

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022 represents the single largest investment in climate and energy in American history. The IRA appropriated approximately \$8.5 billion to the Department of Energy (DOE) to carry out a program to award grants to State Energy Offices and Indian Tribes for two new rebate programs. Additionally, the IRA appropriated \$200 million to fund residential energy contractor training programs. Distribution of these funds is being managed by DOE's new Office of State and Community Energy Programs (SCEP). SCEP is launching a coordinated stakeholder engagement strategy to help shape the implementation of a residential efficiency and electrification rebates program and ensure the full economic and environmental benefits of this historic investment are realized by all Americans.

US Department of Energy, Office of State and Community Energy Programs, Michael Forrester, Principal Deputy Director



Michael Forrester is the former Director for Cincinnati's Office of Environment and Sustainability (OES). While at Cincinnati, Michael led the installation of, what at the time was, the municipally lead solar array in the country (100 megawatts). Michael also led installation of energy efficiency and renewable installations on city facilities, city efforts on vehicle electrification, and focused on climate equity with both the low-income energy efficiency program, Warm-up Cincy, and the neighborhood climate planning program Climate Safe Neighborhoods. Before coming to Cincinnati, Michael worked for the Ohio Development Service Agency in the State Energy Office administering programs for the installation of wind, solar, and anaerobic digesters throughout Ohio. Michael has a master's degree from Indiana University and an undergraduate from Miami University.

Washington State Department of Commerce, Michael Furze, Assistant Director, Energy Division



Michael Furze is an assistant director at the Department of Commerce, where he heads the State Energy Office. This office leads Washington state's transition to a clean and just energy future through policy leadership, investing in cutting-edge clean technologies, planning and responding to energy emergencies, and expanding equitable access to clean energy. This work strengthens communities, so Washington residents can thrive in a clean, affordable and equitable energy economy. Michael also serves on the Board of the National Association of State Energy Officials. He holds a master's degree in community and regional planning and a graduate certificate in town design from the University of New Mexico. When not focused on his energy work, Michael and his family patiently wait for the sun to occasionally emerge from behind the clouds and rain of the Pacific Northwest.