Community Microgrid Assistance Partnership

The Community Microgrid Assistance Partnership (C-MAP) supports microgrid development in electrically isolated communities, provides easy-to-access funding to plan or repair microgrid systems, and offers wraparound services to help participants succeed and share lessons learned.

Local Resources, Local Voices

Microgrids that generate power from renewable energy reduce the dependency on imported fuels, contributing to community self-sufficiency and resilience. These systems come in many forms, making project development difficult for individual communities. Participants in C-MAP will have a leading voice in the development of a new partnership that provides support and funding directly to communities as they look to develop a microgrid design that matches local renewable resources, needs, and priorities.

Communities can rely on their project coordinator and regional organizations for support services, whether that means workforce development for clean energy jobs, raising capital, planning for long-term sustainability, or other challenges they face in developing and maintaining microgrid systems.

Off-Grid Innovation

Remote, Indigenous, and isolated communities pay some of the highest prices for energy yet are vulnerable to more frequent disruptions in service due to aging infrastructure, natural disasters, volatile supply chains, and the impacts of climate change. Nonetheless, these conditions position rural communities to be at the forefront of implementing innovative microgrid solutions.

The technology demonstrations, modeling and analysis, and community-informed planning processes used in C-MAP will become the templates to scale and replicate these solutions in energy-burdened areas across the country. Program participants will join a sustained microgrid innovation network to facilitate knowledge sharing with other towns, states, and Tribes exploring similar systems, as well as the energy industry.

Children run along the boardwalk in the remote village of Kongiganak on Alaska's Yukon Kuskokwim Delta where wind energy and a battery storage system provide up to 100 percent of the community's electric needs. Photo by Amanda Byrd, Alaska Center for Energy and Power.

Partnership of experts → **Community solicitations** → **Wraparound support services**

How to Participate

The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Electricity (OE) opened a streamlined process for accepting competitive proposals from communities and the energy utilities that serve them. Communities can request support to design a microgrid system or to implement improvements or optimizations for existing microgrids.

The first request for proposals is open to Alaska, Hawaii, and Native Tribes, primarily in the Great Plains and Southwest.

The core of the program is a partnership of regional development agencies, community organizations, universities and educational programs, and national laboratories that are matched with participating communities and offer support beginning with the development of a project proposal suited to their conditions and goals.

About the Program

OE drives innovation to strengthen, improve, and transform the nation's electricity delivery system to reliably power homes, industry, and communities. The Office promotes microgrids as a core solution for increasing energy resilience and reliability, and as a driver of decarbonization. Decreasing microgrid capital costs and reducing project development, construction, and commissioning times is a strategic priority. By launching a microgrid community assistance program, OE created a vital collaboration space that benefits overburdened and electrically islanded communities, while accelerating broader microgrid research, development, and deployment.

Built on best practices for community engagement, C-MAP advances scalable microgrid solutions, increases confidence in renewable energy, and fosters technology innovation. ⚡

Learn More

Dan Ton manages the OE Microgrid R&D Program and is the OE lead for C-MAP.

For more information about C-MAP or joining the technical assistance partnership, contact cmap@nrel.gov or visit our website: www.energy.gov/c-map

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