Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations

THE OFFICE OF

CLEAN ENERGY DEMONSTRATIONS

Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas (ERA) Fixed Award Grant Program Eastern Region Briefing

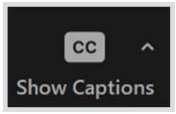
Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations

U.S. Department of Energy

May 21, 2024

Webinar Logistics

How do I turn on live captions?



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Is this webinar being recorded?

No, this webinar will not be recorded.

Will the slides be shared?

Yes, a copy of the presentation slides will be shared via email with registrants and on the OCED website within the next week.

Welcome!

Agenda

- Welcome
- Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas (ERA) Fixed Grant Award Program Overview
- Regional Project Overview
  - Adams Electric Cooperative Green Energy Project
  - Clean Energy and Efficiency for Dallas County Alabama Schools
  - Cost-Effective and Equitable Cooperative Community Solar in Western Maine
  - East Central Community College Solar and Lighting Upgrades
  - Reliability and Cost Effectiveness in Rural Areas Using Environmentally Sound Practices
  - REMC Transmission Line Rebuild
  - Rural Rebuild and Reconductor
- Feedback Session
- Community Benefits and Engagement
- Next Steps & Resources
- Wrap-up & Close

Introductions

Emmanuel Taylor

Facilitator

Regina Galer
ERA
Program Manager,
OCED

Toniqua Hay
ERA
Stakeholder
Engagement Specialist,
OCED

Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas (ERA) Fixed Award Grant Program

ERA $50M Funding Opportunity

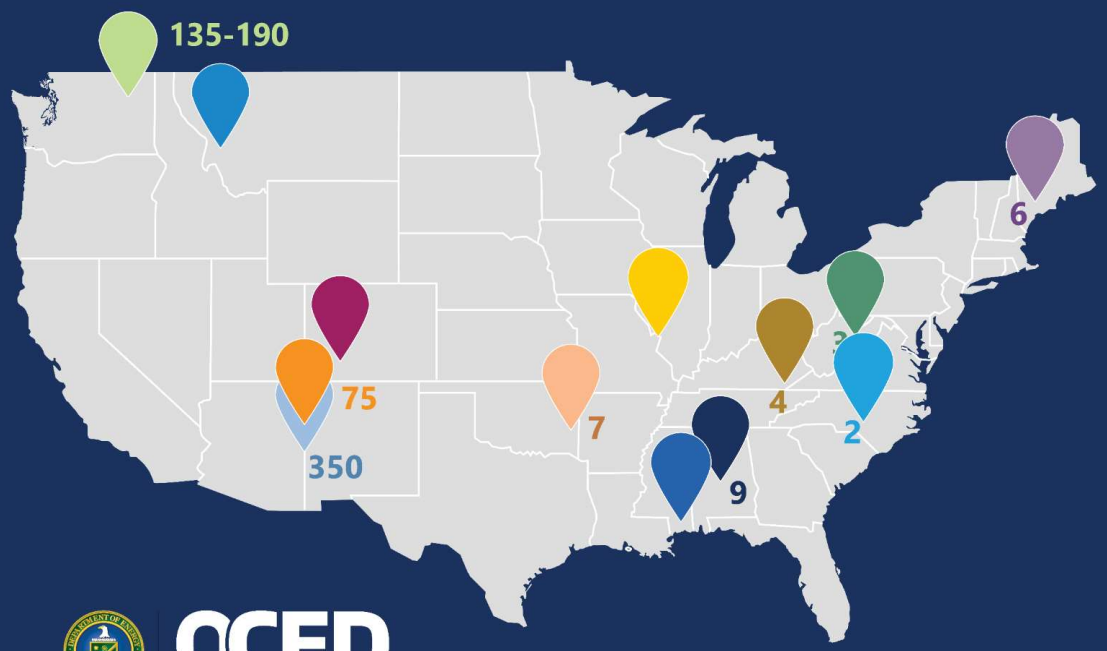
In May 2023, OCED announced a $50 million Grant Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) for the Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas (ERA) program for small community-driven projects. This FOA is a direct response from rural communities' feedback.

Reduce Barriers to Federal Funding

- ✓ Simplified application process
- ✓ Removed cost-share requirement
- ✓ Offered technical assistance
- ✓ Reduced financial reporting requirements

Status to Date

ERA GRANT PROJECT SELECTIONS – LOWER 48



	Grid Access and Resiliency for Unserved Rural and Indigenous People Project
	Ravalli Electric Community Storage Project
	Lake City Area Power and Resiliency Augmentation Enterprise
	Permanent, High-Quality Clean Energy Access for Rural Indigenous Communities
	Navajo Sun Power! Home Solar Project
	Greencare: Empowering Resilience in Poteau
	Adams Electric Cooperative Green Energy Project
	East Central Community College Solar and Lighting Upgrades
	Clean Energy and Efficiency for Dallas County Alabama Schools
	Reliability and Cost Effectiveness in Rural Areas Using Environmentally Sound
	Rural Rebuild and Reconductor
	REMC Transmission Line Rebuild
	Cost-Effective and Equitable Cooperative Community Solar in Western Maine

Notes:

- **Subscripts indicate multi-site projects**

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Project Overviews

Adams Electric Cooperative Green Energy Project

Bill Stalder
Manager of Marketing & Member Services
Adams Electric Cooperative

Adams Electric Cooperative Green Energy Project

Adams Electric Cooperative

Project Overview

Adams Electric Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Technology Snapshot

- Install 1 MW of solar PV
- Install 1 MW wind turbine
- Begin construction in fall of 2024 and complete in fall of 2025

Value and Impacts

- Deliver renewable energy to 7,500 families
- Help stabilize electricity rates for members
- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by potentially more than 40,000 tons each year

Location

Schuyler County, Illinois

Adams Electric Cooperative Green Energy Project

Adams Electric Cooperative

Proposed Community Benefits

Adams Electric Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Investing in America's Workforce

- Project partners are committed to hiring local firms to perform construction work to generate jobs for the community

Community & Labor Engagement

- Our project is deeply intertwined with the community, forging partnerships with local organizations, schools, and emergency responders to advance renewable energy education, stimulate economic growth, and enhance community safety

DEIA

- Adams Electric Cooperative will support DEIA initiatives that include yearly DEIA training. We will potentially use a local woman-owned concrete business for the project's concrete needs

Justice40

- The project location is identified as disadvantaged by the Council of Environmental Quality and will help generate employment and provide clean energy in the area
- The project will help with educational opportunities for area communities

Adams Electric Cooperative Green Energy Project

Adams Electric Cooperative

Contact Information

Adams Electric Cooperative
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Points of Contact

Jim Thompson – General Manager
Mike Ohnemus – Project Manager
Bill Stalder – Manager of Marketing & Member Services

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To contact OCED about this project, please email us at:
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Clean Energy and Efficiency for Dallas County Alabama Schools

Zella R. Ford
Director of Curriculum and Instruction/Director of Federal Programs
Dallas County School System

Clean Energy and Efficiency for Dallas County Alabama Schools

Dallas County Board of Education

Project Overview

Technology Snapshot

- Replacement of malfunctioning and end-of-life equipment with current, efficient lighting, HVAC, and controls technology, as well as installation of new solar photovoltaic systems at three schools

Value and Impacts

- Decrease annual consumption of grid electricity by an estimated 1,300,003 kWh by reducing consumption by an estimated 769,129 kWh and generating approximately 530,874 kWh of renewable energy
- Provide STEM-aligned educational opportunities, create good quality jobs, and improve the learning environment for students and the surrounding community

Locations

- Nine schools throughout Dallas County, Alabama (surrounding Selma, AL)

Clean Energy and Efficiency for Dallas County Alabama Schools

Dallas County Board of Education

Proposed Community Benefits

Investing in America's Workforce	• Promotion of job opportunities, workforce development, and recruitment of labor through collaboration with local community colleges and HBCUs
Community & Labor Engagement	• Community, labor, and stakeholder feedback at Board meetings and through collaboration with the Black Belt Community Foundation
DEIA	• Goal to provide mentorship opportunities to local contractors to establish solar capacity in the region • Work with available state and local M/WBE programs to recruit subcontractors
Justice40	• Project expected to generate direct energy savings, indoor environmental quality improvements, and facility enhancement for district serving rural low-income community • Additional benefits to community through increased community investment, increased student retention, and increased pride in its public schools • Five of the nine schools located in Justice 40 disadvantaged census tracts

Clean Energy and Efficiency for Dallas County Alabama Schools

Dallas County Board of Education

Contact Information

Point of Contact

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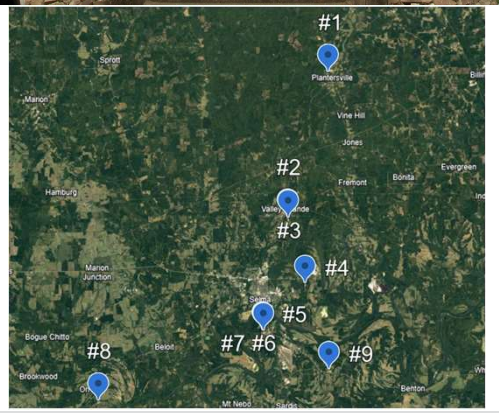

Cost-Effective and Equitable Cooperative Community Solar in Western Maine

Tyler Adkins
Project Manager
Maine Community Power Cooperative

COST-EFFECTIVE AND EQUITABLE COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY SOLAR IN WESTERN MAINE

Maine Community Power Cooperative

Project Overview

Maine Community Power Cooperative™

Technology Snapshot

- Deploying 1.2 MW of cooperatively-owned community solar across 6 sites
- Developing platform for rapid scale and replication beyond program scope
- First site beginning construction summer 2024, all sites operational by fall 2025

Value and Impacts

- Members' energy burden will be reduced by more than $80,000 annually (20% savings for more than 300 households, including 150 LMI households)
- Provides stable energy prices to member-owners for next 20 years
- Offsets 1,400 metric tons of carbon emissions each year for next 30+ years

Locations

Western Maine towns of:

Harrison (2 sites)	Norway (1 site)	Oxford (TBD)	Waterford (TBD)
Hebron (TBD)	Otisfield (TBD)	South Paris (TBD)	West Paris (TBD)

COST-EFFECTIVE AND EQUITABLE COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY SOLAR IN WESTERN MAINE

Maine Community Power Cooperative

Proposed Community Benefits

Maine Community Power Cooperative

Investing in America's Workforce

- We expect to create 3-5 full-time jobs on the development side of the business with 6-8 jobs created for the installation team.
- These numbers will grow as the cooperative scales

Community & Labor Engagement

- Community and labor engagement are built into the DNA of this consumer- and worker-owned, democratically controlled cooperative enterprise
- We will be working with local technical schools, community colleges and universities on workforce training initiatives

DEIA

- We are actively recruiting a diverse team of minority, women, LGTBQ+ and veteran workers, subcontractors, and trainees

Justice40

- Projects will serve a rural area with one of the highest energy burdens in the state.
- LMI households will represent >50% of energy use by member-owners, and projects will be located in disadvantaged areas

COST-EFFECTIVE AND EQUITABLE COOPERATIVE COMMUNITY SOLAR IN WESTERN MAINE

Maine Community Power Cooperative

Contact Information

Point of Contact

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Email

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East Central Community College Solar and Lighting Upgrades

Charley Warren
Senior Engineering Associate
Path Company

East Central Community College Solar and Lighting Upgrades

Path Company

Project Overview

Technology Snapshot

- Install 1 MW of solar PV powering 38 campus facilities, meeting the facilities' peak demand
- Upgrade 25 facilities with energy efficient, LED lighting
- Solar project is anticipated to take 18 months to complete, and 12 months for the lighting project

Value and Impacts

- Reduce annual energy costs by approximately $170,000 which will be reinvested back into the college and students
- Reduce carbon emissions/greenhouse gas emissions by 1,380 metric tons
- Establish one of the first community-college solar installation and maintenance curriculums in Mississippi

Location

East Central Community College
Decatur, Mississippi

East Central Community College Solar and Lighting Upgrades

Path Company

Proposed Community Benefits

Investing in America's Workforce

- Develop one of the state's first solar installation and maintenance curriculum programs
- Establish internship program for students in the college's solar program for hands-on maintenance experience

Community & Labor Engagement

- Participate in town board meetings to share progress updates with the community
- Host public forum to inform the community of the project and provide the community an opportunity to offer input.
- Public forum will also serve as a mechanism to notify local and minority, women, and veteran-owned business of job opportunity

DEIA

- Target at least 25% minority business participation by utilizing state resources for minority contractor outreach
- Enforce Davis Bacon Requirements, guaranteeing that all workers will receive prevailing wages, and including Fringe Benefits

Justice40

- Newton County ranks above the 90th percentile in eight out of ten Energy Justice categories including job access, transportation costs, housing costs, and energy burden
- This project offers job opportunities, adding to the educational experience at ECCC and through the partnership with the local K-12 school system
- Demonstrates why clean energy is important, and how to gain energy efficiency at home

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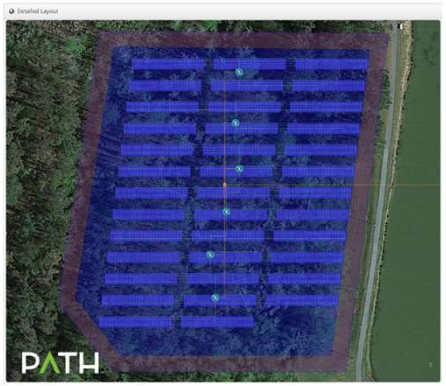
East Central Community College Solar and Lighting Upgrades

Path Company

Contact Information

Points of Contact

Charley Warren, Senior Engineering Associate
Alan Watts, Senior Vice President of Engineering
Rusty McLellan, Executive Vice President



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Reliability and Cost Effectiveness in Rural Areas Using Environmentally Sound Practices

Brian Chaney
Project Manager
Cumberland Valley Electric

Reliability and Cost Effectiveness in Rural Areas Using Environmentally Sound Practices

Cumberland Valley Electric Inc.

Project Overview

Technology Snapshot

- Replace antiquated fuses with S&C TripSavers (Reclosers)
- Replant Right-of-Way with native grasses and shrubs
- Project is estimated to be completed at the end of 2026

Value and Impacts

- Improve reliability of the electrical grid
- Reduce maintenance costs over time
- Promote biodiversity and ecosystem health
- Opportunity to educate the community about environmental sustainability

Locations

The 500 miles of distribution lines feed by CVE's Carpenter Substation (Communities within Kentucky's Bell, Knox and Whitley counties)

Reliability and Cost Effectiveness in Rural Areas Using Environmentally Sound Practices

Cumberland Valley Electric Inc.

Proposed Community Benefits

Investing in America's Workforce

- All of Cumberland Valley's hourly employees are members of the United Steelworkers of America Union
- Contractors will source workers from local communities for workforce used on the project

Community & Labor Engagement

- Cumberland Valley has worked closely with partners in the community throughout the application stage to receive feedback and support
- Frequent future meetings scheduled within the community to gain feedback

DEIA

- Cumberland Valley welcomes candidates from a wide range of backgrounds, cultures, and perspectives, recognizing the value of divergent points of view
- Encourage all partners to follow Cumberland Valley's principles for inclusivity

Justice40

- Knox and Bell counties are both among the 50 counties with lowest medium household income in the U.S.
- Sourcing labor from the local communities
- Increase reliability helps with access to remote job opportunities
- Improving the local community's environment

Reliability and Cost Effectiveness in Rural Areas Using Environmentally Sound Practices

Cumberland Valley Electric Inc.

Contact Information

Points of Contact

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Jonathan Grove, Asst. Project Manager

Method of Contact

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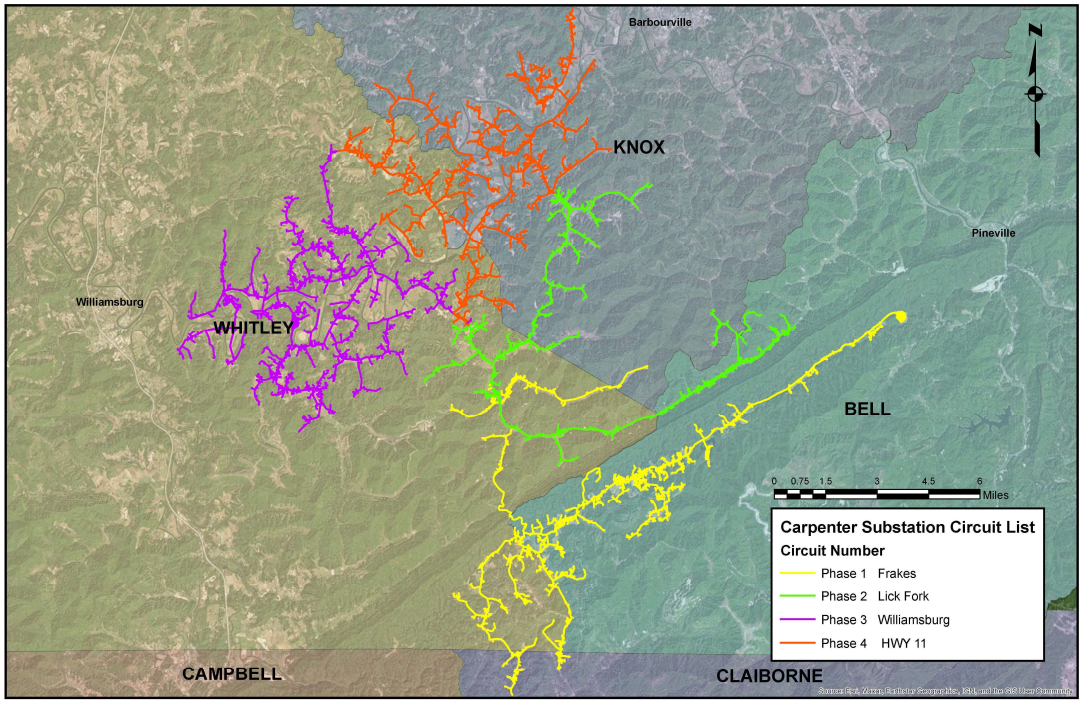

REMC Transmission Line Rebuild

Michael Trent and Jacob Barlow
Randolph Electric Membership Corporation

REMC Transmission Line Rebuild

Randolph Electric Membership Corporation

Project Overview

Randolph Electric Membership Corporation
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Technology Snapshot

- Project will harden 21 miles of vintage transmission line and install 177 new steel utility poles
- Partner with North Carolina Electric Membership Corporation to create and implement an accredited transmission-focused course within the existing apprenticeship program
- The proposed timeline for completion of the project is two years

Value and Impacts

- Hardening of power lines – less susceptible to wildfire/storms; not at risk for woodpecker damage, pole rot or other damage that could cause the line to fail
- Reduced Environmental Impact – Galvanized steel poles can have a lesser environmental impact compared to wood poles
- Durability and Longevity - Galvanized steel poles are more durable and longer–lasting than wood poles

Locations

Snow Camp, Staley, Westmoore, and Ether, North Carolina

REMC Transmission Line Rebuild

Randolph Electric Membership Corporation

Proposed Community Benefits

Investing in America's Workforce	• Ensure the workforce involved in the implementation of this proposal will receive compensation that is at or above the prevailing wage • Invest in workforce training to support a skilled workforce • Remove barriers to career-track training, quality jobs, and career advancement
Community & Labor Engagement	• Annual hybrid in-person and remote public meetings • Annual surveys of residents and businesses will be conducted to solicit feedback on the effectiveness of grid improvement efforts and the impact of the project • Annual Meeting of the members to inform them of the effectiveness of improvement efforts
DEIA	• REMC aims to build an inclusive energy workforce for project implementation • REMC will ensure that vendor opportunities are accessible to MWBE • REMC's DEIA objectives are the result of a comprehensive analysis of current practices related to advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility
Justice40	• All of the project member-owners are in census tracts identified as disadvantaged and will directly benefit from this project • These communities will benefit from reductions and savings associated with the transmission upgrades • The implementation strategy enables REMC to create resiliency for its member-owners who are impacted the most by major storm events

REMC Transmission Line Rebuild

Randolph Electric Membership Corporation

Contact Information

Points of Contact

Michael Trent – Vice President of Member Services & Public Relations
Jacob Barlow – Vice President of Engineering & Operations

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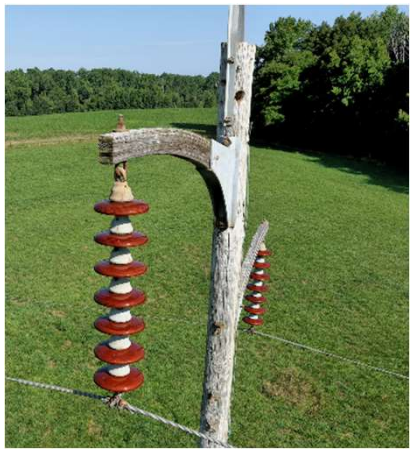

To contact OCED about this project, please email us at:
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Rural Rebuild and Reconductor

David Bedard, Tim Pingley,
and Louis D'Alessandris
First Energy Corporation

Rural Rebuild and Reconductor

Monongahela Power Company

Project Overview

Technology Snapshot

- Enhance reliability and resilience in rural disadvantaged communities
- Three project sites; rebuild/reconductor 25 miles in rural West Virginia
- Construction will be complete by Q4 2027

Value and Impacts

- Enhanced reliability for over 3,000 customers
- Reduction in customers impacted during disturbance events
- Allows for Mon Power and Potomac Edison to safely restore service faster by rerouting customers during an outage

Locations

- Pocahontas County, West Virginia (Buckeye, Hillsboro, Mill Point)
- Braxton / Clay Counties, West Virginia (Duck, Glendon, Strange Creek)
- Grant County, West Virginia (Petersburg) [Grant County is in the territory of Mon Power's affiliated utility, Potomac Edison]

Rural Rebuild and Reconductor

Monongahela Power Company

Proposed Community Benefits

Investing in America's Workforce

- Mon Power will leverage its existing collective bargaining agreements with unions to incorporate feedback from labor stakeholders throughout the project

Community & Labor Engagement

- Mon Power's Regional External Affairs team will incorporate two-way communication with county and municipal leaders into the project
- Leverage existing relationships to identify additional stakeholders in the community for additional outreach

DEIA

- Project DEIA goals include increasing the number of employees from underrepresented groups, supporting local communities, supplier diversity, and workforce training

Justice40

- Mon Power prioritized project locations based on customer benefits, positive impacts to energy communities and DACs, and community feedback
- 100% of the benefits of the projects will flow to rural disadvantaged communities in West Virginia

Rural Rebuild and Reconductor

Monongahela Power Company

Contact Information

Points of Contact

Tim Pingley, Manager, Regional External Affairs
David Bedard, Project Manager

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Feedback Session

Ground Rules for Discussion

- Submit questions using the Q&A feature
- Reserve judgement
- One idea at a time
- It is okay to build on the ideas of others- Clarifying questions are okay

Community Benefits Plans

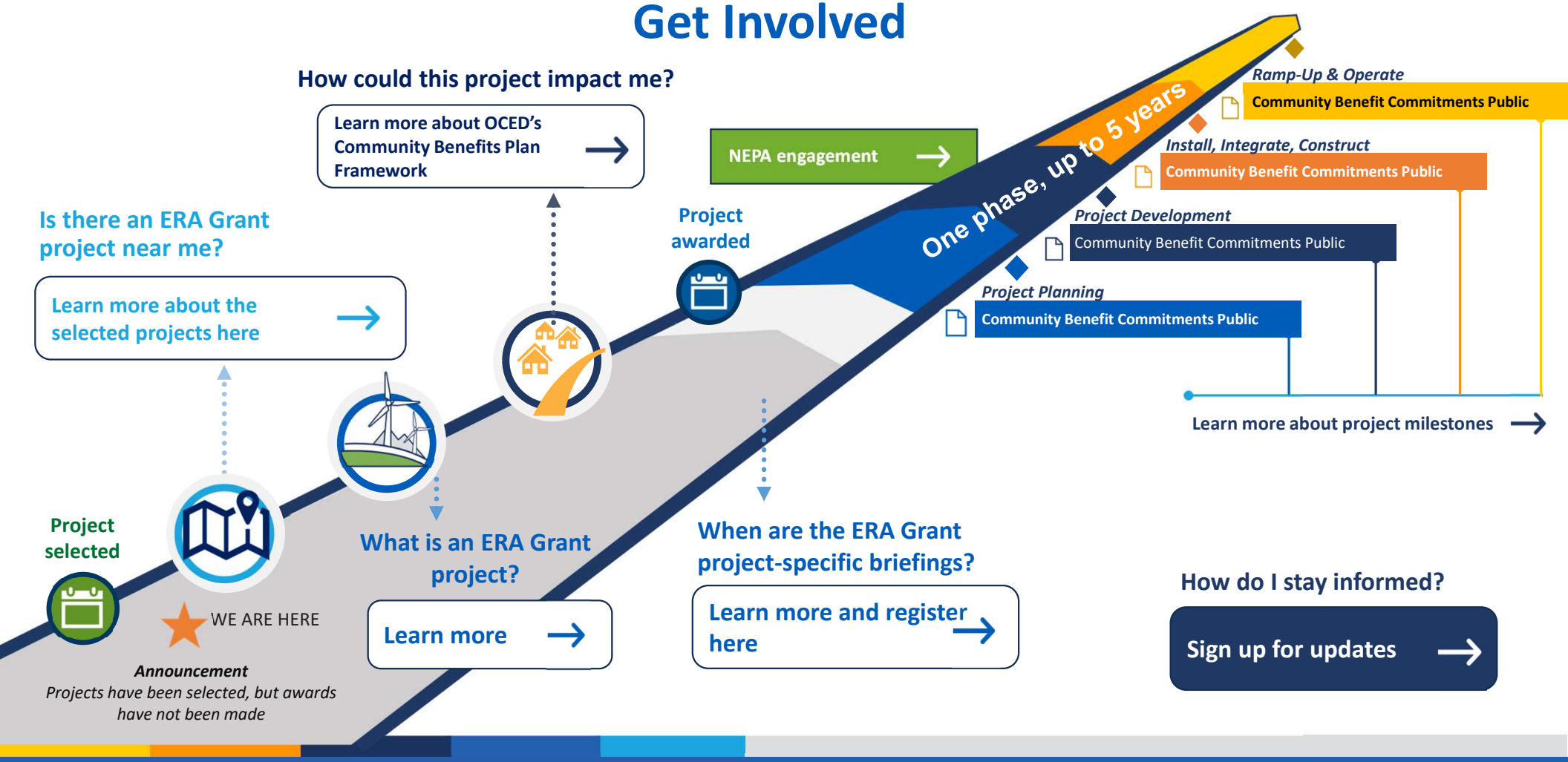
Prioritizing Community Benefits in OCED Projects

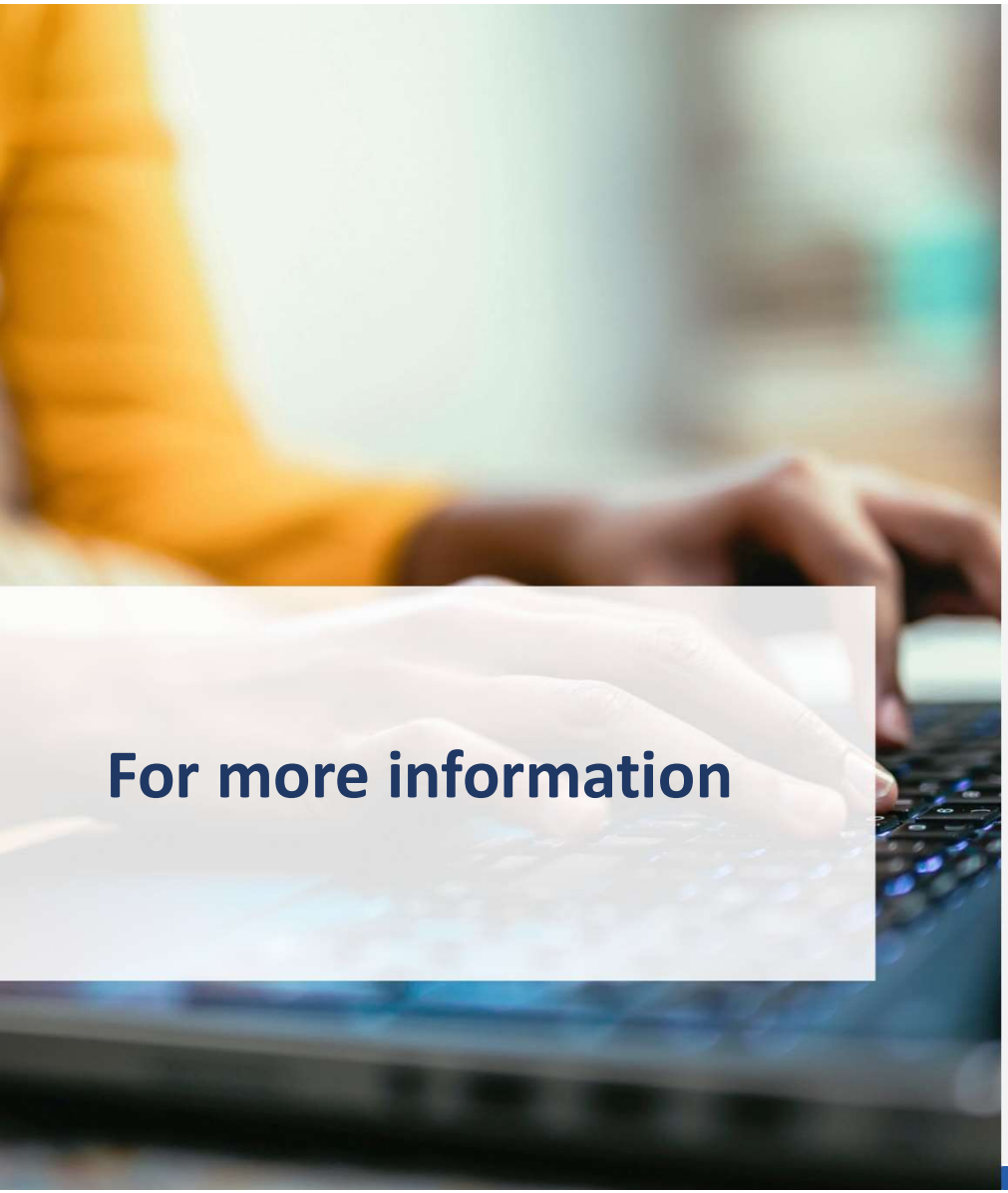
OCED **requires** applicants to include a Community Benefits Plan (CBP) to help ensure broadly shared prosperity in the clean energy transition.

By **prioritizing community benefits**, we can ensure the next chapter in America's energy story is marked by greater justice, equity, security, and resilience.

Next Steps & Resources

Get Involved





For more information

- **For questions regarding ERA projects in Eastern Region**
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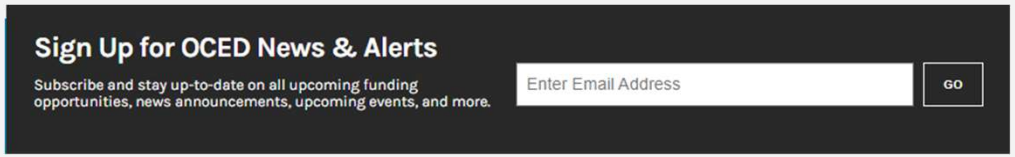
- **OCED Website & Newsletter Sign-up**
  energy.gov/oced
  Scroll to bottom to sign up here:



- **OCED Exchange (RFIs, NOIs, and FOAs)**
  oced-exchange.energy.gov
- **Follow us on LinkedIn**
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Resources

- **ERA Program**
  - OCED ERA Program Webpage
  - ERA Grant Selections for Award Negotiations | Department of Energy
  - Federal Energy Funding for Rural and Remote Areas: A Guide for Communities
  - Rural or Remote Areas Geospatial Dashboard
- **Justice40 Initiative**
  - https://www.energy.gov/diversity/justice40-initiative
- **Energy Justice Dashboard (BETA)**
  - https://energyjustice.egs.anl.gov/
- **Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool**
  - https://screeningtool.geoplatform.gov/en/#3/33.47/-97.5

Thank you!

OCED

Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations

For more information, please visit energy.gov/OCED