

## About the Environment, Energy & Transportation Division

The NGA Center for Best Practices Environment, Energy and Transportation (EET) Division provides governors and their staff with analysis and information about best practices, tailored technical assistance and insights into emerging policy trends across the fields of energy, environmental protection, transportation and other infrastructure. The division helps states promote the efficient use of energy across all sectors, improve the use of traditional and alternative fuels for electricity and transportation, better protect and clean up the environment, effectively manage their natural resources, and develop a transportation system that safely and efficiently moves people and goods. Focus areas include helping states with interest in:

### Energy

- Expanding and modernizing the electricity power grid, including for cybersecurity
- Examining the need for new utility business models
- Enhancing energy assurance and resiliency
- Improving energy efficiency and renewable energy programs and financing
- Reducing energy use in state buildings and fleets
- Improving the energy-water nexus

### Environment

- Managing the use of water resources
- Responsibly developing shale energy sources
- Cleaning up and managing radioactive waste through the Federal Facilities Task Force

### Transportation

- Advancing innovative funding and financing methods for transportation and other infrastructure
- Exploring state transportation solutions involving new technologies, such as autonomous vehicles
- Expanding the use of alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure

## Learning and Networking Opportunities for Governors' Policy Advisors

The EET Division offers a variety of learning and networking opportunities via intensive technical assistance projects, meetings, conference calls and webinars. The ability of state officials to learn from the experiences of other states and network with their colleagues is a hallmark of those opportunities. Division staff facilitate this through:

- **Policy Academies, Learning Labs, and In-state Retreats:** The division convenes state teams for multiple months (policy academy) or several days (learning lab or in-state retreat) to support in-depth policy exploration and intensive technical assistance on a large-scale policy area.
- **Policy Institutes and Workshops:** The division hosts an annual policy institute for governors' energy advisors and other workshops on specific topics to bring governors' staff together with subject-matter experts and their peers in the state policymaking community.
- **Conference Calls and Webinars:** The division routinely hosts conference calls and webinars, combining the detail and interaction of an in-person workshop with increased convenience for state officials.

## Technical Assistance for Governors' Policy Advisors

NGA staff provide tailored technical assistance to governors' advisors upon request, using information about best practices and advice from states and other experts across the country. Assistance can come in a variety of forms, including brief confidential memos on a specific policy area, comments on draft legislation or regulations, consultation on a policy development process or access to outside experts to help the governor's office move its agenda.

## Resources for Governors' Policy Advisors

The EET division produces a variety of materials to help evaluate public policy innovations and provide practical solutions to the most pressing state issues. Documents are focused at the gubernatorial and executive branch level. The types of documents include:

- **Issue Briefs and Papers:** The EET Division provides focused documents that provide an analysis of issue-specific state policies or trends and include lessons and recommendations.
- **Reports:** The EET Division provides longer research documents that provide a more in-depth examination of topics.
- **Expert Consultation:** The EET Division has content experts on hand to provide one-on-one consultations on policy questions upon request.
- **Technical Assistance Memos:** The EET Division provides tailored policy research memos upon request that include policy insights and examples of approaches from other states.

## Contacts

### Sue Gander

Division Director  
sgander@nga.org  
202-624-7740

### Garrett Eucalitto

Program Director  
geucalitto@nga.org  
202-624-3628

### Daniel Lauf

Program Director  
dlauf@nga.org  
202-624-5427

### Bevin Buchheister

Senior Policy Analyst  
bbuchheister@nga.org  
202-595-2681

### Jessica Rackley

Senior Policy Analyst  
jrackley@nga.org  
202-624-7789

### Tom Simchak

Senior Policy Analyst  
tsimchak@nga.org  
202-624-5387

### Patricio Portillo

Policy Analyst  
pportillo@nga.org  
202-624-5318

### Brielle Stander

Program Assistant  
bstander@nga.org  
202-624-8572

For more information about the work of the Environment, Energy & Transportation Division and access to recent publications, please visit the division's page on the NGA website at [www.nga.org/cms/center/eet](http://www.nga.org/cms/center/eet).