

SEP grants to improve EUI efficiency, advance Utility Energy Registry

The Minnesota Department of Commerce, Division of Energy Resources will address supply side efficiency opportunities in the electric generation sector and will partner with three states to work on the Utility Energy Registry, thanks to two State Energy Program (SEP) competitive grants it recently received from U.S. Department of Energy.

Addressing electric utility infrastructure efficiency

The first grant, titled “Building Momentum for Implementation of Electric Utility Infrastructure Efficiency Projects in Minnesota,” includes project partners GDS Associates, Inc. and the Center for Energy and Environment.

Energy lost and consumed in power generation and delivery consumes 12-15% of U.S. electricity production. There is significant potential to increase electric utility infrastructure (EUI) efficiency through decreasing conversion losses, improving plant operations, and mitigating transmission and distribution losses throughout Minnesota’s electric grid.¹

This proposed effort will address the uncertainty among Minnesota stakeholders regarding how EUI efficiency can be leveraged within the state’s regulatory environment. The project will produce a roadmap for capturing greater efficiency within Minnesota’s electric system and provide framework that can be adapted and used to develop similar infrastructure efficiency initiatives in other states. For more on this grant, contact [Adam Zoet](#) or [Jessica Burdette](#).

Developing the Utility Energy Registry

In the second grant, Minnesota, through the Great Plains Institute, will partner with the energy departments in New York, Maryland, and Washington, D.C. to advance and further develop the Utility Energy Registry, an online platform that provides public access to community-scale utility energy demographics to drive community level clean energy planning. The project will leverage New York’s existing work with investor-owned utilities to collect aggregated community-level energy data, resulting in a web-based platform that can transfer this type of data nationally to municipalities and other interested parties.

The goal is to develop a replicable and nationally scalable model to enhance the ability of local communities nationwide to save energy by enabling them to design policy and track progress towards goals with measureable, independent data.

The two State Energy Program grants received by Minnesota are part of \$5 million awarded to 16 states. The grants are intended to advance innovative approaches for local clean energy development that will reduce energy bills for American families and businesses, protect the environment by reducing carbon emissions, and increase our nation’s energy security. Terms of both grants are in negotiation and will be finalized soon. [Read more](#).

Reference

¹ Brown, Mark, and Mike Johnson. [“Utility Infrastructure Improvements for Energy Efficiency.”](#) (pdf) Franklin Energy, 2010.