*;
  - regional utility energy efficiency program managers;
  - stakeholders at the National Multifamily Advocates Meeting;
  - attendees at NEEP's Annual Summit; and
  - recipients of NEEP's comments on New York and Connecticut's Energy Master Plan.

## Building Energy Best Practices

- **Updated the Northeast Collaborative for High Performance Schools Criteria for School Construction and Major Renovation (NE-CHPS 3.0):** After an extensive stakeholder engagement process that began in 2013, three public comment periods, and leadership group review, NEEP released [NE-CHPS 3.0](#) on April 8 in conjunction with National Healthy Schools Day. This was supported by an exhibit at the [Massachusetts Green Schools Summit](#), a [press release](#), and a [blog](#). The updated criteria reflects the latest trends in high performance school construction throughout the region, incorporating, among other elements: electric vehicle charging; crime prevention through environmental design; enhanced commissioning requirements; the Zero Energy Performance Index (zEPI) scale; improved acoustics, and the New Buildings Institute's [Advanced Buildings New Construction Guide](#) as a prescriptive pathway



to meet the criteria's energy usage requirements. NEEP also produced an explanatory [handout](#), began development of a supporting toolkit, and published four new high performance school case studies:

- [ABBOT-DOWNING SCHOOL \(CONCORD, N.H.\);](#)
- [FREEMAN KENNEDY SCHOOL \(NORFOLK, MASS\);](#)
- [ROCHESTER MEMORIAL ELEMENTARY \(ROCHESTER, MASS\);](#) and
- [SHERWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL \(SHREWSBURY, MASS\).](#)

These resources and associated stakeholder engagement strategies will assist states and municipalities to commit to maintaining and building high performance schools within the region.

- **Facilitated creation of a Rhode Island Addendum to NE-CHPS 3.0 through stakeholder engagement process:** Following the release of the [NE-CHPS 3.0](#), NEEP assembled key Rhode Island stakeholders to consider creation of a state addendum to NE-CHPS 3.0. This Rhode Island High Performance Schools Working Group included architects, engineers, commissioning agents, school construction officials, and other school construction stakeholders. After reaching consensus, the group released the proposed addendum for a 30-day public comment period. After receiving comments, NEEP facilitated stakeholder engagement to incorporate this feedback into the final addendum. NEEP also created a comparison of NE-CHPS 3.0 and the Rhode Island version of the IgCC. The NE-CHPS Rhode Island addendum—which can be found on [pages 312-317 of the NE-CHPS Criteria](#)—will allow the state to set the bar even higher for high performance school construction and renovation, providing for the use of the NE-CHPS criteria through state [regulation](#).
- **Hosted a training for advancing high performance and zero net energy school construction in Rhode Island and beyond:** NEEP facilitated a workshop at the NE-CHPS verified [East Bay Met School](#) in Newport on December 5. The workshop, entitled “Envisioning the Future of Rhode Island School Houses,” featured an [agenda](#) highlighting criteria updates, utility incentives, a panel on the school construction process, and an afternoon charrette on the future of Rhode Island school houses. In addition to a tour of the host school, stakeholders were invited to attend an [architect-guided tour](#) of the nearby [Claiborne Pell Elementary School](#). The workshop was an important step toward encouraging adoption of high performance school construction best practices in both Rhode Island and Massachusetts, which each had a number of stakeholders in attendance.
- **Continued engagement of municipal energy efficiency stakeholders:** Following stakeholder webinars held in the spring and early fall, NEEP hosted the annual in-person meeting of our Public Buildings Leadership Group on November 12 at the US EPA's New England Headquarters. The [agenda](#) highlighted municipal energy efficiency efforts from across the region. Stakeholder engagement shared best practices from throughout the region with key decision-makers who can ensure that states build and maintain high performance public buildings.
- **Advanced high performance school construction in the Northeast through stakeholder outreach and engagement:** In August, NEEP hosted an in-person meeting of its High Performance Schools Regional Leadership Group in Concord, N.H. at the [Abbot-Downing Elementary School](#). The meeting was attended by state energy officials, utility representatives, school construction officials, and industry professionals, and included a [tour by the facility manager and architect](#) of the of the [NE-CHPS](#) verified school. This meeting helped to illustrate the benefits of high performance school construction in Northern New England, and highlighted school construction best practices.





- **Hosted a workshop on the path toward zero net energy (ZNE) for high performance buildings, supported by a tour of two ZNE-capable schools:**
  - NEEP hosted a [workshop](#) as part of its annual Summit in Newport, R.I., which included panels focused on Building Resiliency and the Role of Financing in the Drive toward Zero Net Energy. These panels included representatives from ‘green’ banks, mortgage underwriters, energy efficiency utilities, architects, and state energy officials.
  - NEEP also arranged tours of two local high performance schools. Hosted by the [Rhode Island Department of Education's](#) Joseph da Silva, the tours led visitors through the ZNE-designed [Paul W. Crowley Metropolitan Regional Career and Technical Center](#) and the ZNE-capable [Claiborne Pell Elementary School](#), demonstrating the tangible benefits provided by high performance schools.
- **Engaged and supported the City of Portland, Maine’s municipal energy efficiency efforts:** At the request of municipal officials in Portland, Maine, NEEP partnered with the city’s Sustainability Coordinator, Ian Housel, to create a fact sheet summarizing [Portland’s Municipal Energy Efficiency Efforts](#) and organized a [webinar](#) that featured Mr. Housel’s perspective on benchmarking, performance contracting, green building, and other efficiency efforts. Most importantly, NEEP helped to facilitate Portland’s [enlistment](#) in the [US DOE’s High Performance Outdoor Lighting Accelerator](#), through which the city has pledged to convert a significant portion of their outdoor lighting to LEDs in the next two years. The switch to LED street lights would significantly reduce municipal energy usage and associated costs. NEEP has provided Portland with technical assistance in these efforts, including a [summary of utility-owned LED street lighting tariffs](#) within the region. This represents NEEP’s effort to shift its guidance and technical assistance efforts toward the community level, and build a knowledge base that will contribute significantly to the development of a 2015 [Communities Program](#).
- **Disseminated best practice building operation and maintenance materials:** NEEP staff disseminated best practice materials such as the [Public Buildings Operation and Maintenance Guide](#), [NE-CHPS 3.0 Criteria](#), and the [Roadmap to Zero Net Energy Public Buildings](#) to hundreds of stakeholders throughout the region through presentations at ten regional conferences and meetings, as presented in the chart below:

NEEP Buildings 2014 “Best Practice” Dissemination	
Venue	Attendees
<a href="#">Architecture Boston Expo 2014 (ABX)</a>	20
<a href="#">Rhode Island Sustainable Schools Summit 2014</a>	80
<a href="#">Asthma Regional Council 2014 Annual Conference</a>	100
<a href="#">Connecticut School Indoor Environment Resource Team</a>	20
<a href="#">Massachusetts Facilities Administrators Association Annual Conference</a>	70
<a href="#">Delaware Valley Green Building Council Board Meeting</a>	10
<a href="#">Better Buildings by Design 2014</a>	55
<a href="#">National Governors’ Association</a>	30
<a href="#">New Hampshire Partners for Healthy Schools</a>	20
<a href="#">GlobalCon 2014 Energy Conference</a>	50
<a href="#">Portland M.E. Municipal Outreach</a>	10
<a href="#">Public Buildings/Local Energy Working Group Webinar</a>	60
<a href="#">SEE Action Webinar: Developing Performance-Based Policies for Commercial Buildings</a>	125
<b>Total Attendees:</b>	<b>650</b>

- **Expanded NEEP’s web-based High Performance Schools Exchange:** With the launch of the new website in the fall of 2014, NEEP rolled out new content for its [High Performance Schools](#)



webpages, including the addition of pages focused on schools in [Pennsylvania](#), [Maryland](#), [Delaware](#), and the [District of Columbia](#), doubling the resources available and creating a larger pool of best practices documentation for use by municipalities, school districts, and industry professionals. NEEP also added several schools to the [New York](#), [New Hampshire](#), [Rhode Island](#), and [Vermont](#) pages, and created an updated map of regional high performance schools.

- **Engaged stakeholders to disseminate US DOE, US EPA, and NEEP resources:** Throughout the year, NEEP staff participated in meetings and working groups dedicated to high performance buildings best practices in state and federal government. This offered opportunities for dissemination of DOE, EPA, and NEEP resources including the [Public Building Operations and Maintenance Guide](#), the [Building Energy Rating and Disclosure Supplement](#), the [Federal Energy Management Program's Guide to Operations and Maintenance Best Practices](#), and the [ENERGY STAR Guidelines for Energy Management](#). Relevant groups included:
  - [U.S. Green Building Council Massachusetts' Green Schools Working Group](#);
  - [New Hampshire Partnerships for Healthy Schools](#);
  - [Rhode Island Sustainable Schools Summit Planning Committee](#);
  - [Rhode Island Public Energy Partnership \(Schools and Public Buildings\)](#);
  - [Boston Society of Architects \(Committee for the Advancement of Sustainability\)](#);
  - [EPA working group on Health, Indoor Air Quality, and Energy Efficiency](#);
  - [New Hampshire Local Energy Solutions Working Group](#);
  - [AIA MA Legislative Affairs Committee](#); and
  - [State Energy Efficiency \(SEE\) Action Existing Commercial Buildings Working Group](#), a subcommittee which NEEP's Carolyn Sarno continued to co-chair.
- **NEEP's vision for zero net energy sought by state and national stakeholders:** Throughout the year, NEEP's Carolyn Sarno was asked to participate in the following:
  - At the request of New Buildings Institute, participated as an advisor to NBI and NASEO in the development of content for their annual [Getting to Zero Forum](#) to be held in February 2015. The forum will showcase leading programs and policies that are transforming energy use in buildings.
  - At the request of the US DOE and the National Institute of Building Science (NIBS), participated in a working group to develop common definitions for ZNE buildings.
  - The Massachusetts Zero Net Energy Buildings Advisory Council, to help shape the opportunities for ZNE market transformation in the Commonwealth.



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## SPEED ADOPTION OF HIGH EFFICIENCY PRODUCTS

*Accelerate the adoption of high-efficiency residential and commercial lighting and consumer products through education, incentive programs and public policies.*

NEEP's *Products* strategies promote adoption of high efficiency lighting, consumer electronics, emerging technologies, and myriad other appliances. Many of the products currently on the market are inefficient, and their use is a major driver of electricity consumption and resulting greenhouse gas emissions. NEEP's regional efforts are essential to engage and leverage the marketplace and keep the region a national leader in the sale of high efficiency, market-ready products.

### High Efficiency Residential Lighting

- **Published the 2014-2015 Update to the Residential Lighting Strategy:** The [Northeast Residential Lighting Strategy](#) (RLS), originally published in spring 2012, is an important regional report. In 2014, NEEP published the [third annual RLS update](#) with contractors Energy Futures Group and Ecova who researched regional residential lighting activities, LED pricing trends, and program transition strategies from CFLs to LEDs. NEEP interviewed residential lighting stakeholders and requested data from regional energy efficiency program administrators. NEEP also reconvened the Leadership Advisory Committee (LAC) to advise the development and direction of the update. The report includes an analysis of developments in the lighting landscape and recommendations for program design into the future; this information can be used to help inform program planning and projections of savings potential. The findings clarify the opportunities for and strategies to achieve critical success in the promotion of efficient lighting, thus keeping the region a national leader through the continuation of aggressive savings goals and program resources. NEEP began the dissemination for the RLS Update in December with a [public webinar](#) and an article in our newsletter, [Highlights](#).
- **Hosted NEEP's annual Residential Lighting Workshop:** NEEP held the annual [Residential Lighting Workshop](#), at the Lighting Research Center in Troy, NY on October 7. With approximately 40 lighting experts in attendance, the workshop was a successful showcase of residential lighting activity in the region. Presentation topics included findings from the forthcoming RLS report, outlooks for the future of lighting program design, lighting and health, strategies in LED marketing and education, and implications of new lighting specifications.
- **Participated in regional and national efforts:** NEEP staff participated in many regional and national events in 2014. NEEP staff was active in the planning of the [2014 ACEEE Market Transformation Symposium](#), which was widely attended by energy efficiency experts. NEEP staff was also active in bringing our Sponsors together at the [ENERGY STAR Award Ceremony](#). Additionally, staff attended the Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE) Summer Meeting, E Source Forum, ENERGY STAR Partner Meeting, the [DOE SSL Market Development Workshop](#), and a Lutron informational session to learn about the expanding residential lighting control options. Planning and attending national meetings offer opportunities to engage program administrators as well as trade allies to coordinate implementation of RLS strategies.
- **Provided input to federal and international activities:** NEEP participated in ENERGY STAR and NEMA's lighting [roadmapping sessions](#), which brought together industry members and efficiency stakeholders to improve the residential lighting landscape. NEEP submitted comments to ENERGY STAR for Verification Testing Guidance and on their [Luminaires V2.0 framework document](#). NEEP actively participated in the CEE process to develop an advance lamp specification to help programs yield higher energy savings from lighting. Additionally, NEEP participated in Super-Efficient Equipment and Appliance Deployment (SEAD's) [Lighting Award](#) process concerning the recently launched competition.



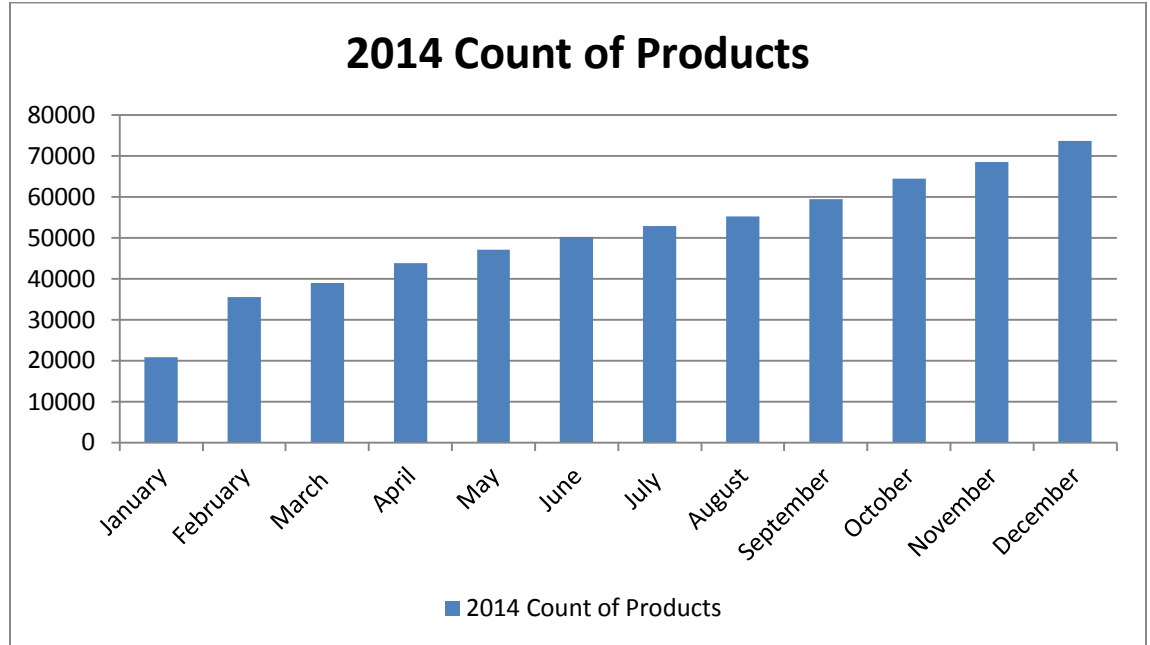
- **Disseminated the 2013-2014 Residential Lighting Strategy:** NEEP presented on the [2013-2014 Residential Lighting Strategy](#) and market analysis at the [Lighting Roadmapping](#) Workshop in January and at the [Better Buildings by Design](#) Conference in February. Additionally, NEEP completed and presented a paper at the ACEEE Summer Study in conjunction with numerous program administrators. The paper, titled “All in on LEDs: The Northeast Residential Lighting Strategy,” presented research and analysis from the 2013-2014 RLS Update and outlined the region’s evolution to LED promotion.
- **Facilitated regional residential lighting coordination:** NEEP held quarterly Retail Products Working Group meetings to discuss regional strategies in residential lighting programs. Sponsors discuss lighting opportunities, the future of lighting programs, and potential technologies for NEEP to investigate further. In addition to [program summaries](#), NEEP provided monthly updates to members of its Retail Products Working Group that included updates on activities and findings related to the 2013-2014 RLS Update.
- **Collaborated with the Regional EM&V Forum:** The Market Strategies team supported the Evaluation, Measurement and Verification (EM&V) Forum’s Market Lift CFL project by commenting and providing guidance on the project’s final report as well as the accompanying [post-EISA report](#). This project has reinforced the goal of novel lighting program design and full-category sales data. Additionally, the regional need for acquiring retail sales data to appropriately assess program impact led NEEP to participate in the Consortium for Retail Energy Efficiency Data (CREED). This initiative—a coalition of energy efficiency programs pushing for access to retail sales data—is in the process of purchasing sales data to improve program evaluation and planning. In addition to regular teleconferences, NEEP attended CREED’s in-person meeting in conjunction with the ENERGY STAR Partner Meeting in October.
- **Provided web-based visibility for residential lighting strategies:** Many improvements were made to the [Residential Lighting resource center](#) with the launch of NEEP’s new website in the fall. Staff also contributed to NEEP’s blog with the following: [They use Incandescent bulbs? That was so 1897](#) and [Top Five Policy Implications NEEP’s Recent Residential Lighting Strategy Report](#).

### DesignLights Consortium® Solid State Lighting Qualified Products List

- **The DesignLights Consortium® continued to evolve to serve member needs and support the accelerated adoption of quality, efficient LED lighting products:** Serving efficiency programs in 30 states and Canada, the DesignLights Consortium’s (DLC) primary product, the LED Qualified Product List (QPL), grew to include 73,676 products from 983 manufacturers by year end, including 50,000 new products. With this tremendous growth, the DLC QPL is well established as the leading list of quality, efficient LED commercial-sector products in North America. It is referenced by 73 energy efficiency programs, including eight new members in 2014. Members expressed a high level of satisfaction with the DLC, finding it to be a valuable resource with services that are professional, timely, and tailored to members’ needs.
- **Introduced three new policies to maintain the value and relevance of the QPL and the DLC brand:** With member and industry input, NEEP developed: 1) a new dimming policy; 2) a draft Product Verification Performance Testing policy with an interim Product Challenge Policy; 3) and a restructured QPL Technical Requirements Table that consolidates and regroups product categories.
- **Served DLC members by maintaining the QPL via a publicly available, searchable, and comprehensive web-based listing of qualifying SSL products:** Members rely on the QPL to promote high efficiency lighting products and achieve energy efficiency program savings goals. 2014 highlights include:



- **QPL Growth:** The DLC QPL grew by 52,796 products, ending 2014 with an impressive product count of 73,676 products from 983 manufacturers.



- **Improved web-based functionality:** NEEP added new functionality to the DLC website that enables members to run searches by category, measured criteria, rated criteria, or manufacturer. Results can be downloaded from the database and accessed via a password-protected member-only portal. In September, the online application process was made available to manufacturers, easing and automating their participation while improving communication about the status of their pending product applications.
- **Increased web traffic:** In 2014, the DLC website received 906,158 page views by 130,232 users, 34.8% of which were new users. About 74% of the total sessions on the website came from the U.S., while roughly 10% came from China, and approximately 8% from Canada.
- **Developed new QPL policies:** To keep the DLC QPL on the leading edge of SSL product introduction and to provide DLC members with further resources and technical information to support and inform their energy efficiency programs, NEEP worked with contractor D&R International and DLC members and stakeholders to shape several new policies, including:
  - **Restructuring the Technical Requirements Table (RTRT)** - NEEP finalized a policy proposal for RTRT with the Technical Committee and Member input. The policy proposal was released for industry input at the beginning of the third quarter and discussed in-depth at the DLC Stakeholder Meeting at the end of July. Following the industry comment period and further discussion with stakeholders, a final draft will be distributed for stakeholder comment in early 2015. The restructured RTRT consolidates and re-groups product categories to support the rapid introduction of new product types.
  - **Product Verification Performance Testing (PVPT)** - NEEP followed a similar process to vet an initial proposal for a PVPT policy, which will allow manufacturers and DLC Members to challenge products listed on the QPL. This



will be finalized in early 2015, and until then, NEEP drafted an Interim Product Challenge Policy to allow for limited product challenges.

- **Product Dimming Policy** - Upon request from DLC members, NEEP developed a Dimming Policy which allows manufacturers to report whether and how their products dim. Following an industry comment period, the policy was implemented in early July.
- **Developed and maintained a clear brand identity:** The DLC brand has become part of the vernacular of the commercial lighting and efficiency communities, and NEEP is careful to maintain the integrity of the brand. In 2014, we achieved this through regular member meetings at which technical issues and program developments were discussed, social media, press releases, and strict logo usage control. Highlights include:
  - **Stakeholder communication and media attention:** NEEP shared regular updates with DLC members and industry, including program updates and general information and announcements. These DLC Member and Industry Updates inform members and also assist them in informing their teams and customers. In addition, NEEP released a press release regarding a major milestone ([DesignLights Consortium® Drives Innovation with Updates to SSL Qualified Products List](#)) and DLC Associate Fritz Pieper was [interviewed](#) by IMARK Magazine. Lastly, the DLC Twitter account, [@DesignLightsSSL](#), gained approximately 260 new followers.
  - **Trademark enforcement:** NEEP continued to review and improve its trademark guidelines and has engaged legal counsel to ensure DLC logos are properly used across the industry.
  - **First DLC Annual Report:** NEEP published an [Annual Report for 2013](#), its first such summary of the DLC's annual activities developed since the DLC began.
- **Increased value for members & stakeholders:** NEEP is committed to achieving a high level of DLC member and stakeholder satisfaction. In 2014, we took care to respond to needs, regularly invite input, and keep stakeholders informed and engaged. We also increased the value of the DLC services for individual members by broadening the base of members that financially support the DLC's activities. 2014 highlights include:
  - **DLC Membership grew to 73:** In 2014, DLC membership increased by eight new members including: Detroit Edison, Dayton Power & Light, Hawaii Energy, Hoosier Energy, Efficiency Nova Scotia, National Grid - Rhode Island, NJ Smart Buildings, and Sask Power. A survey of members found a high level of satisfaction, with 90% indicating that the QPL continues to be a valuable resource and the services provided are professional, timely, and tailored to the members' needs.
  - **2014 Stakeholder Meeting well attended, highly rated:** NEEP held the third annual DLC Stakeholder Meeting in San Diego, CA in August, bringing together 200 DLC Members and stakeholders. The event allowed attendees to build on existing and create new relationships, as well as participate in in-depth discussion about DLC processes and developments. The [agenda](#) included discussions such as the Benefit and the Burden to Manufacturers, Commercial Lighting Efficiency Programs, Restructuring the DLC Technical Requirements Table, DLC Product Verification Testing, Dimming, and the Future of Lighting and the DLC. The meeting was highly rated, and after three years, has become a "must-attend" event in the lighting industry.
  - **Presented at dozens of conferences and workshops on the DLC:** In 2014, the DLC team attended a total of 27 conferences and workshops, providing presentations on the DLC at many and broadening the reach of and interest in the program. Below is a summary of the most notable experiences:



- On February 4-6, DLC staff attended the Better Buildings by Design Conference in Burlington, Vt. The DLC was represented on a panel titled “[LED Lighting in Commercial Spaces: Quality and Performance.](#)”
- On April 16, Irina Rasputnis was invited to speak at the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance’s Breakfast Meeting in Atlanta, Ga. The meeting’s theme was “Shedding Light on National Lighting Standards,” and Ms. Rasputnis presented on opportunities and challenges in SSL lighting.
- On June 1-5, staff attended LightFair International in Las Vegas, Nev., attending workshops, viewing new products and technologies, and networking with industry stakeholders.
- On August 6-7, Irina Rasputnis attended the West Coast Utility Lighting Team (WCULT) Meeting in Seattle, Wash., where she presented on DLC developments and NEEP’s new Commercial Advanced Lighting Controls (CALC) initiative.
- On September 2-4, Irina Rasputnis attended the IES Southwest Chapter Meeting in Albuquerque, N. Mex., where she met with the local utility PNM to give an overview of the DLC and encourage them to become a DLC Member.
- On September 16-18, Irina Rasputnis attended the LED Show in Los Angeles, Calif. She co-presented with Taylor Jantz-Sell of the EPA ENERGY STAR Program and Marci Sanders of the DOE LED Lighting Facts Program on the role and value of qualification and truth-in-advertising programs for the lighting industry.
- On September 25, Irina Rasputnis presented on the DLC program as part of a trade-ally training provided by PG&E.
- **Planning for the future of the DLC:** In 2014, NEEP developed a multi-year business plan to guide the future direction of the DLC and build lasting support for the program as a valued resource to accelerate the market adoption of quality and high efficiency commercial sector lighting solutions. Informed by a DLC Long-Term Plan Advisory Committee of NEEP Board members and DLC members, NEEP engaged the services of a contractor, TRC, to: 1) assess market trends regarding energy efficiency in commercial sector lighting as well awareness of the DLC brand and products; 2) develop a five-year business plan to meet identified needs and priorities of key stakeholders to accelerate high efficiency lighting options for the C&I sector; and 3) recommend an organizational plan to implement the plan. The results suggested that significant energy savings remain for increased energy efficiency in commercial lighting and recommended:
  - Continuing the DLC as North American market transformation resource for quality, high efficiency commercial lighting;
  - Expanding the DLC to address market barriers to advanced lighting controls and lighting design and integration;
  - Establishing umbrella DLC services to maximize impacts and leverage partnerships;
  - Hiring a DLC director to manage and engage support for DLC growth; and
  - Establishing an appropriate organizational structure for the DLC as program serving North America.

With support from the Advisory Committee, the NEEP Board adopted the report recommendations along with a 2015 DLC Business Plan to implement them.

### Commercial Advanced Lighting Controls

- **Launched project with US DOE to demonstrate Advanced Lighting Controls, develop and implement new training programs:** After being successfully awarded a three-year grant from the US DOE, NEEP began implementation of the partnership and project with DOE to implement





10 demonstration projects in the Northeast, perform EM&V, develop case studies, and develop and implement supporting training programs. Combined with specifications and qualified products lists, model program approaches, and a new savings estimation tool, this will provide a fully-funded and comprehensive demonstration and deployment initiative for Advanced Lighting Controls (ALCs). This three-year partnership with DOE and other project participants is a great example of NEEP working with federal government, regional and national energy efficiency programs, and industry to leverage and support one another to transform markets and achieve impact at scale.

- **Hosted successful Advanced Lighting Control Summit:** On October 9, NEEP hosted a full-day Advanced Lighting Control Summit in Burlington, Vt. that was well attended by over 50 attendees that included large numbers of ALC manufacturers, utilities, and energy efficiency programs. The purpose of the Summit was to bring together industry and energy efficiency programs to discuss ways to work together to overcome technology adoption barriers. The event was highly successful with many tangible and actionable outcomes including ways that industry and efficiency programs can work together to increase adoption at scale.
- **Began selection process of technologies for demonstrations:** NEEP issued an RFQ to manufacturers for products to be deployed in the 10 demonstration projects. NEEP assembled a highly qualified scoring team that included industry experts from DOE, GSA, national laboratories, independent consultants, and energy efficiency programs. A scoring system was developed by NEEP that will select products that have the greatest potential to overcome technology adoption barriers and achieve deployment at scale.
- **NEEP selected as Chair of ANSI C.137 Energy Prediction and Measurement of Lighting Systems Subcommittee:** The lack of standards for many aspects of ALCs has limited the adoption of the technology. A new ANSI Committee was formed to address this. NEEP's Market Strategies Program Manager Gabe Arnold was named as Chair of a key subcommittee—Energy Prediction and Measurement. Development of standards in this area will enable new opportunities and business models for efficiency programs and manufacturers, enabling a shift from predictive-based programs and financing mechanisms to data-based programs and financing mechanisms.

## High Efficiency Emerging Technologies

- **Published a Cold-Climate Air-Source Heat Pump (ccASHP) Specification:** With the publication of the [ccASHP specification](#), energy efficiency program administrators now have a model equipment and performance requirement specification. The metrics were developed for the specification to help regional stakeholders better identify products that perform under low-temperature conditions. It can also be used by engineers, contractors, and other practitioners who need assurance that the equipment they select will have the required heating capacity at certain temperatures without unnecessary oversizing, and will serve the load efficiently throughout the ambient temperature range. The ccASHP specification was developed by an ASHP subcommittee facilitated by NEEP. Drafts of the specification developed by this group were circulated to industry stakeholders for feedback, in addition to discussions with manufacturers and regional stakeholders. The specification provides better assurance that units selected and installed will perform during the coldest parts of the winter season, and this performance will strengthen the regional reputation of ASHPs and drive accelerated adoption of the technology.
- **Disseminated NEEP's Regional Air-Source Heat Pump Strategy:** Following the December 2013 release of the [Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Air-Source Heat Pump Market Strategies Report](#), NEEP spent much of the first quarter planning and executing its dissemination, beginning with a [webinar presentation](#) in January. This helped bolster interest in participation in the ASHP Working Group and in implementation of the recommendations set forth in the report.



- **Implemented Air-Source Heat Pump regional strategies:** NEEP established subcommittees within the ASHP Working Group to effectively implement a number of the critical recommendations of the ASHP Strategy Report. Subcommittees were formed for ASHP Research, Policy, Education & Awareness, Cold Climate, and Workshop Planning. Additionally, the report recommends that efficiency programs be allowed to offer incentives in cases of fuel switching, leading to NEEP participating in a Vermont Department of Public Service Initial Docket Workshop (Docket 8311) entitled, “EEU Funding to Reduce Fossil Fuel Use.” The hearing was focused on the issue of rate-payer energy efficiency resources being used to support the adoption of ASHPs in “fuel switching” scenarios.
- **Hosted an [Air-Source Heat Pump Workshop](#):** Held on June 2 in conjunction with the NEEP Summit, the workshop built broad stakeholder support, strengthened relationships between programs and trade allies to promote ENERGY STAR HVAC solutions, and demonstrated that states continue to strive for a strong deployment of cold-climate compatible products.
- **Contributed to critical ASHP research efforts:** NEEP supported development of two EM&V Forum reports: “[The Emerging Technology Field Research Report on Ductless Heat Pumps](#)” and the “[Ductless Heat Pump Meta-study](#),” providing input into the content and data used for the analysis. These efforts respond to research needs on barriers to further market adoption.
- **To drive market uptake, implemented Heat Pump Water Heater strategies:** NEEP managed a Heat Pump Water Heater (HPWH) Working Group that successfully developed and implemented several of the recommended market strategies in NEEP’s [Heat Pump Water Heater Market Strategy Report](#). Programs in Connecticut and Vermont implemented upstream promotions targeted at the retailer and distributor level, a model that has significantly boosted participation and energy savings. ENERGY STAR adopted many of the group’s recommendations for improved consumer buying guidance in its new “[Considerations](#)” page. To share best practices across the nation, NEEP co-hosted an informal session at the ACEEE Summer Study. The session, titled “Heat Pump Water Heaters: Ready for Prime Time!” discussed barriers and strategies for adoption of HPWHs. The team also created a [HPWH Incentive sheet](#) which provides a snapshot of how promotional activities remain strong in the region.
- **Super-Efficient Dryers come to market:** As an active partner of the Super-Efficient Dryer Initiative (SEDI), NEEP supported the market introduction of two heat pump clothes dryers developed by [Whirlpool](#) and [LG](#). Both products qualify for ENERGY STAR’s 2014 Emerging Technology Award. NEEP participated on SEDI’s Technical and Next Tier Working Groups, and signed onto comments for ENERGY STAR’s [final specification](#) to the Clothes Dryer Version 1.0, and [submitted comments](#) on earlier draft. Additionally, NEEP reviewed and signed onto SEDI’s comments supporting ENERGY STAR’s [2014 Emerging Technology Award](#). The combination of ENERGY STAR certified dryers with the 2014 ETA dryers will enable program promotions at multiple tiers, improving the market share of efficient dryers.
- **Participated in regional and national efforts:** NEEP staff was active in the planning of the [2014 ACEEE Market Transformation Symposium](#). Staff also attended SEDI’s workshops focused on next generation clothes dryers, the DOE’s [Buildings Technologies Office](#) Peer Review Meeting, the E Source Summit, and the ENERGY STAR Partner Meeting. Planning and attending national meetings helps broaden our directory of program administrators and trade allies who ultimately support the increased market share of emerging technologies.
- **Provided web-based visibility for emerging technologies:** NEEP developed and maintained our online presence with relevant resources such as the ASHP [double-sider](#), and several blog contributions, including: [A Breeze of Innovation, Air Source Heat Pumps Hold Potential](#); [Getting into “Hot Water” is Exhilarating](#); and [The ASHP Magic Trick: Creating Warmth from Thin \(Freezing\) Air](#).



- **Led the transition of TopTen USA:** NEEP played a leadership role with [TopTen USA](#), enabling a number of regional efficiency programs to continue their promotional work through the TopTen website. NEEP assisted the development and overhaul of TopTen USA's new website, as a new data management platform was implemented. The website provides new functionalities that help improve the promotions or regional efficiency programs. NEEP Sponsors in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut utilized the TopTen USA tool to promote super-efficient products.

## High Efficiency Business & Consumer Electronics

- **Formed Working Group to lead the Home Energy Management System (HEMS) project:** NEEP initiated a HEMS Working Group to explore the potential energy savings opportunities associated with these systems. HEMS were identified in the regional [Business and Consumer Electronics Strategy Report](#) as a tool to effectively manage electronics, appliances, and other systems throughout the home. The group is managed by NEEP and the Home Performance Coalition, and brings together stakeholders ranging from utilities, service providers, manufacturers, national laboratories, efficiency advocates, the technology sector, and beyond. Through this group, NEEP is exploring the integration of HEMS products into energy efficiency programs.
- **Hosted a HEMS Workshop:** NEEP and the Home Performance Coalition co-hosted a HEMS Workshop on April 29 at [Affordable Comfort Inc. National Conference](#) in Detroit, Mich., with over 30 attendees. Sessions covered the most relevant and pressing issues in HEMS integration with energy efficiency activities. The event built broad stakeholder support, strengthened relationships between programs and trade allies to promote integrated whole-home solutions, and demonstrated that the stakeholders continue to strive for strong efficiency principles with a variety of products.
- **HEMS research project scoped and planned:** To meet energy efficiency programs' need to understand both the savings potential and the EM&V opportunities that HEMS present, NEEP planned for launch of a project to conduct research on the technology. Given the early stage and diversity of products, this project will conduct secondary research to:
  - understand what the technologies are;
  - identify the experience with these technologies to date;
  - conduct an assessment the opportunities that are present; and
  - provide recommendations for further, prioritized study of one or more measures in 2016.

The result of this project will be a white paper covering inventories of products, an assessment of program potential, and the policy and EM&V opportunities of HEMS. By focusing on an integrated approach, and the efficient use of these electronics as key paths to achieve program and state energy efficiency goals, the HEMS research project will help the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic continue to be a leader in energy efficiency.

- **Opportunities for focused program advancement identified:** NEEP continued to work with ENERGY STAR and national stakeholders regarding the Retail Products Platform (RPP). RPP seeks to transform the way energy efficient products and energy efficiency messages are delivered to residential customers using an omni-channel retail approach. NEEP presented RPP to a variety of audiences including project sponsors and EM&V Forum project committees. NEEP is coordinating with its Sponsors, ENERGY STAR, NEEA, and California program administrators to help organize the 2015 national pilot and 2016 national program with engagement from several Northeast and Mid-Atlantic energy efficiency program administrators.



- **Supported implementation of Advanced Power Strip programs and engagement:** NEEP managed an Advanced Power Strips (APS) Working Group that successfully developed several resources for regional and national stakeholders. These resources include a draft Tier 2 case study (to be completed in early 2015), an APS misconceptions guidance document, and the [common APS terminology](#) document. The APS Working Group met quarterly to discuss industry needs, in addition to an in-person meeting at the ENERGY STAR Partners Meeting.
- **Influenced national product specifications with regional perspectives:** [NEEP submitted comments](#) on the ENERGY STAR Computers 6.1 Specification, co-signed by project sponsor Cape Light Compact. NEEP also signed onto comments regarding ENERGY STAR's Set Top Box [version 4.1's Final Draft](#) and [Network Testing](#) with the Appliance Standards Awareness Program (ASAP) and the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE). In addition, NEEP submitted comments on the ENERGY STAR Television 7 Specification [Draft 1](#), [Draft 2](#), and [Final Draft](#). And lastly, we submitted comments to DOE concerning their Smart Appliances Characterization, and signed onto comments regarding DOE's Computer specifications with ASAP and NRDC.
- **Participated in regional and national efforts:** NEEP sponsored and attended the [Smart Energy Summit](#) to learn about the potential of HEMS promotions by efficiency programs. Additionally, NEEP staff presented at [ACI New England's](#) conference on activities of NEEP's HEMS Working Group. Staff was active in planning for the [2014 ACEEE Market Transformation Symposium](#), as well as bringing together NEEP Sponsors at the [ENERGY STAR Award Ceremony](#). NEEP also participated in CEE's Summer Meeting, E Source Forum, and the ENERGY STAR Partner Meeting to broaden our directory of program administrators and trade allies.
- **Facilitated regional coordination of consumer electronics stakeholders:** NEEP held quarterly Retail Products Working Group meetings to discuss regional strategies in consumer electronics programs. Participants discussed opportunities and potential technologies for NEEP to investigate further, especially with regards to APS, HEMS, and Game Consoles. In addition to [program summaries](#), NEEP provided monthly updates to members of its Retail Products Working Group, including updates on activities related to Business and Consumer Electronics.
- **Provided web-based visibility for consumer electronics:** NEEP made significant improvements to the Business and Consumer Electronics webpages at neep.org with the launch of the new website in September. In addition, staff contributed the following blogs: [Join NEEP at the 2014 Smart Energy Summit: Engaging the Consumer](#); [Energy Efficiency has never looked smarter!](#); and [Should the S in HEMS stand for 'System' or 'Stabilizer'?](#)

## Appliance Efficiency Standards

- **NEEP's [Northeast Appliance Standards Project](#) drove strong federal appliance standards:** NEEP brought together regional stakeholders to engage in several key federal rulemakings, developing and contributing to public comments to voice the region's needs and perspectives. NEEP submitted letters to several dockets including on General Service Lamps, Furnace Fans, and General Service Fluorescent Lamps (GSFL)/Incandescent Reflector Lamps (IRL). NEEP also contributed to joint comments on Residential Boilers and Computers, and submitted [public comment](#) to the DOE regarding their effort to better define the physical characterization of smart and grid-connected commercial and residential buildings end-use equipment and appliances. DOE also published Final Rules for several product categories including Refrigerators/Freezers, Commercial Refrigeration Equipment, Walk-in Coolers and Freezers, Electric Motors, and GSFLs/IRLs. DOE's new standards for Electric Motors were based on a [joint recommendation](#) filed by motor manufacturers and efficiency advocates, including ASAP, ACEEE, NEEP, and others. [New minimum efficiency standards for refrigerators and freezers](#) that went into effect in September will provide a significant jump of roughly 25 percent in efficiency compared to the previous standard. This standard was proposed by DOE after a



[consensus agreement](#) was reached in 2010 amongst efficiency advocates and industry representatives from the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM).

- **Annual Appliance Standards Project strategy developed:** NEEP led development of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Appliance Standards Project’s Regional Strategy Memorandum for 2014, outlining the project’s direction for the year. The identified strategies were developed based on an assessment of current opportunities associated with appliance standards. As the project is comprised of stakeholders from a number of organizations—state energy offices, efficiency program administrators, advocates, state regulatory offices, etc.—the strategy lays aligns the efforts of the various stakeholders with a common plan and goals
- **Convened Appliance Standards Working Group quarterly via webinar:** To facilitate regional stakeholder input and share information and best practices, NEEP convened four quarterly meetings via webinar. These meetings engaged stakeholders from across the region to review the key elements of the annual strategy, and prepare for upcoming appliance standards opportunities. This engagement promotes understanding and awareness of appliance standards as a valuable policy mechanism to achieve cost-effective energy savings.
- **Supported state-level appliance standards activities:**
  - **Massachusetts:** NEEP strongly supported the Massachusetts bill, [H. 3950](#) (formerly H 807), An act relative to expanding resource efficiency in the Commonwealth, leading an effort to build support for this legislation. Public Policy Director Jim O’Reilly wrote a letter to Massachusetts Commissioner of Energy Resources Mark Sylvia requesting his support for this bill. Staff also responded to technical questions regarding the efficiency product standards within the bill, which ultimately did not pass.
  - **Rhode Island:** NEEP led support for Rhode Island bill [H. 7799](#), An act relating to minimum energy and water efficiency standards. NEEP met with representatives from the state’s Office of Energy Resources (OER), National Grid, People’s Power and Light, and the Acadia Center (formerly Environment Northeast) to develop a strong coalition in support of the bill. Josh Craft, NEEP’s former Manager of Public Policy Analysis, testified in support of the bill in front of the House Environment and Natural Resources Committee on April 3, 2014, and followed up with written comments with suggested technical changes to the bill. H. 7799 ultimately did not receive a vote.
  - **New York:** NEEP discussed [New York A. 8364/S. 6205 \(in Senate Rules\)](#) with NYSERDA staff. This legislation would require NYSERDA and the NY Dept. of State to conduct a study of new standards for consumer audio/video products, and NEEP provided guidance and resources to support them in this new potential directive.
  - **Vermont:** NEEP met with Efficiency Vermont in December to discuss potential products to consider for state standards in 2015.
  - **California:** NEEP re-engaged with the California state appliance standards rulemaking process in preparation for further regional action once California adopts new standards for a range of products in 2015. NEEP submitted [comments](#) encouraging the California Energy Commission to strengthen its proposed standards for a range of water products in Docket 14-AAER-1, including toilets, urinals, and faucets.
  - **Developed priority products for 2015 state-level standards:** NEEP worked with ASAP to develop a preliminary list of products for which states could consider establishing minimum standards in 2015, ultimately arriving as the same list developed in 2014.
- **Developing regional infrastructure to advance strong codes and standards:** NEEP met with the Massachusetts DOER in January to discuss opportunities to positively impact both state and federal appliance standards. Massachusetts is one of two Northeast states that have allowed their ratepayer-funded efficiency programs to be involved in the process of adopting and strengthening standards. NEEP also met with NYSERDA in June to discuss opportunities for state



and federal appliance standards. NYSERDA is one of the region’s few agencies with some authority to unilaterally adopt state-level appliance standards.

- **Coordinated regional efforts with national players:** NEEP co-led an [informal session](#) at ACEEE’s Summer Study Conference on the long-term market success of HPWHs, particularly electric water heaters, entitled “HPWHs; Ready for Primetime.” The event allowed NEEP to share strategies being implemented in the region that could be implemented on a national scale, and also gather insights from national stakeholders to share with the region.
- **Maintained the online [Appliance Standards](#) resource center and promoted strong standards through social media:** NEEP’s online resource center provides stakeholders—including efficiency program administrators, regulators, policy makers, and the media—access to key information. Staff also contributed to NEEP’s blog with a piece entitled: [DOE’s Appliance Standards Program delivers on commitments](#).

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## ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE & BEST PRACTICES

*Promote knowledge and the use best practices that support the expansion, implementation and evaluation of policies and programs to increase and accelerate energy efficiency.*

NEEP's *Knowledge and Best Practices* strategies support the expansion of policies and programs to accelerate energy efficiency. NEEP advocates for sustained public policy support, expanded financial resources, full integration of efficiency into energy planning, enduring efficiency infrastructure based on leading knowledge and best practices, and consistent standards across the region to measure, evaluate and report the impacts and benefits of energy efficiency.

### Regional Evaluation, Measurement & Verification Forum

- **Comments submitted to US EPA on section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act:** On June 2, 2014, the EPA issued its proposed [Clean Power Plan \(CPP\)](#) to cut carbon pollution from power plants—the largest source of carbon pollution in the U.S.—by 30 percent from 2005 levels. The proposed draft rule includes state-specific goals for carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) reductions with guidelines for the development, submission, and implementation of state plans. In applying a “best system of emission reduction” standard, the EPA established four “building blocks” through which states can develop and implement their compliance plans, including demand-side energy efficiency to reduce the amount of electricity generation. The Director of the Regional Evaluation, Measurement and Verification (EM&V) Forum Julie Michals, with ACEEE’s Steve Nadel, led the development and coordination of comments to EPA on its 111(d) EM&V guidelines and requirements. NEEP filed [joint comments](#) with 14 other stakeholders from across the country in November 2014, including a mix of NGOs, other REEOs, and state agencies.
- **Developed Model EM&V Methods Standardized Reporting Forms for Energy Efficiency:** The Forum embarked in 2013 to create a [model template](#) that supports greater transparency of program administrator/state EM&V practices used to calculate energy efficiency savings via a straightforward, standardized check list. This type of document is intended to help energy and environmental policy and market players readily understand and compare EM&V approaches used to estimate reported program savings to inform their specific needs. The [first version of the forms](#), formally adopted by the Forum Steering Committee in July, is [available online](#). NEEP began discussions with several states in late 2014 to pilot use of the forms in 2015.
- **Achieving transparency through cost-effectiveness guidelines:** The Forum developed [Cost-Effectiveness Screening Principles and Guidelines](#) to establish overarching principles that states should consider in reviewing their energy efficiency screening practices, and guidelines on specific cost-effectiveness issues. The Steering Committee adopted these guidelines in November. A [Survey of State Cost-Effectiveness Screening Practices](#), conducted in 2013, served as the basis for the guidance document. The guidelines are not intended to be prescriptive in recommending any one test over another, inclusion of any particular costs or benefits, or use of a specific discount rate. States’ use of the guidelines can help improve their screening practices by providing greater transparency and understanding of what costs and benefits should be considered, options for how they can be quantified or determined, and considerations for how to account for risk of energy efficiency resources.
- **2015 agenda & budget adopted by Forum Steering Committee:** The Forum’s Steering Committee, represented by energy regulatory commissioners and air regulators from across the region, adopted the 2015 agenda and budget in December. The agenda and budget were informed by Forum members, and includes a mix of EM&V Protocol, Research & Evaluation, and Education & Information Access activities.



- **Development of national EM&V Protocols (US DOE Uniform Methods Project):** This project aims to build consistency in EM&V methods for determining Gross Savings for a set of priority measures, as well as for Net Savings. It is managed by the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL), with Cadmus Group as the contractor overseeing the development of the EM&V protocols/guidance documents. The project is informed by a technical advisory group and technical experts and guided by a project Steering Committee (including Forum Director, Julie Michals). With support from technical advisors, NEEP provided comment on draft documents during 2014, including on the draft Net Savings chapter. Final protocols/guidance materials published to date are posted to US DOE's website: [The Uniform Methods Project: Methods for Determining Energy Efficiency Savings](#).
- **NEEP comments to FERC on impact of ISO-New England's Forward Capacity Market Performance Incentive Proposal on Energy Efficiency:** NEEP facilitated a working group of interested New England stakeholders to develop comments to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on the potential negative impact of ISO NE's proposed changes to its Forward Capacity Market rules, which would require demonstration of performance for all resources (including energy efficiency) for 8,760 hours, as opposed to a focus on summer and winter peak performance periods. The [joint recommendation to FERC](#) to exempt efficiency from the revised rule was ultimately accepted by FERC in its order on ER14-1050-000-001.
- **Completed research projects to promote regional collaboration and information sharing across on a variety of topics:**
  - **Emerging Technologies Research-Ductless Heat Pump:** The contractor ERS produced [The Final Emerging Technologies Primary Research Report on Ductless Heat Pumps](#) in May 2014, which includes the results of primary research conducted on ductless mini-split heat pumps (DHPs) in the residential sector specifically for heating-dominant climates. This research better determined the potential for energy efficiency savings and efficiency program support, as well as appropriate methodologies for assessing the savings associated with DHPs.
  - **Incremental Cost Study:** [The Incremental Cost Study Phase 3 Final Report and accompanying workbooks](#), released in June of 2014, include cost curves for the following efficiency measures: air source heat pumps, LED refrigeration case lighting, unitary AC, steam traps, and heat pump water heaters. NEEP, along with contractors Navigant Consulting Rouleau Consulting presented on [A Regional Approach to Estimating Incremental Costs](#) to wide audience on September 24.
  - **The Mid-Atlantic Technical Reference Manual:** [Version 4.0 of the Mid-Atlantic Technical Reference Manual \(TRM\)](#), released in June 2014, includes updates for over 30 new and updated residential and commercial & industrial measures. The accompanying O&M Cost Calculations spreadsheet includes information for lighting fixtures and screw-based lamps.
  - **Variable Speed Drive Loadshape Project Final Report:** This report describes the Variable Speed Drive (VSD) Loadshape study commissioned by the EM&V Forum and its sponsors to determine the hourly energy and demand impacts of variable speed drives installed on heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment in existing nonresidential buildings throughout the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. These study results and primary results could support regulatory filings for energy efficiency programs, demand resource values submitted to forward-capacity markets, and air quality research. Users can also download the [VSD Spreadsheet Tool](#) from the NEEP website.
  - **REED Program Year 2012 Annual Report:** The [Regional Energy Efficiency Data \(REED\)](#) report provides an overview of the high-level impacts of 2012 energy efficiency programs at the state and regional level. It also provides comparisons across states that can help strengthen the credibility of efficiency as a resource by increasing our





understanding of similarities and differences in results across programs by type, sector, and state.

- [Early Replacement Measures Scoping Study: Phase 1 Research Report](#): This scoping study represents the first phase of a study designed to fill knowledge gaps around issues related to early replacement retrofits, equipment remaining useful life (RUL), and the potential use of multiple baselines for energy savings calculations.
- [Residential Lighting Market Lift Pilot Final Report](#): The Forum and the Bonneville Power Administration recruited organizations in Massachusetts, Oregon, and Vermont to sponsor a pilot consisting of three coordinated demonstration programs in residential lighting using Market Lift, an innovative upstream program design. The study also produced a report on [The Impact of EISA on Residential A-Lamps](#) in November 2014 to give program administrators a snapshot of the market.
- [Ductless Heat Pump Meta Study](#): Project contractors analyzed studies from 40 relevant programs and conducted industry interviews to identify key findings in terms of DHP performance, market barriers and opportunities, market acceptance and satisfaction, future product features and growth, program recommendations, and knowledge gaps.
- **Hosted an Evaluation Workshop at NEEP's annual Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit**: Over 60 policymakers, program administrators, system planners, EM&V practitioners, and federal agency representatives from across 15 states, as well as one international representative from Canada, gathered in Newport, R.I. on June 2 for the workshop. [The workshop](#), 'Evaluating Energy Efficiency: 5 Top Things You Should Know About the Emerging Evaluation World,' covered current and future challenges the evaluation industry must overcome as 'big data,' smart meters and devices, and automated M&V tools evolve.
- **Provided an update on state evaluation activities via webinar**: The Forum hosted a [region-wide webinar](#) in May to provide state summaries of current and planned evaluation activities. Information from the webinar helped kick-off the Forum 2015 planning process.

## Public Policy Outreach and Analysis

- **Took a leading role on a number of key state and regional public policy fronts**: 2014 was a year of progress, change, and unforeseen challenges in energy efficiency policy across the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states. Throughout the year, NEEP's Policy Team spent considerable time engaging with policymakers and partners to promote or defend our states' significant and effective efficiency programs and policies, and to advise and support innovative ideas to capture even more of the efficiency resource. Tracking trends in state energy efficiency investment and savings remains a mainstay of our work, as do our electronic resources including the [NEEP blog](#), [Twitter](#), [Highlights](#), the [Policy Snapshot](#).

Staff participated in proceedings and processes in states throughout our territory, including efficiency plan oversight through stakeholder boards, regulatory proceedings and tracking legislative action in all states. Perhaps most significantly, NEEP staff played a key role in developing [comments](#) to the US EPA on proposed regulation of carbon through section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act. We also worked in partnership with NASEO to assist states in developing public messaging around [energy efficiency as a remedy for winter energy price spikes](#), and [joined calls](#) for a full accounting of alternatives to proposed new natural gas pipelines to serve New England's needs.

NEEP staff continued to be sought out for its policy expertise and data analysis, as a number of advocates, efficiency program administrators, practitioners and state, local, and federal policymakers turned to us for our knowledge, our perspectives, and our connections in the field. NEEP was cited as instrumental in the passage of [SB 150](#), which will create the first statewide efficiency programs in Delaware, and also took a lead role in the [EmPOWER Maryland](#)



[planning process](#), being seen as a key ally by the Maryland Energy Administration and state advocates. We met with several state utility commissions, submitted numerous sets of public comments on energy plans and legislation, and worked to keep the region a leader in energy efficiency policies and programs.

- **Nurturing relationships with policymakers:** NEEP is proud that many of the region’s policymakers turn to us as trusted experts and a gateway to information, contacts and best practices in efficiency across the region. With new faces in energy offices and regulatory agencies and several states, the Policy Team arranged meetings to introduce NEEP and review efficiency policy issues and resources with new commissioners and staff throughout the year, including the Rhode Island and New Hampshire Public Utility Commissions, the Commissioner of Connecticut’s Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and all three commissioners and more than a 20 staff of the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities.
- **Education and thought leadership:** NEEP started out the year with the release of the [Regional Roundup of Energy Efficiency Policy in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic States](#), which provides our annual overview of the major successes and challenges in energy efficiency policy through data and narrative. One outgrowth of that report was the [2014 Policy Brief](#), in which we laid out our perspective on some of the biggest issues facing states and the region as a whole. The brief was distributed to candidates and policymakers across the region. We also partnered with the other REEOs to develop a national version of the resource, which was shared with energy office staff at the annual orientation meeting of NASEO, and even made its way to US DOE Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz.
- **Support for “emerging” states:**
  - **New Hampshire:** In the first quarter, NEEP presented on the benefits of an expanded energy efficiency policy to the New Hampshire Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy (EESE) Board and selected stakeholders. Entitled “[Why Not New Hampshire?](#)” the presentation provided evidence that New Hampshire can, indeed, join the rest of the region in setting energy efficiency as a first-order energy resource. Staff worked closely with Public Utility Commission and Office of Energy and Planning staff, providing input on an Energy Efficiency Resource Standard study and the state’s Ten-Year Energy Strategy.
  - **Delaware:** NEEP was pleased to play a key role in the passage of state [legislation](#) last summer that will create utility-run efficiency programs. NEEP staff traveled to Delaware in September where the stage has been set for a dramatic increase in energy efficiency investments as the legislation is implemented in 2015. Staff made presentations to the Delaware Valley Chapter of the U.S. Green Building Council and the Green and Better Building Advisory Council. NEEP also met with staff from the state’s Division of Energy and Climate, the director of the Sustainable Energy Utility, and efficiency NGOs, learning about Delaware’s experience and providing insights and guidance. In December, Senior Public Policy Outreach Manager Natalie Treat returned for the state’s first meeting of the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council, where she gave an overview of best practices in energy efficiency policy, an introduction to NEEP, and congratulated the state for its progress.
  - **Maryland:** NEEP played a significant role in working with the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) and other key stakeholders to provide comment on the 2015-2017 energy efficiency plans in Maryland. Staff supported the MEA and a coalition of advocacy groups, including NRDC, NCLC, Earthjustice, Efficiency First, and Sierra Club, on [joint comments aimed at strengthening the state’s energy efficiency programs](#). NEEP also worked to secure foundation funding of technical resources available to the MEA and PSC through the Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP), a non-profit comprised of former regulatory commissioners to help states understand the regulatory framework for development and deployment of energy efficiency policies. NEEP’s work has



particularly focused on the area of program cost-effectiveness, aiming to provide the state with information and technical support for how best to establish a screening protocol to capture the full range of efficiency benefits.

- **Working with “established” states:**
  - **Provided support for New York’s changing clean energy landscape:** In New York, NEEP participated through meetings and hearings, regular calls with clean energy advocates, and by submitting [public comments on Track 1 of the Reforming the Energy Vision \(REV\)](#) proceeding as well as [joint comments](#) on NYSERDA’s draft Clean Energy Fund (CEF) Plan. NEEP also submitted [comments in support of PSEG Long Island’s Utility 2.0 Plan](#), praising the organization for their focus on efficiency and clean energy in the context of a modernizing grid, and their view of the evolving role for utilities. On November 17, NEEP participated in a meeting of the Clean Energy Organizations Coalition (CEOC) with key staff from NYSERDA about the draft CEF Plan and steps for the future.
  - **Participated in stakeholder advisory meetings:** NEEP was an active participant in state energy efficiency stakeholder board meetings throughout the region. Staff participated in monthly meetings of the Mass. Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (EEAC), the Rhode Island Energy Efficiency and Resource Management Council (EERMC), the N.H. Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy (EESE) Board, Maryland EmPOWER Planning Group, and New York proceedings.
  - **Weighed in via policy proceedings and conferences:** In 2014, NEEP engaged in a number of important regulatory and legislative proceedings across the region as well as in federal Clean Air Act updates. We submitted over 20 sets of public comments—some in collaboration with partner organizations—and provided testimony in person when possible. All of our public comments can be found on NEEP’s website by visiting each of the [state pages](#). Staff played a key role in organizing the Northeast regional [AESP-NEEC conference](#), moderating a panel on the N.Y. REV proceeding, and Mass. Grid Modernization proceedings.
  - **Pushed for more comprehensive programs:** NEEP has advocated diligently for expanded access to energy efficiency programs for oil heat customers across the region, which is still heavily reliant on unregulated delivered fuels. In 2014, we focused on Massachusetts bill S. 2025, which again sought to create a dedicated funding source to augment and complement existing MassSave programs. NEEP also engaged with stakeholders in Vermont, New Hampshire, New York, Maine, and Connecticut who are looking for ways to expand thermal programs.
- **Facilitated regional efforts on winter peak issues:** Well before regional utilities announced proposed rate hikes to deliver electricity this winter, NEEP and the Northeast regional representatives of NASEO joined forces to foster interstate dialogue and cooperation on a public communications plan. NEEP invited New England and New York to develop shared messages for consumers and businesses about the need to take advantage of energy efficiency opportunities in advance of the winter. NEEP retained Cater Communications to aid in the drafting of [a common messaging platform](#) that states could then use to develop more specific outreach to their residents and businesses. The final communications plan was released in mid-October.
- **Called for a full accounting on proposed gas infrastructure:** Together with allies from the Massachusetts Global Warming Solutions Project (GWSP) and other interested organizations, NEEP participated in a stakeholder process led by the Massachusetts DOER to examine a Low-Demand Scenario and alternatives to costly new proposed natural gas pipelines. [NEEP submitted](#) that the state and the region should fully account for non-transmission options to meet demand during peak times—including efficiency, demand reduction, and clean energy resources—before considering new fossil fuel resources. With long-term tariffs on electric



customers on the table as a means for paying for new capacity, and the risk of undermining climate and carbon reduction goals, NEEP continues to point to the wisdom of an “efficiency first” policy for states.

- **Collaborated with partner advocates:** NEEP collaborated with numerous allies, including the Acadia Center (formerly Environment Northeast), Conservation Law Foundation, NRD C, the Pace Energy and Climate Center, Conservation Services Group, the National Consumer Law Center, Opower, Delaware Interfaith Power and Light, Massachusetts Climate Action Network, Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light, Chesapeake Climate Action Network, Sierra Club, and many others on policy developments across the region. One of the most notable new groups was the New York Clean Energy Organizations Coalition which is working to monitor, share insights, and jointly engage on major proceedings underway in the state. NEEP sits on the policy committee of the New England Clean Energy Council, advising the group’s action on a range of efficiency-related legislative and regulatory developments across New England. We also continue to be a leading voice on the Massachusetts GWSP, a team of advocates formed to hold state officials accountable for the greenhouse gas reduction goals contained in the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008.
- **Energy efficiency and section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act:** NEEP’s Policy Team continued to work closely with NEEP’s EM&V Forum staff and our advocacy allies around the country—particularly the other REEOs—to ensure that efficiency plays an important role as the US EPA finalizes guidelines for states as part of its Clean Power Plan under Section 111(d) of the Clean Air Act. NEEP provided feedback to EPA reflecting the belief that the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and the state energy efficiency programs, goals, and policies can form the basis of compliance strategies for Northeast states in response to the new regulations on carbon emissions from existing power plants.
- **Tracked and engaged with regional transmission organizations:** NEEP staff participated in the ISO-New England and New York ISO annual conference, where we engaged with a variety of energy market actors, including program administrators and state energy officials. Together with the EM&V Forum, the Policy Team works to emphasize efficiency as a resource in regional forecasting and planning.
- **NEEP honored for its public policy work:** Public Policy Director Jim O’Reilly proudly accepted an Energy Leadership Award on November 18 from the Massachusetts Energy Consumers Alliance for NEEP’s public policy work to advance energy efficiency in the state.

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## 2014 NEEP SUPPORTERS

NEEP would like to recognize and thank our 2014 funders, including our [Sponsors](#), [Partners](#), [Regional EM&V Forum funders](#), [DesignLights Consortium® Members](#), [federal and foundation funders](#), and [Summit Sponsors](#). We are grateful for their support, which makes this work possible.

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