

Communities LEAP Pilot

Local Energy Action Program

Informational Webinar

September 28, 2021



Housekeeping Matters

Sound check

- Using the questions feature, please let us know if you can **not** hear us.
- Because we expect a large group, we will keep attendees muted. Please use the questions feature for any questions or issues during the webinar.

Recording

- DOE is recording this webinar, which we will post on the [Communities LEAP website](#).
- If you do not wish to have your image recorded, please turn off your camera or participate by phone.

General Information

- We will only be discussing today information provided in the Communities LEAP Opportunity Announcement.
- This presentation summarizes the contents of the Opportunity Announcement. It has additional and important details.
- All applicants are **strongly encouraged to carefully read** the Opportunity Announcement and adhere to the stated submission requirements.
- There are no advantages or disadvantages to participating in the webinar with respect to the application evaluation process. Your participation is completely voluntary.
- If there are any inconsistencies between that document and this presentation or statements from DOE personnel, the Opportunity Announcement is the controlling document and applicants should rely on its language and seek clarification by submitting a question to communitiesleapinfo@hq.doe.gov.

Agenda

- **Competitive Technical Assistance Opportunity Description**
 - Background Information
 - Technical Assistance Structure
 - Communities of Interest and Eligibility
- **Submission Information and Application**
 - Dates, Deadlines, and Process Timeline
 - How to Apply
 - Registration
 - Application
 - Application Questions and Required Information
 - Evaluation Criteria
 - Other Selection Factors
- **Q&A**



Equity in Energy Transitions



The opportunities and potential benefits from the transition to net zero energy are compelling:

- Lower local air pollution
- Lower utility costs and energy burdens,
- Improved access to reliable energy
- Enhanced economic productivity
- New clean energy supply chain demonstration and manufacturing opportunities.

Many of these opportunities will create and sustain high quality jobs when coupled with strong labor standards.

Administration Priorities

Executive Order 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Under-served Communities Through the Federal Government

Justice40 Initiative

Executive Order 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad

Executive Order 14017: America's Supply Chains

Objectives

The pilot initiative aims to:

- Facilitate sustained community-wide economic empowerment through clean energy
- Improve local environmental conditions
- Open the way for other benefits primarily through DOE's clean energy deployment work

DOE will do this by:

- Recognizing each community's specific energy-related challenges and opportunities.
- Supporting community member and stakeholder leadership in designing and implementing actions to address those challenges and opportunities.
- Building toward long-term community economic and environmental change and a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable future.

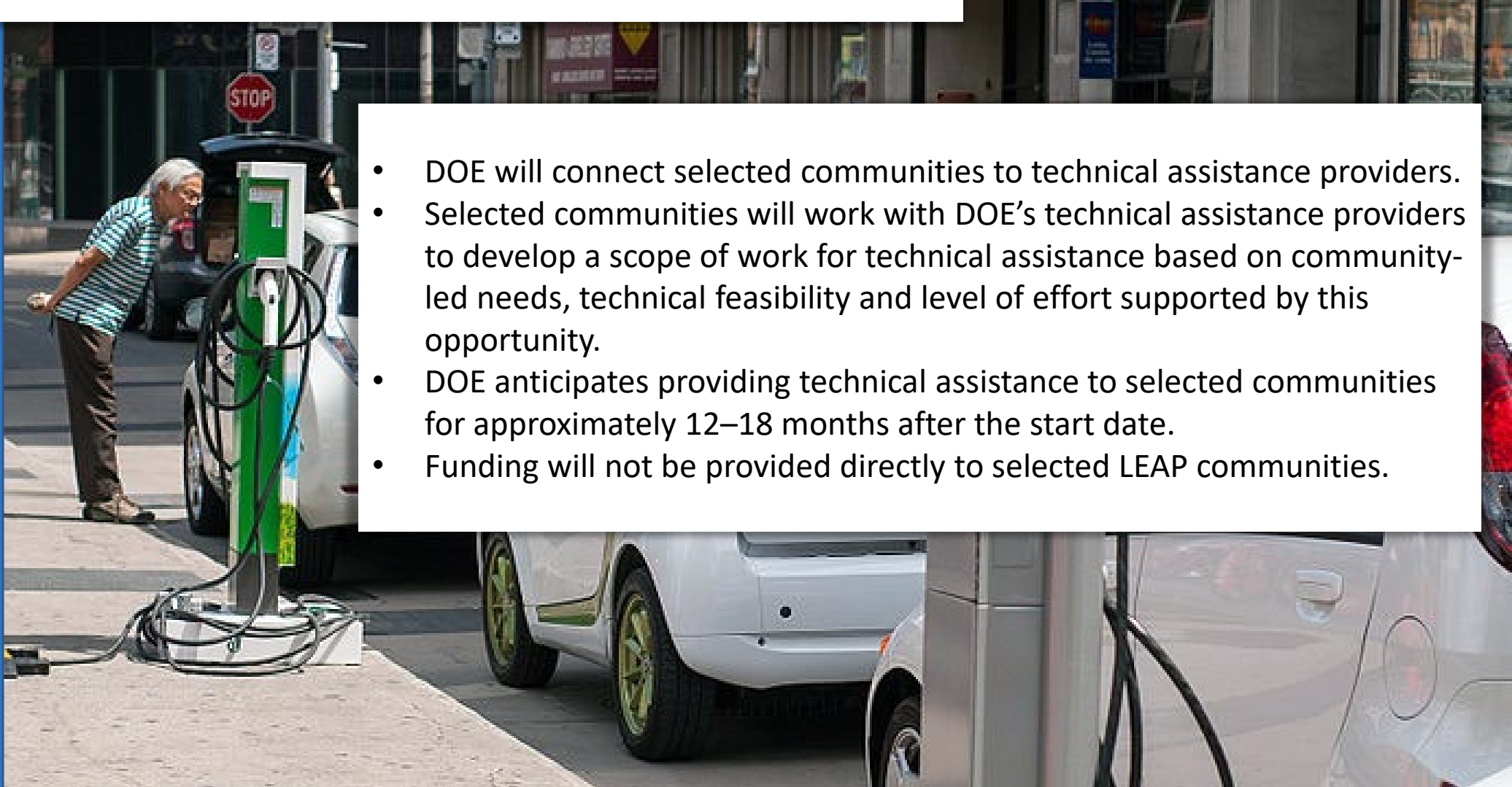


Technical Assistance



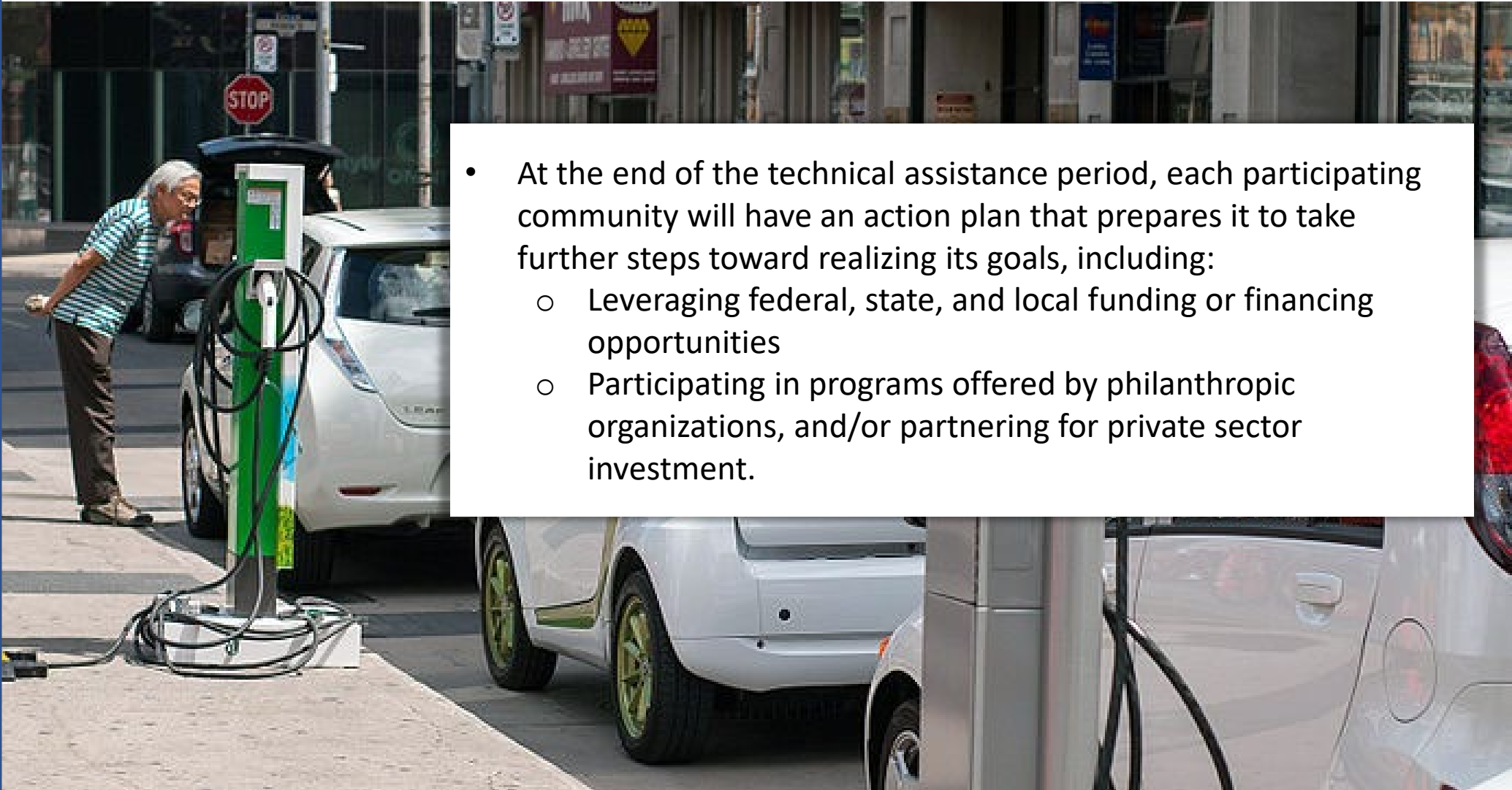
- “Technical assistance” refers to expertise and resources provided by DOE to selected communities, which can take the form of:
 - Deliverables (e.g., an action plan) and
 - Services (e.g., expert consultation)
- DOE will make additional expertise available as needed to support the success of selected communities depending on the specific skills and capabilities required for success.
- As the provider of technical assistance, DOE views its relationship with selected communities receiving the technical assistance as a committed and collaborative partnership.

Technical Assistance Structure cont.



- DOE will connect selected communities to technical assistance providers.
- Selected communities will work with DOE's technical assistance providers to develop a scope of work for technical assistance based on community-led needs, technical feasibility and level of effort supported by this opportunity.
- DOE anticipates providing technical assistance to selected communities for approximately 12–18 months after the start date.
- Funding will not be provided directly to selected LEAP communities.

Technical Assistance Structure cont.



- At the end of the technical assistance period, each participating community will have an action plan that prepares it to take further steps toward realizing its goals, including:
 - Leveraging federal, state, and local funding or financing opportunities
 - Participating in programs offered by philanthropic organizations, and/or partnering for private sector investment.

Two Tracks for Technical Assistance

LAUNCH

Communities may apply for technical assistance to support actions they see as necessary to develop a Community Roadmap.

Roadmap

At the end of the technical assistance period, each participating community will have a plan that prepares it to take further steps toward realizing its goals, including:

- Leveraging federal, state, and local funding or financing opportunities
- Participating in programs offered by philanthropic organizations, and/or partnering for private sector investment.

ACCELERATE

This track is for communities that already have an existing Roadmap or similar document that demonstrates a commitment to clean energy-related economic development.

Business, action or implementation plan

Seven Technical Assistance Pathways



Renewable Energy Planning and Development



Energy Efficient Buildings and Beneficial Electrification Planning and Investment



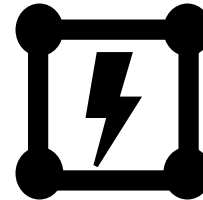
Clean Transportation Planning and Investment



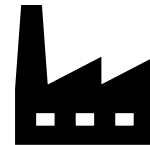
Carbon Capture and Storage



Energy Site Reclamation and Critical Minerals Processing



Community Resilience Microgrids



New or Enhanced Manufacturing

Technical Assistance Pathways

Launch and Accelerate Track communities may choose to pursue one or more pathways

- DOE encourages communities to explore integrated approaches to increase community benefits by
 - Combining pathways
 - Identifying opportunities that are in line with LEAP's objectives—beyond the specific examples in the opportunity announcement.

Each pathway will include an emphasis on developing

- Energy jobs and workforce skills
- Promoting minority-owned businesses
- Small- to mid-size businesses



Building a Plan

Communities will receive assistance to:

- Work together as a community to identify local clean energy objectives, core community assets, and data and resource requirements.
- Create a plan built on those objectives, strengths, and resources to bring economic and other benefits to the community.





Pathways: Renewable Energy Planning and Development

Clean, low carbon electricity and renewable energy sources can provide significant local economic, environmental, reliability, and other benefits and are major tools in the fight against the climate crisis. Renewable energy sources can provide electricity at lower costs than delivered fuels and can pair with energy storage to deliver reliable electricity without the emissions of legacy generators. Locally-sited resources can also provide greater local control of the energy supply.

Examples of goals for this pathway may include:

- Clean energy planning, such as
 - Community-wide climate action plan
 - 100% clean energy plan
- Community-scale renewable energy, including energy storage
- Geothermal
 - Direct-use geothermal heating and cooling
 - Binary cycle power plants
- Renewable energy for agriculture
 - Siting of renewable power
- Clean electricity access
 - Plan and design
 - Renewable power generation
 - Interconnection
 - Microgrids
 - Other infrastructure projects

Project designs, informed by community priorities, could include details such as project size and technologies, how to pay for new investments, and community roles in ownership or operation of the technologies.



Pathways: Energy Efficient Buildings and Beneficial Electrification Planning and Investment

Household energy is a top spending category for many Americans, and low-income households spend a larger portion on it—electricity, natural gas, and other heating fuels. This is often referred to as a household’s “energy burden.” A recent study found that low-income households’ energy burden is three times that of others, which can threaten their ability to pay for energy, and force tough choices between paying those bills or buying food, medicine, and other essentials.

Examples of goals for this pathway may include:

- A customized plan to:
 - Assess the current building stock and power supply
 - Identify building-related load management needs and opportunities for energy and cost savings,
 - Determine additional community priorities such as reducing energy bills for residents and businesses, increasing building and community resilience and sustainability, improving the health of indoor environments, and developing new workforce opportunities.
- Plans that may focus on projects such as:
 - Building efficiency
 - Demand flexibility
 - Distributed energy resources
 - Electrification solutions across different building types, such as:
 - Residential homes in neighborhoods
 - Multifamily and commercial public buildings
 - Privately-owned commercial buildings



Pathways: Clean Transportation Planning and Investment

Transportation accounts for about 30% of U.S. energy needs and is the largest source of GHG emissions in the energy sector. The average U.S. household spends more than 15% of its expenditures on transportation, making it the biggest expense for families after housing. This can be up to 30% for lower income households. Transportation is critical to the economy, from the movement of goods and people, to providing access to jobs, education, and healthcare. Cleaner, more affordable mobility options is a goal of many American communities.

This pathway may include projects that:

- Assess the local transportation system
- Identify community transportation needs
- Determine plan objectives, such as
 - Decarbonization
 - Air quality improvement
 - Community access to transportation
 - Workforce development
 - Increase in electric vehicle charging availability
 - Assessment of grid capacity for transportation electrification

Plans may include projects that implement:

- Alternative fuels
- Fuel-saving technologies and practices
- New mobility choices.



Pathways: Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS)

CCS is regarded as a key pathway for combatting the climate crisis by reducing CO₂ emissions from industries that together vent billions of tons every year—which accumulate and stay in the atmosphere for decades unless they can be avoided or captured and stored. Parts of the country have natural geologic formations for reliable CO₂ storage. CCS projects can help the United States meet its climate goals while improving conditions in communities. Recently enacted incentives support making CCS an economically viable option for some CO₂-emitting industries, which has created a surge in interest in CCS as part of a nationwide effort to transition to clean energy sources and low-carbon industries.

This pathway's goal may include projects that:

- Assist communities with evaluating whether CCS could be included in their long-term clean-energy and clean-manufacturing plans
- Develop a pre-feasibility study and Roadmap of a potential CCS project that would fulfill or partially fulfill that community's interest in transitioning to a clean energy economy with consideration of
 - Job creation/transition
 - Environmental justice issues and opportunities.

DOE's technical assistance providers will:

- Provide a high-level assessment of the potential community benefits of a commercial-scale CO₂ storage project from an energy, environmental, and economic standpoint
- Evaluate opportunities for federal and state incentives that can generate revenue.

Plans benefit to the community would be providing a pathway to decarbonize power or industrial emissions that could have a positive impact on human health and economic outcomes in the region.



Pathways: Energy Site Reclamation and Critical Minerals Processing

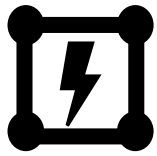
Energy-related activities have left a legacy of environmental impacts (e.g., mine tailings, ash piles, acid mine drainage (AMD)) in thousands of communities. In many, these sites have not been fully remediated and remain a potential environmental and economic threat. In some cases, these waste materials can become a valuable resource because they contain critical minerals, including rare earth elements, that could help pay for remediation, while producing valuable domestic resources to support the clean energy transition. Secure and resilient critical mineral supply chains need to be quadrupled by 2041 to enable growth in electric vehicles and other clean energy technologies.

This pathway's goal may include projects that:

- Assist communities with evaluating whether there is a significant concentration of rare earth elements or other critical minerals within their community or region to justify building a minerals processing facility to remediate the waste while separating and concentrating the valuable critical minerals.

DOE's technical assistance providers will work with the community to develop a pre-feasibility study for a potential critical minerals processing facility that:

- Evaluate the scale of the remediation and critical minerals extraction opportunity
- Assess the potential economic prospects of such a facility and related remediation activities
- Identify specific workforce needs and opportunities in pursuing this pathway



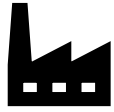
Pathways: Community Resilience Microgrids

A microgrid is a local energy grid with control capability, which means it can disconnect from the traditional grid and operate autonomously. A microgrid not only provides backup in case of emergencies, but can also cut costs, or connect to a local resource that is too small or unreliable for traditional grid use. A microgrid allows communities to be more energy independent and, in some cases, more environmentally friendly. Microgrids can support economic development and/or community resilience efforts by reducing the number and duration of outages, increasing power reliability and quality, supporting cost effective growth in a timely manner, and reducing energy costs.

This pathway's goal may include projects that:

- Assist communities with evaluating the suitability of microgrids for the community , including
 - Regulatory, technical, and financial barriers and opportunities
 - Potential location, size, and composition of a new microgrid
 - How best to match renewable energy and storage alongside conventional generation to meet a community's most important loads (such as electric, thermal, and water) at the lowest life cycle cost
 - Potential for a microgrid to provide power during outages.

DOE's technical assistance providers will work with the community to develop a plan that outlines a series of investments to meet a community-wide resilience goal, or locally-developed parameters for microgrid projects that provide environmental, economic and/or social benefits to the community.



Pathways: New or Enhanced Manufacturing

Manufacturing is a cornerstone of the U.S. economy; more than 240,000 manufacturing firms employ roughly 8.5% of the workforce and account for approximately 11% of the country's GDP. At the community level, U.S. manufacturing translates to substantial opportunities for economic growth and high-quality jobs, including for the 60% of Americans without a four-year college degree. Manufacturing jobs create multiple indirect jobs in other sectors like product and process engineering, design, operations and maintenance, transportation, testing and lab work, as well as in the payroll, accounting, and legal fields.

This pathway's goal may include projects that:

- Assist communities in developing and implementing a strategy to foster a strong, clean, and resilient local manufacturing ecosystem.
 - Resilient Manufacturing
Assessing competitiveness opportunities by identifying natural resources, existing local capabilities, and industrial infrastructure that would make communities well-suited for a role in the manufacturing supply chain.
 - Workforce Development
Evaluating education and workforce development resources to train a skilled local workforce.
 - Industrial Decarbonization and Pollution Prevention
Engaging with existing local manufacturing facilities on energy performance to lower emissions and reduce waste.

DOE's technical assistance providers will work with communities to tailor implementation strategies for approaches from existing DOE programs around efficiency, education, and technology adoption to serve the dual purposes of bolstering economic growth and increasing environmental quality through decarbonization.

Communities of Interest

- Communities in the United States—including tribal nations and territories—are eligible to apply under this competitive technical assistance opportunity if they meet the criteria here:
 - 30% of the community population is classified as low income AND
 - High or severe energy burden (median spending of household income on energy bills \geq 6%)
- As well as one of the following criteria:
 - Historical economic dependence on fossil fuel industrial facilities including extraction, processing, or refining. OR
 - Environmental justice communities as indicated by high exposure to energy-related environmental hazards, pollution, and toxicity from the siting of large-scale energy or industrial facilities, such as communities rated as moderate or high susceptibility on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's EJSCREEN tool.



Communities of Interest

- DOE is issued a revised Opportunity Announcement today.
- The revision adds information and a link to data on each of the eligibility criteria.
- While these data are provided at the census tract level, census tracts do not necessarily have the same physical boundaries as a community but were used as they provide the closest proxy based on publicly available information collected using an empirically robust method.
- U.S. territories are not listed but are eligible to apply to Communities LEAP.
- As stated in the Opportunity Announcement, applying communities should describe how they meet the eligibility criteria in their application even if these data do not specifically show that they are eligible.



Eligible Entities

Multi-stakeholder teams representing communities are eligible for this competitive technical assistance opportunity.

Community applicants in the form of multi-stakeholder teams must:

- Identify a lead organization to represent the team.
- Include a community-based organization with a demonstrated track record of working with community stakeholders.
 - This can be the same as the lead organization.
- Include at least one local, tribal, or territorial government entity.
 - This can be the same as the lead organization.
- Include entities and organizations that together have sufficient authority and influence to ensure overall success in applying the DOE-provided technical assistance within the community toward the community's goals and objectives.

Community multi-stakeholder teams are ***strongly encouraged*** to include a local economic development official.



Ineligible Entities and Applications Specifically Not of Interest

Ineligible entities for this opportunity:

- Individual persons
- Foreign entities
- Federally Funded Research and Development Centers (FFRDCs)

Members of the technical assistance provider network supported by DOE under this initiative are prohibited from applying or being members of an applying team.

Applications Specifically Not of Interest:

- Technology R&D or commercialization projects or programs.
- Applications for capital projects, including the purchase or installation of infrastructure or equipment.
- Public education, lobbying, or advocacy campaigns.
- Applications that are not focused on community-scale impacts.
- Applications from teams that do not represent the applying community.









Process Timeline



Registration

<https://netl.doe.gov/forms/DOE-Community-Based-Technical-Assistance-Opportunity>





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To register for the U.S. Department of Energy Communities LEAP Pilot Technical Assistance Opportunity, please complete and submit the following information. Registration is required to submit application for technical assistance.


[Back to Communities LEAP homepage](#)

Prime Applicant

First Name *

Last Name *

Lead Applicant's Organization *

Lead Applicant's Organization Type * - Select - 

Community Represented

Community name *



Application Questions and Required Information

The application must include:

- Summary information
- Information describing the applicant's energy and economic challenges and opportunities
- A description of the transformative impact of requested technical assistance
- Team composition
- Team Member Letters of Commitment

The opportunity announcement details each requirement.



Evaluation Criteria

Criterion 1: Technical Merit and Viability (20%)

Criterion 2: Community Capacity Building (25%)

Criterion 3: Multi-Stakeholder Team Composition and Capabilities (25%)

Criterion 4: Transformative Impact (30%)



Other Selection Factors

The Selection Official may consider the following unweighted program policy factors in determining which applications to select for technical assistance:

- Geographic and demographic diversity (e.g., rural versus urban, Southeast versus. Northwest).
- Extent to which the community represents minority populations.
- Presence of additional compounding stressors, such as:
 - Lack of access to clean energy resources, electricity, or reliable energy.
 - Vulnerability to severe weather and climate events.
 - A shrinking or slow-growing economy, especially within manufacturing-dominant communities.
- Diversity of Clean Energy-Related Economic Development pathways being pursued (aligned with DOE programmatic funding) and challenges being addressed (e.g., diversity of fossil energy reliance and energy and environmental challenges).



Get in Touch!

Website: <https://www.energy.gov/communitiesLEAP>

Email: CommunitiesLEAPInfo@hq.doe.gov

Office Hours coming soon for eligible applicants in November and December! Check the website for registration links.



Johanna Zetterberg
Office of Energy
Efficiency and
Renewable Energy



Alyse Taylor-Anyikire
Office of Policy

Questions?

- Use the Questions feature to ask us something now.
- Or email us anytime at CommunitiesLEAPInfo@hq.doe.gov



Website: <https://www.energy.gov/communitiesLEAP>

Background

Important Dates and Deadlines

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunity Announcement Issued• Comment Period Opens	September 15, 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Informational Webinar	September 28, 2021 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. ET
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comment Period Closes	October 12, 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final Opportunity Announcement Issued• Registration Period Opens	October 25, 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registration Period Closes	December 15, 2021 at 5 p.m. ET
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Application Deadline	December 17, 2021 at 5 p.m. ET
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expected Date for Selections	March 28, 2022

Background

Criterion 1: Technical Merit and Viability (20%)

- Extent to which the submission provides a clear description of how the community/ies meet the eligibility criteria in Section A.3 of the Communities LEAP Opportunity Announcement, “Eligible Communities.”
- Extent to which the community/ies clean energy and economic development challenges and opportunities are clearly articulated.
- Extent to which the submission clearly and convincingly demonstrates how the requested technical assistance can help the community/ies successfully address energy-related economic development objectives, challenges and opportunities beyond the current level of development or practice.



Criterion 2: Community Capacity Building (25%)

- Extent to which the submission directly includes key needs and preferences identified by the community/ies.
- Extent to which the proposed approach is likely to increase the community/ies ownership of and/or decision-making regarding elements of the energy system or economy that are the source of the stated challenges and opportunities.
- Extent to which the proposed approach is likely to build organizational and/or staff capacity to support the installation of clean energy technologies located in the community/ies, and/or support the community/ies participation in the clean energy economy.



Criterion 3: Multi-Stakeholder Team Composition and Capabilities (25%)

- Extent to which the community/ies members, organizations, or businesses are directly and substantively involved in project design and execution in a leadership role, either as team lead organization or as a member of the multi-stakeholder team with responsibility for a substantial share of project effort.
- Extent to which team (and partners providing letters of commitment) includes the necessary members, skills, and demonstrated track record for the community/ies to be successful, including entity/ies in a decision-making role.



Criterion 4: Transformation Impact (30%)

- Extent to which the proposed approach is likely to yield tangible and transformative economic and/or environmental benefits to the community/ies.
- Extent to which the application demonstrates that the DOE technical assistance will materially and substantially impact the outcome of the proposed effort and result in sustained positive impact to the community/ies.
- Extent to which project and project outcomes can be model approaches for other communities.

