

Increasing Energy Projects: A Pathway to Grid Modernization and Carbon Neutrality in Greater Chicago

AEG Chicago 23Q3 Stakeholder Challenge: Grid Modernization



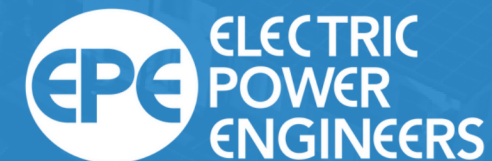
Hala N. Ballouz
President and CEO

What's the Problem?

The general problem we face is low adoption of clean energy projects. As outlined in Chicago's Climate Action Plan, implementation of DERs, energy efficiency programs and other energy projects are crucial for the city's transition to a clean energy future.



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The Challenge: Grid Modernization for a Clean Energy Future

A KEY CHALLENGE TO OVERCOME IN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS IS TO ENSURE THAT INCREASED ADOPTION OF DERS AND OTHER ENERGY PROJECTS ARE **EQUITABLE AND EFFICIENTLY INTEGRATED** INTO THE GRID.



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Benefits

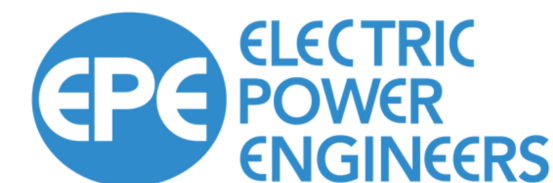
- Accelerate and enable DER and energy project adoption
- Allow for equitable savings spread across consumer base
- Improved community resilience
- Efficient energy delivery
- Improved grid reliability and resilience
- Reduced GHGs
- Assist in meeting local and State government goals

Consequences

- Disproportionate deployment of energy energy projects and DERs
- Lost opportunity to invest in community resilience
- Unanticipated negative impact on system reliability
- Stranded system asset investments
- Falling behind on climate and energy goals
- Lost opportunity on the local economic benefits of clean energy projects



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Final Statement: Increase Energy Projects Equitably

Regarding Grid Modernization, to achieve Greater Chicago's Carbon & Equity goals, a critical challenge to collectively overcome in the next 12 months is to develop a **plan for increased adoption of DERs and other energy projects** while ensuring that it has an **equitable distribution and impact** into the consumer base starting with **simplifying the interconnection and deployment** process for consumers within a **well-studied holistic and efficient grid resilience and reliability** roadmap.



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