

State News for NSPE Members

Puerto Rico Gets \$3 Million for Innovative Climate Projects

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources (DNER) have announced that Puerto Rico will receive \$3 million to plan innovative strategies to cut climate pollution and build clean energy economies across the commonwealth, [according to a report by NimB](#).

In March, the EPA announced the availability of the funds, which represent the first funding going to states, local governments, tribes, and territories from the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program created by the Inflation Reduction Act.

Later this year, the EPA will launch a competition for \$4.6 billion in funding to implement projects and initiatives included in the plans. Puerto Rico will be eligible to receive that implementation funding because it has opted in to receive the planning grant.

The San Juan metro area is among the 67 most populous metropolitan areas in the nation with the opportunity to receive \$1 million each to develop regional planning grants with key stakeholders in their area, the EPA said.

Lead agencies in these metropolitan areas must submit a notice of intent to participate by April 28. Communities that do not rank in the top 67 most populous areas will have opportunities to partner with their states and neighboring jurisdictions. [Read more](#).

Puerto Rican HVAC Engineering Firm Honored as Top Government Contractor

Multi-Air Services Engineers, Corp (MASE) has been named Graduate Firm of the Year by the US Small Business Administration, [as reported by globenewswire.com](#). In 2005, Israel Alvarez founded MASE with Israel Alvarez Sr. and brother Carlos. Headquartered in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico, MASE provides comprehensive

services related to the installation of commercial and industrial HVAC equipment in public and private facilities.

In Puerto Rico, no small business federal contractors were offering a comprehensive approach to maintaining and operating federal facilities. The government had been installing smart controls in federal buildings, but smaller maintenance contractors were not keeping pace with the emerging technology. MASE offered federal government programming for HVAC construction projects as well as building automation services.

To help meet this need and expand his business, Israel Alvarez turned to the SBA for guidance and support. He is a graduate of both, the SBA Emerging Leaders and the 8(a) Program. During the pandemic, he received an SBA loan to continue operations. After graduating from the 8(a) program in 2018, MASE generated \$5.4M in revenues. At the end of 2022, revenue reached \$10.5M. [Read more.](#)

Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).

Don't Hesitate to Share Your PE Story

By Britt Smith, P.E., F.NSPE, President 2022–2023



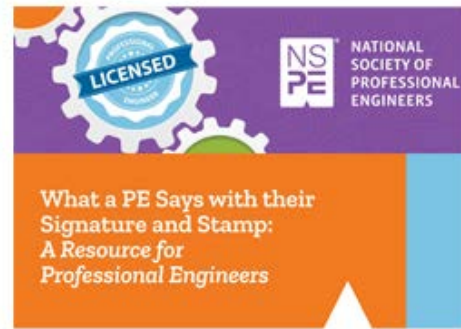
Have you ever thought about how many people will ever need to hire an engineer? Probably not very many. But as engineers, we have a huge impact on their lives and in countless ways. For example, we all expect clean water to come out of the faucet, the lights to come on when we want, the bridge we cross on the way to work to be safe, the air we breathe to be clean, and the products we buy for our kids to be safe. When engineers do their best work, most people don't even notice. Yet, as a profession we strive to make everyone's life better.

The work of our profession by design affects the lives of many people—likely tens of thousands on a daily basis. In my case, I work in the public works department in the community that I reside and that means the decisions I make don't just affect nameless strangers. The people in this community are my neighbors, my friends, and my family. [Read more.](#)

New Policy Documents: The Signature and Stamp, Key Issues for the PE

The Committee on Policy and Advocacy has

released the “[What a PE Says with their Signature and Stamp](#)” document. The document provides a general awareness of the PE signature and stamp process and includes best practices and lessons learned for those considering developing or improving their own process. The committee recently updated and released the documents, “[What is a PE?](#)” and “[Key Issues for the Professional Engineer.](#)” Updated position statements can be accessed [here](#).



QBS Awards Program Accepting Nominations

NSPE is seeking nominations for the 2023 QBS Awards. The [QBS Awards program](#) promotes and recognizes the exemplary use of the qualifications-based selection process.

Award winners [serve as examples of how well the QBS process works](#), and they help NSPE promote the practice of QBS in jurisdictions that do not use, or underuse, QBS to procure engineering services. A maximum of one QBS Award may be presented to the federal government sector, the state government sector (includes all governmental units under the state level), and nongovernment sector.

The deadline for nominations is **Monday, May 1** (close of business). Access the awards information and nomination form [here](#).

You received this e-mail because you are subscribed to *PE Matters* e-newsletter.

To update your e-mail address, visit www.nspe.org and login to manage your account.

If you do not wish to receive any more issues of *PE Matters*, click [here](#) to unsubscribe .

Share with your network



National Society of Professional Engineers | 1420 King Street | Alexandria, VA 22314