

Grid Modernization

\$4.6 million is available in a new round of grant funding.

The available funding supports electric utilities in deploying grid modernization projects that facilitate integration of renewable energy sources, deployment of distributed energy resources, and sustainable microgrids. To support a wider array of the state's utilities, this round of funding provides support for earlier-stage pre-design and design activities for future capital projects.

Open to applications as of March 11, 2021, the new program guidelines in part respond to stakeholder feedback received during the Energy and Climate Policy Advisory Committee (ECPAC) process. **Applications must be received by 5 p.m. on June 15, 2021.**

Past Grants

Across three rounds of funding, Commerce has committed more than \$34 million to projects under the Grid Modernization program.

Early grant projects focused on different battery and energy storage systems, while more recent projects have encompassed solar + storage microgrid systems, load control technologies, and advanced thermal, electric, and hybrid battery storage technologies. These projects are testing use cases from frequency regulation to localized grid resiliency, and in some cases, are allowing for the deferral of expensive infrastructure upgrades.

One-pagers for completed and ongoing projects are available at commerce.wa.gov/gridmodernization



Grid
Modernization
grants will support
utilities across the
state in building
and integrating
new technologies
that support their
clean energy
transition plans.

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Benefits to Tribal communities and vulnerable populations are a key focus of the new round of funding.

Projects will receive priority if they benefit federally recognized Tribal governments, Tribal communities and vulnerable populations, and if they include a partnership with federally recognized Tribal governments or non-profit organizations serving Tribal communities or vulnerable populations.

Funding is available in two tracks, with each track representing a distinct phase of capital project deployment.

Track 1 - Predesign and early design

Approximately \$1.6 million available; grants up to \$150,000 each.

Track 1 projects target the following activities:

- Procure consulting and/or other services necessary to completing Track 1 activities
- Complete commercial and financial feasibility analysis
- Form project team and preliminary contractual relationships between partners, as well as preliminary commercial terms of the project
- Assess site, including constraints and opportunities
- Assess legal and environmental suitability
- Complete preliminary (10%) system technical design (technology assessment and selection, configuration)
- Complete preliminary project management and operations plan, budget and schedule

Track 2 - Detailed design and engineering

Approximately \$3 million available; grants up to \$500,000 each.

Track 2 projects target the following activities:

- Procure consulting and/or other services necessary to completing milestones starting in Track 2 and extending through project completion
- Conduct project valuation and investment planning
- Assess regulatory, legal and environmental suitability and financial viability
- Develop formal commercial terms/contractual relationships between project participants (project organization and operational control, legal and financial terms)
- Complete 30% Design Basis Memorandum and secure approval from all project partners
- Complete detailed plans for project construction, commissioning, and operations (including, but not limited to, procurement of equipment and services, operations, permitting and compliance, and project schedules)

Commerce cannot fund early stage concept development, project site acquisition or site selection activities or grant proposal development. More information on this round of funding, as well as examples of past projects, is available at commerce.wa.gov/gridmodernization.