The industrial sector accounts for more than 30% of all energy consumed in the United States, and for many manufacturers, energy costs affect overall competitiveness. While U.S. manufacturing facilities have made progress at becoming more energy efficient over the past several decades, there are opportunities to accelerate and expand this improvement through a variety of methods including investments in more efficient equipment and the expanded use of combined heat and power (CHP). These investments can improve the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturing, lower energy costs, reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, and create jobs. However, many industrial companies face shortages of capital and other barriers to making these investments.

To address these challenges, the U.S. Department of Energy, in coordination with the State and Local Energy Efficiency Action Network (SEE Action) Industrial Energy Efficiency and CHP Working Group, and the Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEEP), is hosting a Western Regional Dialogue Meeting to bring together key stakeholders and obtain input on best practices and innovative solutions that address the multiple barriers to greater investment in industrial energy efficiency and CHP.

This meeting will build on the August 30, 2012, Executive Order: Accelerating Investment in Industrial Energy Efficiency. The dialogue meeting will focus on industrial energy efficiency and CHP successes, opportunities, and new approaches—all with an eye toward state policies that can help remove barriers and promote more investments in these areas.