



State Renewable Energy Community Development Leadership Forums: Late Summer and Fall 2015

Using its established state leadership networks and convening capabilities, 25x'25 will engage and support agriculture, forestry, conservation, renewable energy and rural development leaders and organizations in dialogues around the opportunities and challenges involving the development and deployment of renewable and low-carbon energy solutions. Through day-long roundtable forums, 25x'25 will help participants explore the nexus between clean energy, conservation and economic development initiatives and recognize renewable energy as a core component of America's energy future, economic recovery and environmental sustainability. These forums also provide pathway for identifying, activating and growing new value chain partners who can join forces with agriculture, forestry, conservation and rural electric cooperative partners in accomplishing shared goals.

Objective – organize and host roundtables and/or field days in 3-4 states spotlighting:

- a) **The ways renewable energy development can stimulate economic and community development; and:**
- b) **The leadership that rural electric cooperatives are providing in developing and implementing renewable energy for economic growth programs and projects.**

Format - Roundtable-like program including featured speaker(s), reactor panels, plenary and small group discussion sessions; consider possible supplemental field site visits to showcase innovative projects or technologies.

Target audience (invitation only-25-30 participants) - rural electric coop leaders, agricultural general membership organizations and cooperatives, rural development and conservation groups, renewable energy champions, technology providers, government and academic partners.

Core partners - statewide cooperative associations; state agribusiness councils; state farm bureaus; state Departments of Agriculture; USDA Rural Development; universities; clean energy organizations

Discussion topics – state of technology; new financing and business models; economic and community development impacts; policy barriers/drivers

Roles

- 25 x'25 - lead organizer; forms program committee, manages logistics, underwrites costs and/or secures sponsors; publicizes outcomes
- State partners - comprise program committee; promote event; assists with on-site logistics day of event; publicizes outcomes

Candidate states

- Midwest- Indiana, Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin
- South- Georgia, North Carolina
- South Central- Texas, Arkansas
- Intermountain West- Colorado