

## **Full-Scale Data Collection Set to Begin Soon for State Energy Program National Evaluation**

January 17, 2013

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the data collection instruments to be used in the State Energy Program (SEP) National Evaluation (OMB Control Number 1910-5170), allowing full-scale data collection to begin in the near future. Prior to this, limited data collection has been conducted for the small number of cases in which OMB approval was not required because of the small number of respondents involved. Now that OMB approval has been granted, data collection will soon commence on a much larger scale.

The overall purpose of the SEP National Evaluation is to reliably quantify key Program accomplishments and help inform decisions on future operations. The study examines outcomes achieved during the 2008 program year as well as during the ARRA years (PY 2009 – 2011) and findings will be reported separately for each study period.

Four key program outcomes are being studied in this evaluation: (1) energy, cost, and demand savings; (2) job creation; (3) renewable energy generation; and (4) carbon reduction. A total of 82 individual SEP-supported programmatic activities from across the nation have been selected for study. The states that developed and implemented those activities have already been notified of their selection for this evaluation and will be contacted again in the near future as the full-scale data collection effort gets underway. Findings from the examination of all 82 programmatic activities will be combined to yield savings estimates for those broad program types that, in combination, represented approximately 80% of SEP funding during the study periods.

**Members of the SEP evaluation team will be conducting office hours at the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) 2013 Energy Outlook Conference in Washington, DC, on the mornings of Feb. 6 and 7. This will afford an opportunity for state officials and the evaluation team to talk about the specific data needed for this study. The Grantees' continued cooperation in this important effort is very much appreciated.**

A final SEP evaluation report documenting all outcomes for each broad program type examined and for all of the studied program types in combination is expected in early 2014.