



OCEd

Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations



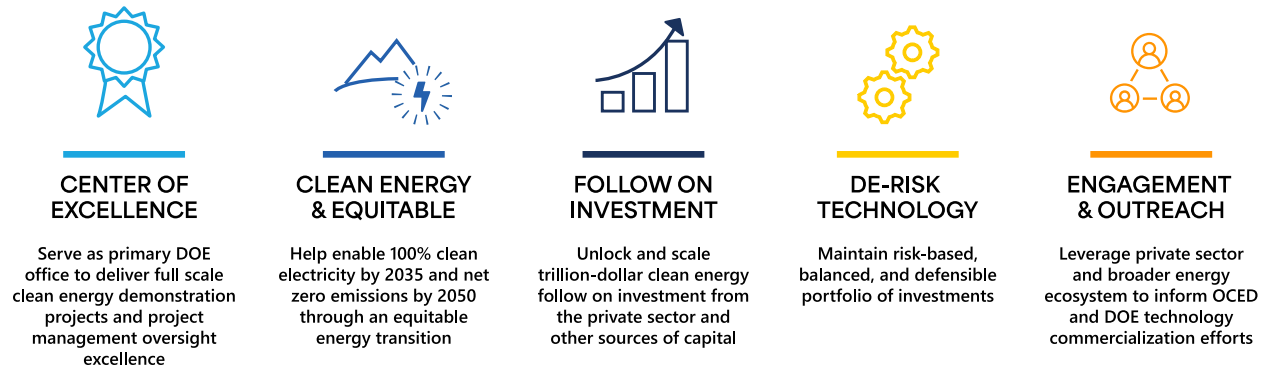
OFFICE OF

CLEAN ENERGY DEMONSTRATIONS

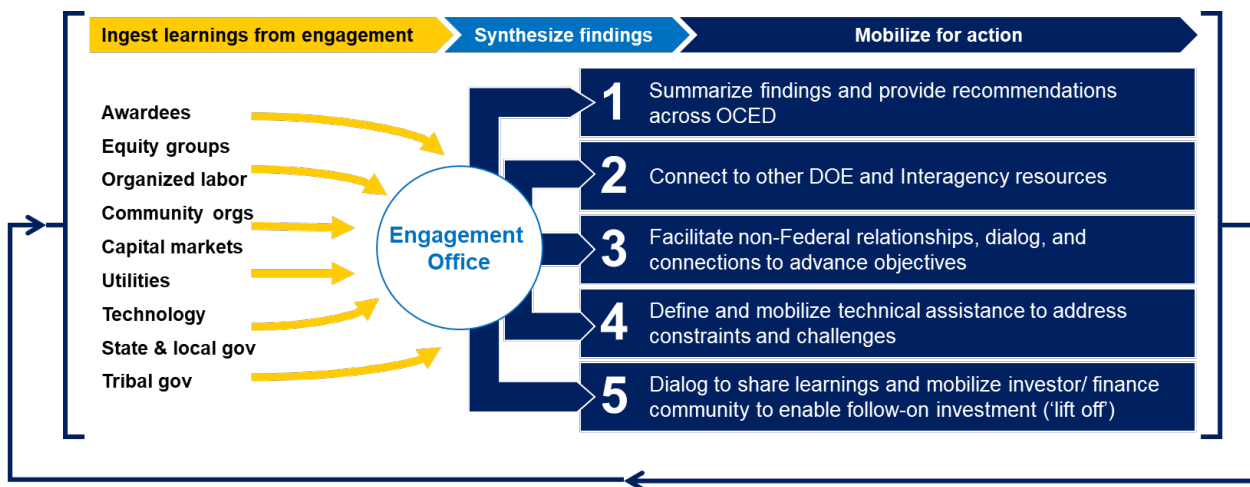
Engagement Strategy Summary

ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY


The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) was established in December 2021 through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) with a mission to deliver clean energy technology demonstration projects at scale in partnership with the private sector to accelerate deployment, market adoption, and the equitable transition to a decarbonized energy system. The Office has five mandates:



The OCED Engagement Office (EO) was formed with the recognition that a wide variety of external partners and stakeholders are critical to both the success of OCED’s demonstrations and broader commercialization objectives. EO integrates across OCED’s multi-technology portfolio, structuring outreach and engagement to help manage portfolio risk, increase direct and indirect program outcomes, and achieve scaling objectives. Engagement activities are designed to both proactively and passively ingest learnings and feedback from a diverse base of stakeholders, synthesize and share findings across OCED, and mobilize specific resources that can help to manage risk and deepen program outcomes and impact.



OCED engagement actions are designed to be comprehensive, purposeful, and actionable.

Comprehensive	Purposeful	Actionable
<p>Engagement is designed to be comprehensive of <u>OCED's mandate</u> and informed by cross-cutting approaches and practices that draw from leading practice for demonstrations, <u>Justice40</u>, and stakeholder and community engagement. Objectives are listed below.</p> 	<p>Engagement is designed to be purposeful with activities designed to reinforce and enable achievement of OCED's mission and mandate. The purpose of engagement activities varies but includes dissemination of information to stakeholders, collecting feedback and perspective, alignment of stakeholders, and understanding barriers, challenges, and constraints.</p>	<p>OCED focuses on actionable engagement that tangibly contributes to the OCED mission. This includes mobilization of resources – e.g., technical assistance, training, or financial support - to help communities, state and local governments, tribal organizations, and commercial organizations participate in OCED's programs.</p>
<p>Drawing on these, OCED identified five primary objectives for internal and external engagement:</p>		
1	<p>Build awareness of OCED's portfolio of programs and technologies; approach to demonstrations; and the progress made at the program and project levels. Commit to transparency in communication on approach and progress.</p>	
2	<p>Engage applicants, project performers, tribes, and impacted communities throughout the demonstration process to enable an equitable approach to implementation. Commit to fairness, clarity, and candor, to the maximum extent possible, in every demonstration phase.</p>	
3	<p>Consistently monitor progress of demonstration projects to identify risks to successful demonstration and recommend actions for greater impact.</p>	
4	<p>Amplify potential successful liftoff pathways by illuminating obstacles and challenges including those related to market rules and regulation, investment and commercialization, jobs and workforce, and equitable transitions. Engage decision makers to build momentum for scale.</p>	
5	<p>Leverage DOE, interagency, and other resources to deepen program impact and enable greater scale.</p>	

Each objective and its impact is described below.

OBJECTIVE 1: Build awareness of OCED's portfolio of programs and technologies, approach to demonstrations, and the progress made at the program and project levels. Commit to transparency in communication on approach and progress.



Communication will help build awareness of technologies that OCED is supporting, how commercialization objectives are being advanced, how supported technologies fit into the energy ecosystem, how the OCED approach is advancing technology adoption, and how projects are being delivered equitably and impacting job creation. Transparent communication will also serve to inform the public, OCED's partners, and interested stakeholders on progress, performance, and project impact.

OBJECTIVE 2: Engage applicants, project performers, tribes, and impacted communities throughout the demonstration process to enable an equitable approach to implementation. Commit to fairness, clarity, and candor, to the maximum extent possible, in every demonstration phase.



Engage with applicants and project performers. OCED is committed to candor and transparency in its interactions with applicants and project performers – from program design and application through construction and operation. Transparency in, and open communication on, OCED's approach, processes, rules, and requirements can support delivery of a high-quality and accessible demonstration portfolio.



Engage with communities and impacted stakeholders. OCED affirms the rights of communities to be part of decisions affecting their health, safety, and well-being. OCED is committed to broad engagement throughout the demonstration lifecycle – including the design, planning, and implementation of demonstrations – to ensure that community input is heard and considered for action, and that equity, energy, and environmental justice are integrated throughout OCED programs.



Engage with tribal nations and meet regulatory requirements. Engaging with American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal organizations is an important OCED responsibility. OCED tribal engagement accounts for both the Nation-to-Nation relationship with tribes, and the very different roles Tribal Nations and tribal energy organizations can play as project performers, recipients of training and technical assistance, or consulted parties.



Engage with Congress, and state and local governments. Coordinated engagement and communication with Congress and state and local government can help to build a clearer and more holistic view of OCED projects impacting specific constituencies, enhance cooperation to accelerate progress, and better understand concerns and issues related to OCED programs.

OBJECTIVE 3: Consistently monitor progress of demonstration projects to identify risks to successful demonstration and recommend actions for greater impact.



Sound program and portfolio performance, risk, and benefits management are critical to capturing value from OCED's investment. Engagement provides a lens into the performance of projects and the portfolio by aggregating and integrating the perspectives and experiences of a broad set of partners – including project performers, communities, investors, experts, and independent entities – to provide unvarnished insight into the state of the OCED portfolio. The insights generated by this broad engagement is integrated into OCED processes for risk and performance management, to alleviate market constraints, and to scale technologies beyond OCED funding.

OBJECTIVE 4: Amplify potential successful liftoff pathways by illuminating obstacles and challenges including those related to market rules and regulation, investment and commercialization, jobs and workforce, and equitable transitions. Engage decision makers to build momentum for scale.



Engage with the investor community, developers, and capital markets to encourage greater investment in demonstrated technologies. Private capital is central to unlocking the trillion-dollar scale follow-on investment that is central to OCED's mandate. The investor community, developers, and capital markets are crucial partners in advancing commercialization and scaling objectives, and OCED is committed to sharing insights and public project and market information to mature investment decisions and spur new investment.



Engage with permitting and regulatory stakeholders to alleviate market constraints. New technologies face evolving rules and regulations that can create challenges for development, deployment, and scaling of emerging technologies. By leveraging the experiences of our project performer partners, and our insights across energy technologies, DOE and OCED can help to improve broad understanding permitting and regulatory constraints, and mobilize appropriate resources to unlock progress and facilitate the potential for scaling.



Engage with the current and potential workforce to understand and meet commercialization demands. Demonstrated technologies will struggle to reach OCED's commercial scaling mandates without development, expansion, and repurposing of today's workforce to construct, operate, and maintain new energy assets. Implementation and scaling must also be viewed through a lens of sustainability and equity, with a focus on inclusive job development, local community economic impact, and access to quality jobs including an organized labor option. OCED's engagement activities will focus on understanding labor supply constraints and collaborating with workforce development organizations, labor unions, and others to address market trends and demands.

OBJECTIVE 5: Leverage DOE, interagency, and other resources to deepen program impact and enable greater scale.



The Department of Energy, its inter-agency partners, the national laboratories, states, and other entities offer a wealth of resources including training, technical assistance, financial support, technical knowledge, and other measures. OCED is committed to leveraging the full power of these resources to meaningfully accelerate program impact, better serve communities, improve project implementation, and advance scaling objectives. The Engagement Office will serve as a conduit for mobilizing these support measures, connecting demand to on-the-ground requirements.

Learn More

If you want to learn more, please email OCED@hq.doe.gov.



OCED

Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations

