



2025 OKLAHOMA LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Oklahoma is renowned as a leader in the energy sector, with a long history of innovative solutions spanning not only oil and gas, but also renewable resources and energy storage. The state excels in wind energy generation and is a major player in oil and gas production, all while maintaining the most affordable electricity rates in the nation. In 2021, the [Oklahoma State Energy and Environment Plan](#) was launched, outlining a bold strategy to ensure the state continues to be a top energy producer while maximizing opportunities for savings and energy efficiency.

As the 60th Oklahoma Legislature convenes, the South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource (SPEER) hopes the Legislature will emphasize the critical importance of demand-side resource policies and their beneficial effects on the state. Initiatives such as updating building code standards, investing in future-ready electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and expanding energy efficiency measures will significantly enhance Oklahoma's resilience and reliability. Below are SPEER's legislative priorities.

Updated Building Codes

Updated building codes and enforcement increases the efficiency of existing and new building stock, which lowers energy bills to ratepayers. Specifically, low and moderate-income Oklahomans that live in inefficient homes shoulder a disproportionate energy burden compared to those able to live in homes with new energy efficient appliances, heating and cooling, and other technologies. SPEER supports efforts to adopt updated energy building codes.

Demand-Side Planning Opportunities

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) provides states with significant funding increases to their energy efficiency and renewable energy portfolios. Utilizing these funds with existing utility efficiency programs would maximize savings, build a more reliable and resilient grid, and save Oklahomans money on energy bills, with the bonus of creating good paying jobs. SPEER supports efforts to utilize IRA program provisions in conjunction with existing utility incentive programs to expand energy efficiency in the state.

Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy

C-PACE can be an important item in the toolbox for Oklahoma counties and property owners as they seek to upgrade their energy infrastructure to higher efficiency capabilities that reduce energy costs over time. The program allows property owners to finance upfront costs of eligible improvements and pay back the costs over time through voluntary assessment. The program is new, beginning in 2019, but represents an exciting opportunity to expand energy efficiency upgrades across the state in a cost-effective way. SPEER supports additional legislative actions to enhance the efficacy of C-PACE programing in Oklahoma.

Workforce Development

From 2022-2023 Oklahoma added almost 3,000 new energy jobs. These positions are in everything from construction and manufacturing to trade and professional services. With anticipated job growth of more than 5% [1] in technologies like energy efficiency in the next year, developing a workforce of the future in technologies that will benefit the state for years to come is critical to continuing Oklahoma's leadership in energy. SPEER supports continued workforce development with specific focus on veterans, as well as historically underutilized and disadvantaged businesses.

[1] <https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2024-08/USEER%202024%20States%20Final.pdf>

Distributed Energy Resource Planning

Distributed energy resources that operate behind-the-meter, like energy efficiency, rooftop solar, and battery storage, play an important role in building a resilient, reliable grid at a lower cost than many other generation-side options. They can also defer some transmission infrastructure development needs. The federal, state, and local incentives for these resources are crucial to allow Oklahomans to utilize these technologies. SPEER supports efforts to keep these incentives, and expand where applicable, to solve the states resiliency and grid reliability needs.

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