

Arkansas Energy Office Program Priorities

*Mitchell Simpson, Director, Arkansas Energy Office,
a division of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission*

AR Alternative Energy Commission, December 10, 2015



 **ARKANSAS**
A natural for business

Arkansas Energy Office Background



- **The Arkansas Energy Office (AEO) was established in 1981 as a standalone state agency but was consolidated into the Arkansas Economic Development Commission during the latter 1980s.**
- **AEO is one of two divisions within AEDC with enabling legislation and specific legislative requirements.**

Act 532 - Clean-Burning Motor Fuel Act (Gaseous Fuels Rebate)

Act 554 - Guaranteed Energy Cost Savings Act (Perf. Contracting)

Act 1494 – Energy-Efficient Buildings Program (State Buildings EE)

Act 1111 – Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

- **After the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, AEO integrated programs which offer consumers and taxpayers options to save money by increasing energy efficiency and reducing consumption.**

Arkansas Energy Office Mission Statement



To promote energy efficiency, clean technology, and sustainable strategies that encourage **economic development, energy security,** and the **environmental well-being for all citizens of Arkansas.**

Energy Efficiency

- Energy Efficiency Arkansas
- Energy Efficient Buildings Program
- Arkansas Energy Code
- Arkansas Energy Performance Contracting Program
- Weatherization Assistance Program

Transportation

- Arkansas Gaseous Fuels Rebate Program
- Arkansas Clean Cities Coalition

Financing Programs

- Loan Loss Reserve
- Energy Technology Loan

Energy Efficiency Market Preparation Initiatives

- Finance Study
- Residential Labeling
- Energy Codes Compliance Study

Energy Efficiency

Transportation

Financing Programs

Energy Efficiency Market Preparation

Energy Efficiency Arkansas

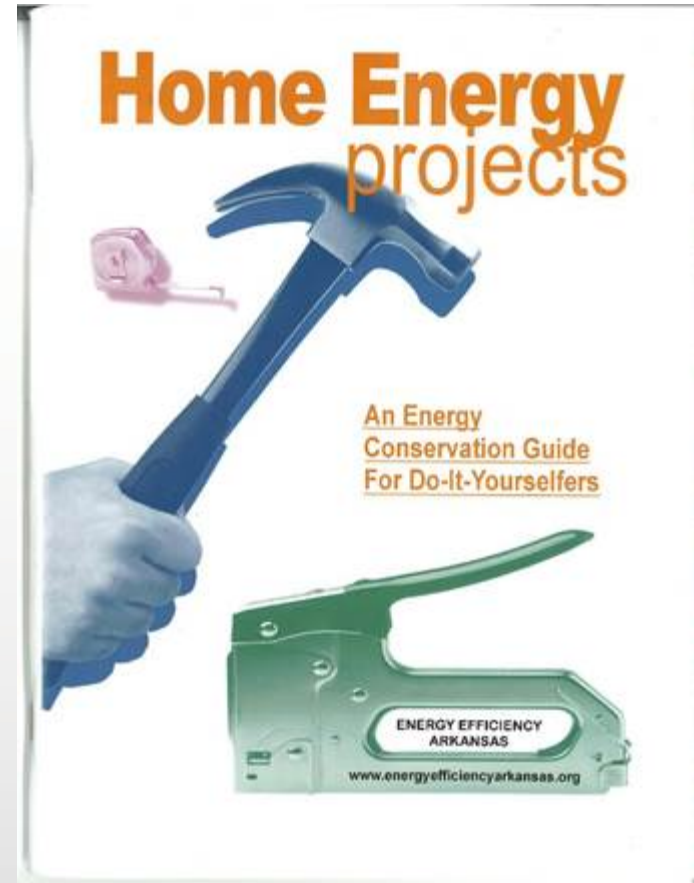
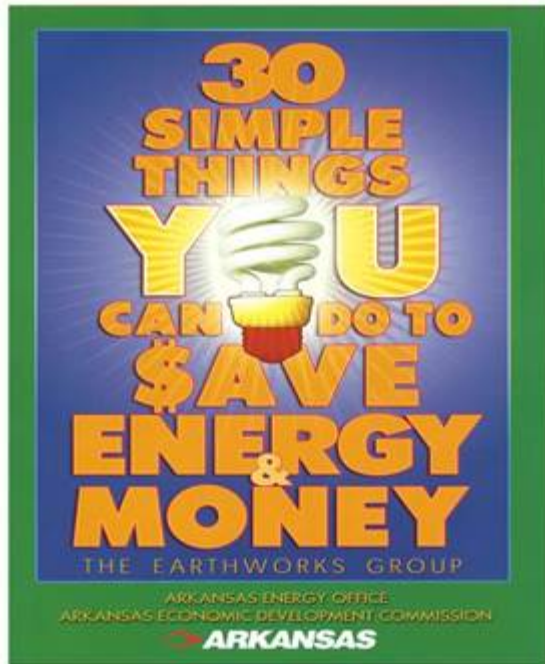


- Funded through a partnership with utilities, EEA focuses on training opportunities and outreach for Arkansas businesses and citizens.
- Training programs offered to contractors, engineers, maintenance staff and other professionals address up to date energy efficiency and conservation measures in their respective fields.
 - Certified Energy Manager Training (C.E.M)
 - Boiler Operation and Maintenance Training
 - Energy Auditors Training
 - HVACR and Duct Sealing Training
 - ENERGY STAR-Home Builders Seminar
- Residential, commercial, and industrial outreach programs have provided cost-saving tips to thousands of Arkansans. For tips and training information, visit www.energyefficiencyarkansas.org.

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Energy Efficiency Arkansas



Energy-Efficient Buildings Program



- Act 1494 of 2009 promotes the conservation of energy and natural resources in buildings owned by the state or institutions of higher education.
- It establishes performance criteria and goals for sustainable and energy-efficient new and majorly renovated public buildings.
- AEO manages the efforts of state agencies and (volunteering) institutions of higher education working to meet their energy efficiency goal of 30% energy use reduction by Calendar Year 2017 (as compared to 2009 baseline).

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Arkansas Energy Code



- Approved in 2014 and based off of the 2009 IECC standard, the 2014 Arkansas Energy Code went into effect on January 1, 2015.
- Code simplifies climate zones in Arkansas, and requires efficiency ratings to be visible to prospective buyers of new homes.
- AEO offered training on the 2014 Code to Homebuilders and Code Officials around the state.
- Stakeholder group established in 2015 to help resolve code interpretation or application issues.

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Arkansas Energy Performance Contracting Program



- Act 554 of 2013 allows state agencies and institutions of higher learning to engage in large-scale energy efficiency and capital improvement projects by financing the projects with guaranteed energy savings.
- Began in late 2014 by certifying twelve Energy Service Companies to operate in Arkansas, and was launched with a kick off event attended by over 40 interested agencies.
- Eight projects already in various stages of development.

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Weatherization Assistance Program



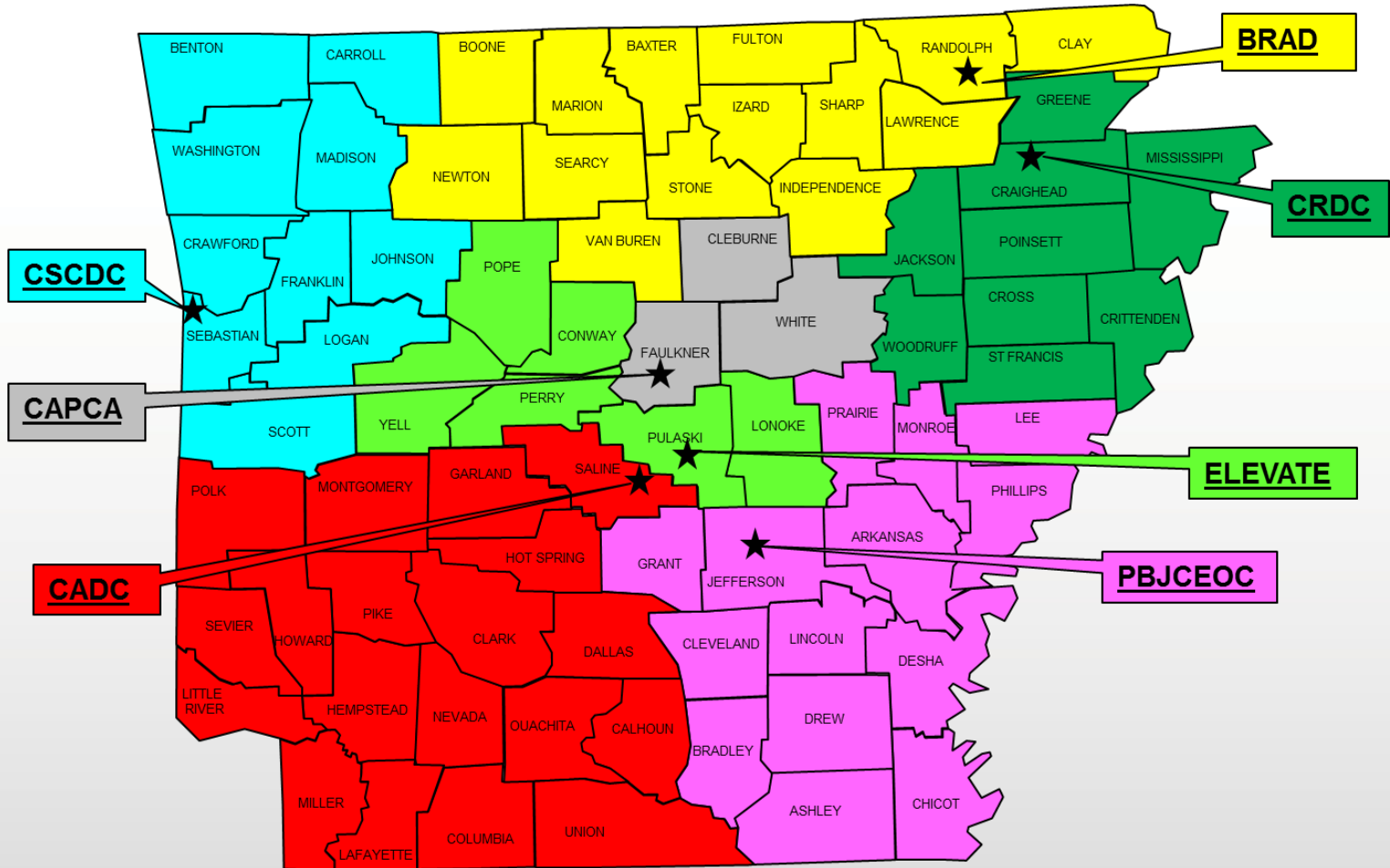
- Transferred to AEO by Act 1111 of 2013
- Through a federally-funded subgrantee network, WAP provides assistance to low-income applicants throughout Arkansas.
- Weatherization does computerized energy audits and uses advanced diagnostic technology to determine the energy conservation needs of the house.
- Examples of available improvements include: weather stripping, caulking and sealing, insulation, repairing/retrofitting furnaces, and smoke/carbon monoxide detector installations.

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Weatherization Network Service Areas



Energy Efficiency

Transportation

Financing Programs

Energy Efficiency Market Preparation

Arkansas Clean Cities Coalition



- Advances the energy, economic and environmental security of Arkansas through government-industry partnerships that contribute to the reduction of petroleum consumption in the transportation sector.
- Voluntary organization made up of local and state government agencies, private companies, and non-profit organizations.
- Existed since 1995, administered by AEO since 2011.

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Arkansas Gaseous Fuels Rebate Program



- Through Act 532 of 2013, the program provides incentives to developers of clean alternative fuel stations as well as vehicle owners purchasing or converting to clean burning fuel vehicles.
- Five stations have been awarded to date as well as over 70 vehicles. Currently, twelve public stations and over 200 gaseous fuels vehicles are registered in Arkansas.
- Kum & Go chose Springdale, AR as the location for the company's first CNG station.

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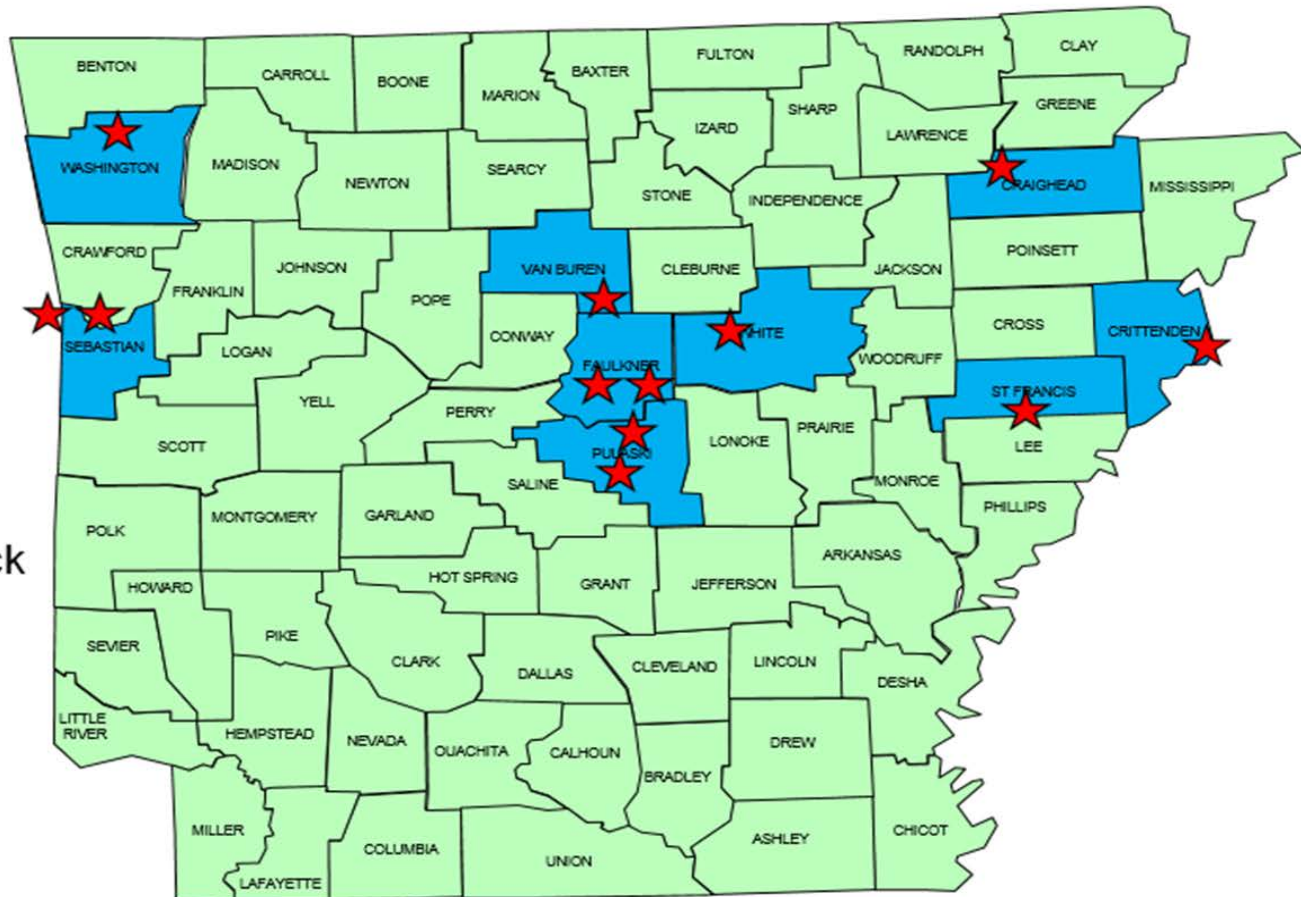
Public CNG Station Locations



Arkansas Clean Cities Coalition

12 Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Stations Across Arkansas

- Conway (2)
- Damascus
- Forrest City
- Fort Smith (2)
- Jonesboro
- Little Rock
- North Little Rock
- Searcy
- Springdale
- West Memphis



AEO Program Priority



Energy Efficiency

Transportation

Financing Programs

Energy Efficiency Market Preparation

Loan Loss Reserve Program

- Provides reserve pool of funds for utilities to leverage to provide on-bill financing for residential customers to make energy improvement upgrades.
- Four cooperative utilities are currently participating.

Arkansas Energy Technology Loan Program

- Supports clean technology companies in Arkansas by making low interest loans for products and technologies that are expected to result in an overall reduction in energy use in the state.

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AEO Program Priority



Energy Efficiency
Transportation
Financing Programs

Energy Efficiency Market Preparation

- Stimulating Energy Efficiency (Finance Study)
 - focused to explore the feasibility of and process to develop a statewide financing program for residential customers interested in performing energy efficiency upgrades to their homes.
- ARHome Energy Score Label (Residential Labeling)
 - working with relevant stakeholders (e.g. municipal and cooperative utilities) to develop a home labeling program (and a corresponding database) to allow consumers, as well as, appraisers, realtors, builders, and other stakeholders to compare energy performance between homes, similar to how miles-per-gallon (MPG) ratings enable vehicle mileage comparisons.
- Arkansas Energy Codes Compliance Study
 - purposed to demonstrate whether investment in education, training, and outreach programs can produce a significant, measurable change in single-family residential energy code compliance rates.

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