

NATIONAL ACADEMIES

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Strengthening State and Local Science Policy: Making Connections in Agriculture and Energy

July 25, 2026
Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
of the Chicago Academy of Sciences
2430 N. Cannon Drive
Chicago, IL 60614

Purpose

This convening brings together leaders from national science organizations, state and local governments, regional associations, and other partners working to strengthen science-informed policymaking in agriculture and energy at the state and local levels. Participants will share examples of successful collaborations between national organizations and state governments and communities and identify topics of scientific research within the areas of agriculture and energy that would further benefit state and local policies.

12:00–1:00pm Lunch

Location: Nature's Lunchbox, First Floor

1:00–1:30pm Welcome by the National Academies and the National Association of Academies of Science

[K. John Holmes](#), National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

[Heidi Schweingruber](#), National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

[Donna Gerardi](#), National Association of Academies of Science

Location: Science Lab, Second Floor

1:30–2:45pm Engagement with States and Communities

Many national organizations have ongoing or new initiatives relevant to state and local policymakers. This session highlights examples from four national science institutions that provide assistance to policymakers through different mechanisms of engagement.

- *Addressing the challenge of net metering*
K. John Holmes, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
- *Developing actionable policy solutions for Colorado's leaders in land, climate, and energy*

[Christofer Nelson](#), Association of Science and Technology Centers, and

[Kristan Uhlenbrock](#), Institute for Science & Policy

- *Empowering communities through science*
[Elizabeth Crocker](#), AGU Thriving Earth Exchange
 - *Evidence-informed decision-making at state and local levels*
[Michael D. Fernandez](#), AAAS Center for Scientific Evidence in Public Issues
- Moderator: Donna Gerardi, National Association of Academies of Science

2:45–3:15pm Networking Break

3:15–4:45pm Identifying Science Gaps in Agriculture and Energy Policy

State governments and communities have policy goals in agriculture and energy that would benefit from scientific research. In this session, state and local actors identify how science has helped achieve policy goals and what scientific results are still needed to advance policy further.

- *Engaging scientific advice to respond to agricultural and habitat pressures*
[Kayri Havens](#), Chicago Botanic Garden
- *Science gaps in agriculture and energy identified by state governments*
[Tim Anderson](#), Council of State Governments, Midwest
- *Agriculture and energy needs in Missouri legislature*
[Allison Davis](#), Missouri Science & Technology Policy Initiative
- *Creating new opportunities in agriculture*
[Ann Kirby](#), Forever Green Initiative
- *Advancing energy efficiency policy*
[Gregory Ehrendreich](#), Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance

Moderator: [Rachel Owen](#), National Association of Academies of Science

4:45–5:25pm Fireside Chat with Institutions Supporting State and Local Policy

- [Jay Goodwin](#), The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
- [Jon Kaye](#), The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation

Moderator: [Eric Jolly](#), Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation (retired)

5:25–5:30pm Closing Remarks

K. John Holmes, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

5:30pm Reception

Location: Lobby, First Floor