



Legislative Guidelines 2026



NMPP **MERN** **NPGA** **RCE**

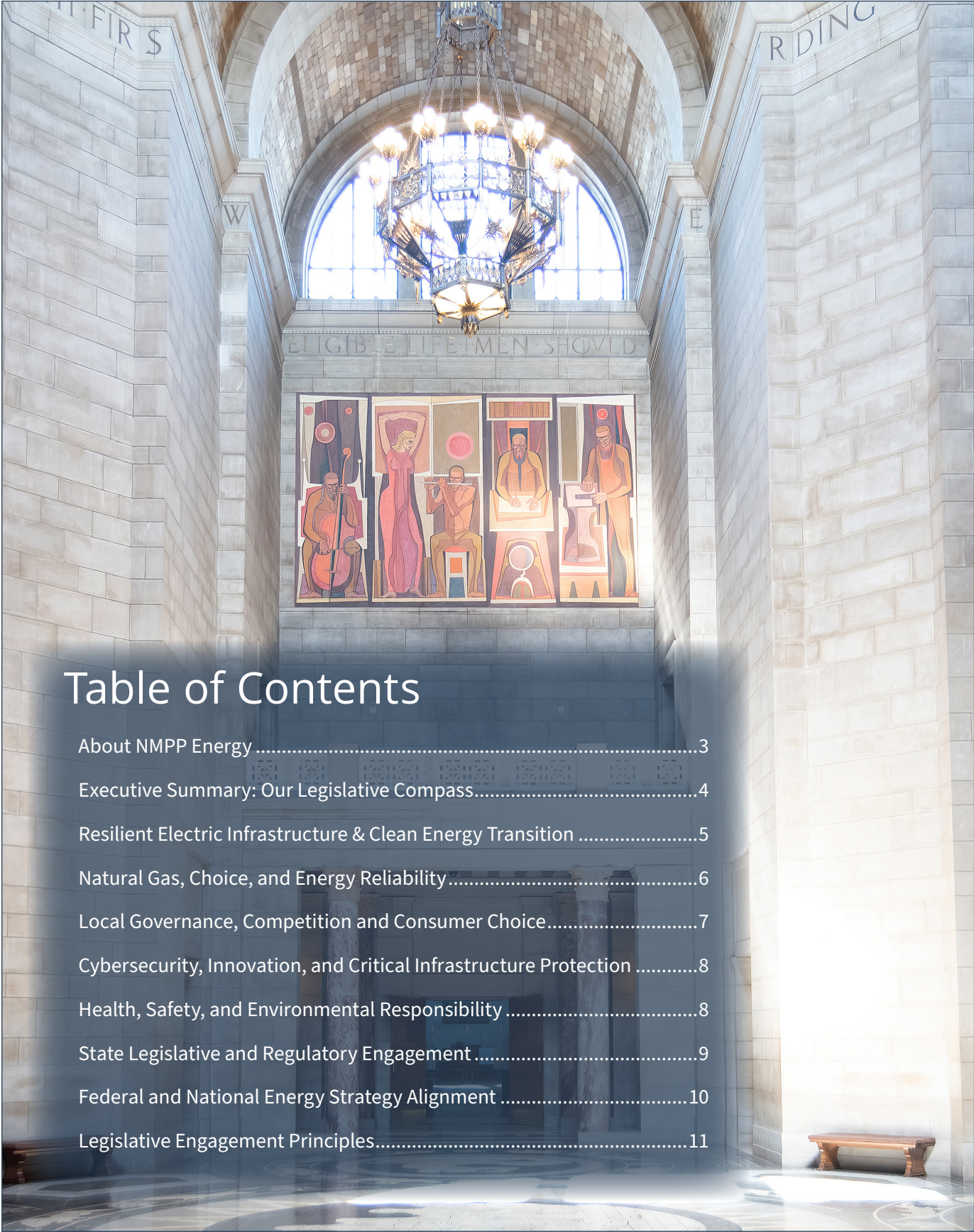


Table of Contents

About NMPP Energy	3
Executive Summary: Our Legislative Compass.....	4
Resilient Electric Infrastructure & Clean Energy Transition	5
Natural Gas, Choice, and Energy Reliability	6
Local Governance, Competition and Consumer Choice.....	7
Cybersecurity, Innovation, and Critical Infrastructure Protection	8
Health, Safety, and Environmental Responsibility	8
State Legislative and Regulatory Engagement	9
Federal and National Energy Strategy Alignment	10
Legislative Engagement Principles.....	11

These guidelines are intended to be a statement of legislative policy accepted by the NMPP Board of Directors on behalf of the communities served by the NMPP Energy coalition of organizations. These guidelines will be used by the Executive Director to evaluate legislative activity and to enable the legislative activity to proceed on a day-to-day basis based upon management's evaluation.

About NMPP Energy



NMPP **MEAN** **NPGA** **ACE**

NMPP Energy is a coalition of four organizations providing wholesale electricity and natural gas, retail natural gas and utility related services to more than 130 communities in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska and Wyoming. The organizations of NMPP Energy promote the benefits of joint action and local utility control among the communities they serve.



Wholesale Electricity
and Services



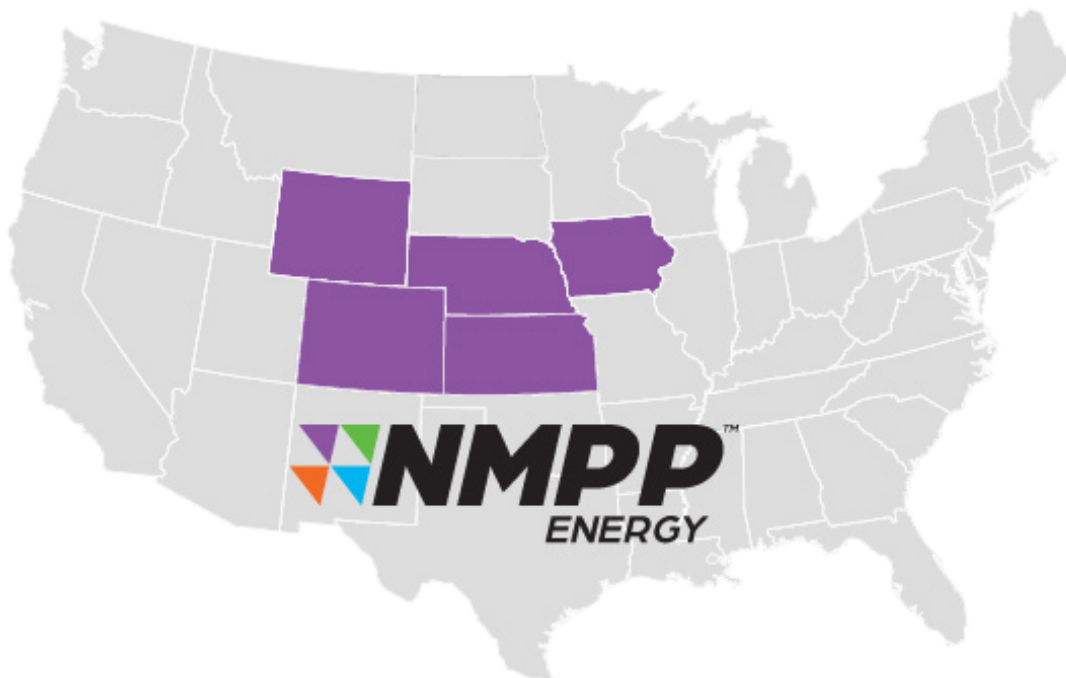
Wholesale Natural Gas



Retail Natural Gas



Municipal Utility Advocacy
and Staffing

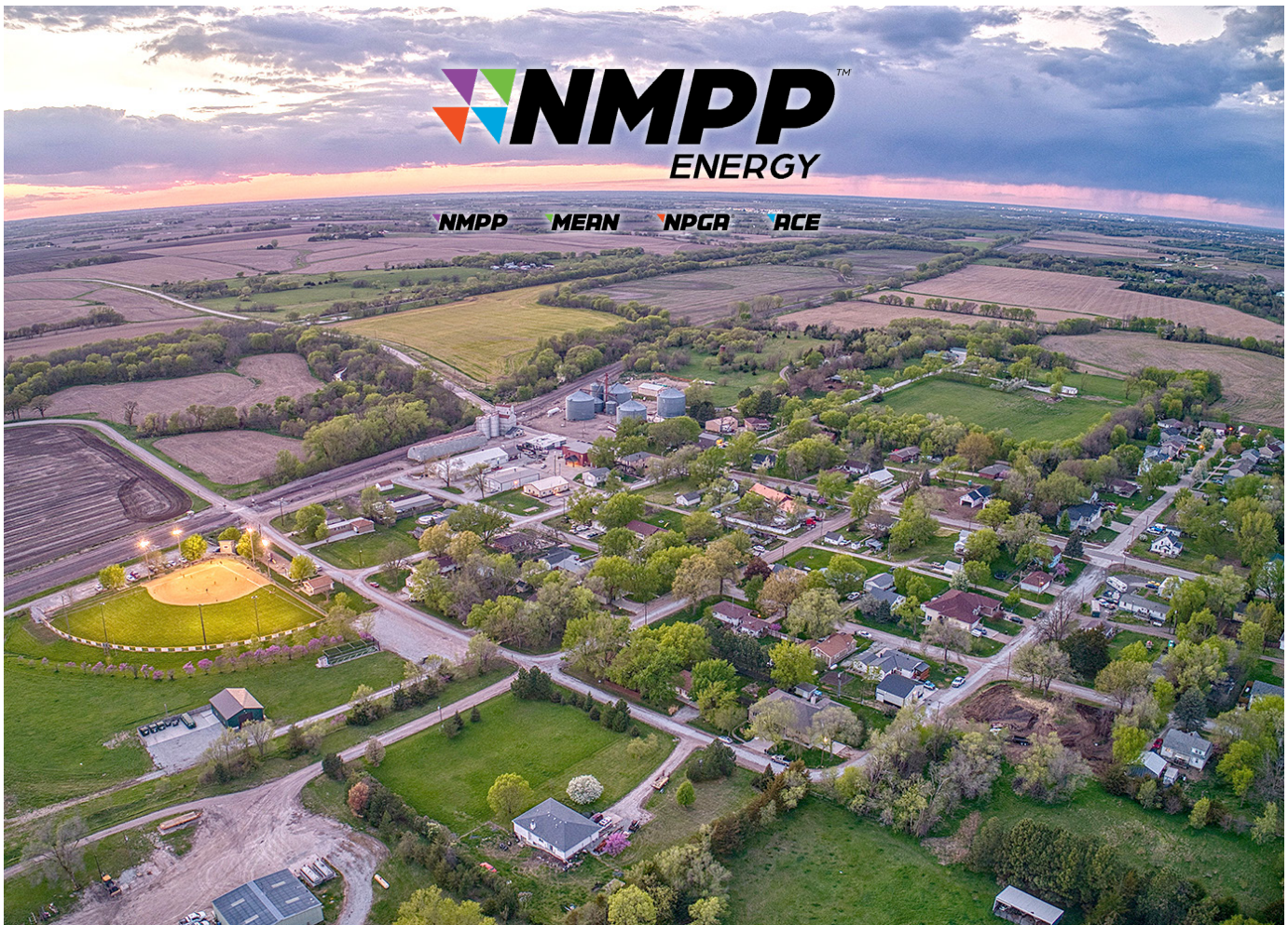


Executive Summary: Our Legislative Compass

NMPP Energy represents more than 130 communities across Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Wyoming. Our coalition is united by the principles of **local control**, **affordability**, **reliability**, and **innovation**. We advocate for policies that empower municipal utilities to serve their citizens efficiently while adapting to an evolving energy landscape.

Legislative Priorities for 2026

- **Protect Local Authority** – Preserve municipal decision-making in energy, broadband, and infrastructure development.
- **Advance Reliability & Resilience** – Support policies that strengthen electric and natural gas systems, including grid modernization and cybersecurity.
- **Champion Innovation & Resource Development** – Encourage technology advancements, diversified energy resources, and voluntary transition strategies that best serve local needs.
- **Promote Fair Regulation** – Advocate for balanced policies that maintain rate fairness, avoid cost-shifting, and treat public and private entities equitably.
- **Strengthen State Advocacy** – Collaborate with state legislatures and agencies to ensure municipal interests are represented in energy and infrastructure policy.
- **Promote Federal & State Collaboration** – Align with Department of Energy (DOE), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and state agencies to secure funding and influence regulatory outcomes.



We champion the following:

Resilient Electric Infrastructure & Clean Energy Transition

- Champion municipal systems as reliable, community-owned providers central to local economic growth.
- Advance grid modernization projects that improve resilience, reliability, and cybersecurity.
- Support voluntary and locally driven development of diverse energy resources, including renewables, to meet community goals.
- Support balanced energy policy that recognizes the need for dispatchable resources and affordability.
- Advocate for access to transmission systems under fair, reasonable, transparent, and non-discriminatory terms.
- Oppose unfunded mandates, excessive taxes, or renewable portfolio standards that cause disproportionate rate impacts.
- Support carbon management solutions, including carbon capture, sequestration, and utilization research.
- Defend Federal Preference power allocations and oppose any private investment or market-based repricing of federal hydropower assets.
- Promote collaboration with the Department of Energy (DOE) and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to secure federal funding for local resilience, generation diversity, and modernization initiatives.

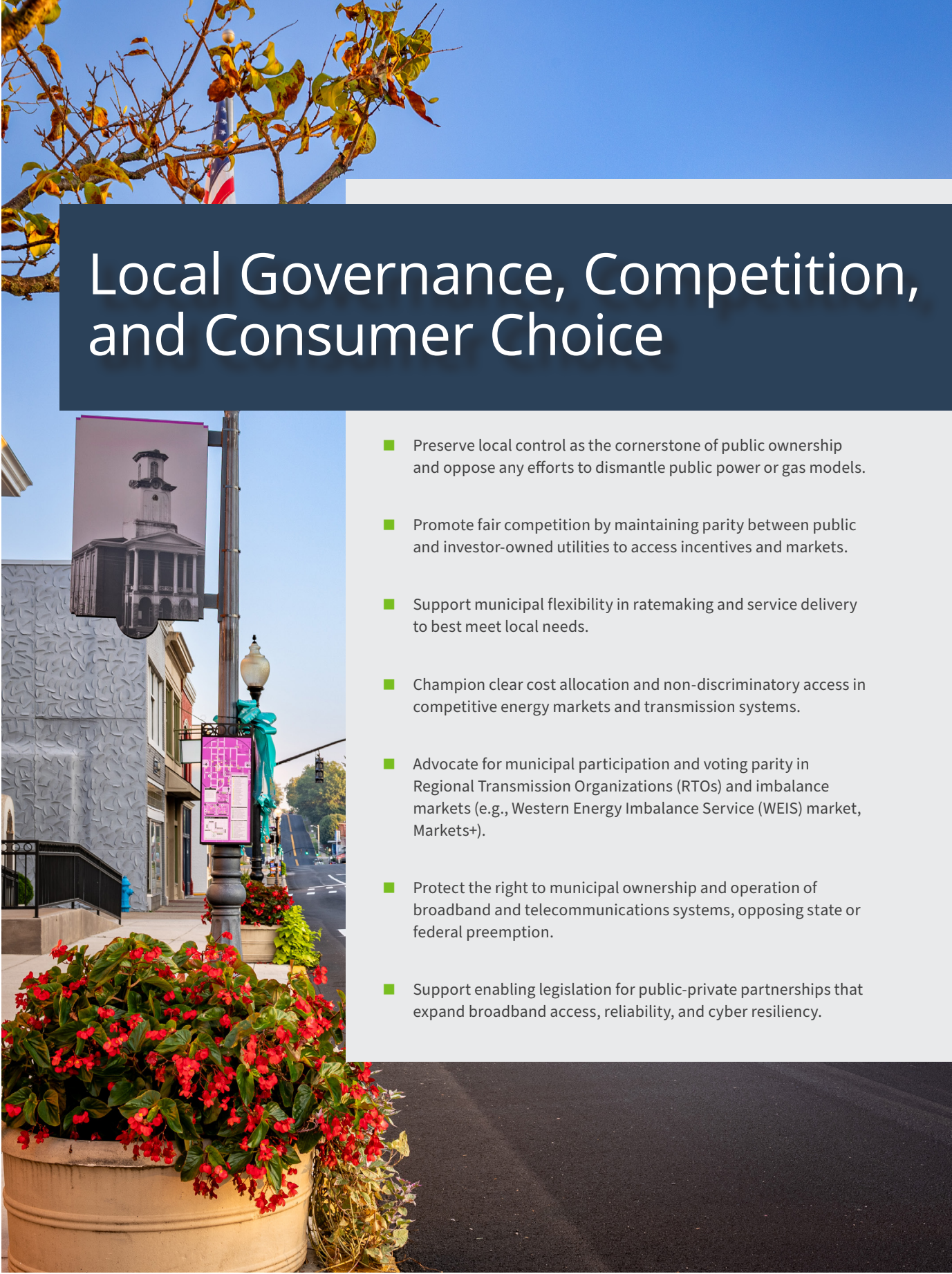




Natural Gas, Choice and Energy Reliability

- Protect the authority of municipally-owned natural gas systems and their local rate-setting responsibilities.
- Support responsible natural gas production and transportation, including environmentally sound hydraulic fracturing under Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) oversight.
- Encourage development of renewable natural gas (RNG), hydrogen blending, and carbon capture to build a sustainable energy portfolio.
- Defend consumer choice by supporting fair competition and transparent pricing in Choice Gas Programs.
- Oppose efforts to restrict municipal participation in gas choice programs or diminish the Office of the Public Advocate.
- Promote modernization of pipeline infrastructure and leak mitigation programs.
- Advocate for balanced electrification policies that preserve customer choice and reliability.
- Support Section 5 rate reform allowing FERC to set refund effective dates for pipeline rate cases to ensure fair recovery for municipal customers.





Local Governance, Competition, and Consumer Choice

- Preserve local control as the cornerstone of public ownership and oppose any efforts to dismantle public power or gas models.
- Promote fair competition by maintaining parity between public and investor-owned utilities to access incentives and markets.
- Support municipal flexibility in ratemaking and service delivery to best meet local needs.
- Champion clear cost allocation and non-discriminatory access in competitive energy markets and transmission systems.
- Advocate for municipal participation and voting parity in Regional Transmission Organizations (RTOs) and imbalance markets (e.g., Western Energy Imbalance Service (WEIS) market, Markets+).
- Protect the right to municipal ownership and operation of broadband and telecommunications systems, opposing state or federal preemption.
- Support enabling legislation for public-private partnerships that expand broadband access, reliability, and cyber resiliency.

Cybersecurity, Innovation, and Critical Infrastructure Protection

- Advance cybersecurity coordination with Department of Energy Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER), Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and public power associations.
- Encourage shared defense models and threat intelligence sharing among public utilities.
- Support funding for municipal cybersecurity hardening and workforce training.
- Promote adoption of emerging technologies such as AI-assisted monitoring, smart meters, and data analytics to improve efficiency and safety.
- Strengthen partnerships with universities, E-ISAC (Electricity Information Sharing and Analysis Center), and other public-private consortiums to expand access to technical expertise and grant funding.



Health, Safety, and Environmental Responsibility



- Support pragmatic clean air legislation that balances emission reduction goals with cost-effectiveness and reliability.
- Advocate for Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) funding annually and timely disbursement to assist vulnerable households.
- Endorse responsible nuclear waste management policies and adherence to federal transportation oversight.
- Encourage technological innovation that reduces environmental impacts of energy generation, including research on acid deposition, climate change, and ozone mitigation.

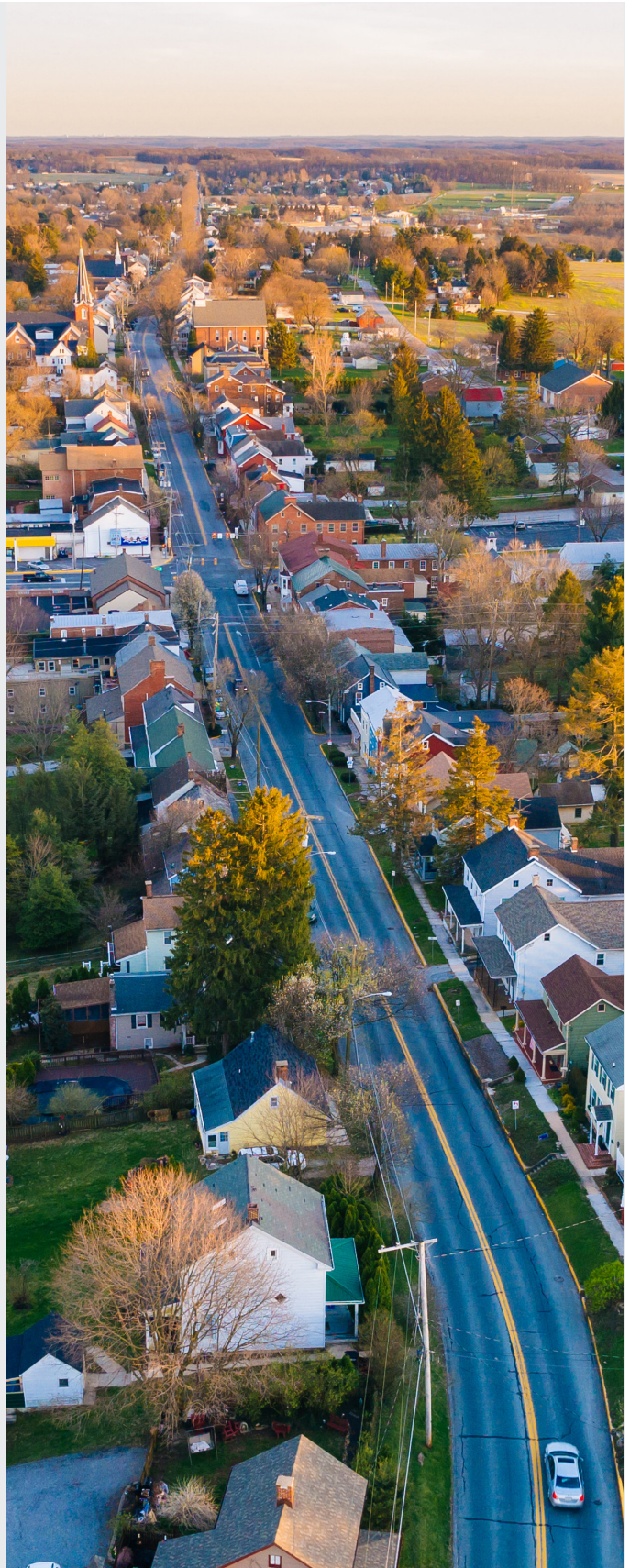
State Legislative and Regulatory Engagement

NMPP Energy and its member organizations recognize that many of the most impactful policies affecting municipal utilities originate at the state level.

We advocate for clear, consistent, and balanced state policies that:

- Protect municipal control over utility operations, ratemaking, and infrastructure planning.
- Ensure fair cost recovery and prevent unfunded mandates or cost shifts to public utilities.
- Encourage state-level grant and financing programs that mirror federal funding opportunities for rural communities.
- Support practical permitting and siting processes that respect both local input and regional energy needs.
- Promote collaboration among state agencies, utilities, and energy offices to advance innovation while maintaining affordability and reliability.

NMPP will continue to engage with legislatures, regulatory commissions, and governors' offices in each member state to advance policies that strengthen community-owned energy systems.





Federal and National Energy Strategy Alignment

- Support bipartisan national energy policies that prioritize reliability, affordability, and energy security.
- Collaborate with federal agencies and national associations to assist and harmonize federal programs with state and local priorities, ensuring that implementation reflects the interests of community-owned utilities.
- Advocate for a balanced and diverse mix of generation resources—including coal, natural gas, nuclear, hydro, and renewables, and other emerging technologies—to maintain grid reliability and affordability.
- Engage through national advocacy organizations (such as American Public Power Association (APPA), American Public Gas Association (APGA), and Large Public Power Council (LPPC), to provide input on federal rulemaking and international climate policy discussions that affect competitiveness, rather than direct diplomacy.
- Advocate for equitable access to federal grants and tax incentives for public utilities consistent with investor-owned utilities.
- Strengthen NMPP Energy's representation in regional and national coalitions to amplify member perspectives and ensure municipal interests are reflected in federal deliberations.





Legislative Engagement Principles

NMPP Energy's Government Affairs team operates with the following principles:

- **Transparency:** Engage openly with policymakers and stakeholders.
- **Collaboration:** Build bipartisan alliances with public and private partners.
- **Accountability:** Ground advocacy in data, community outcomes, and fiscal responsibility.
- **Respect for Local Decision-Making:** Champion the right of each community to govern and make decisions that best serve its citizens.





8377 Glynoaks Drive
Lincoln, NE 68516
(800) 234-2595

Info@NMPPenergy.org
www.NMPPEnergy.org



NMPP MEAN NPGA ACE