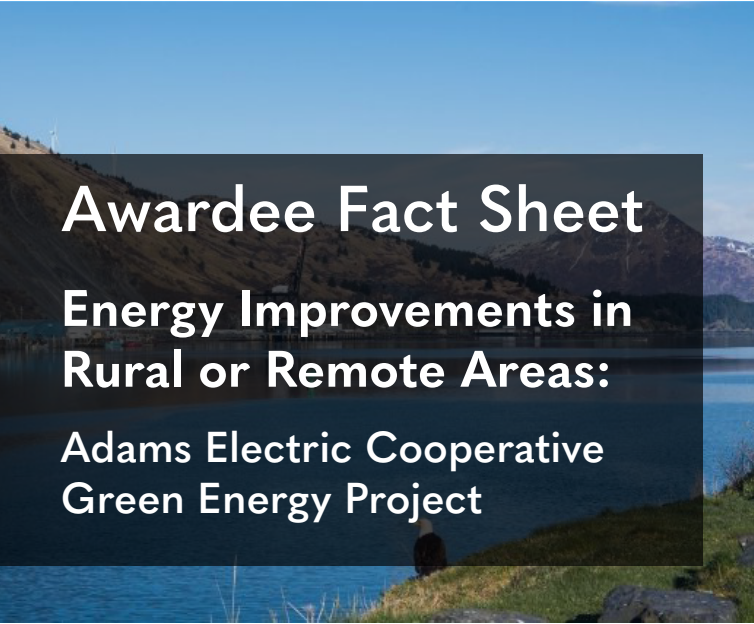




Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas — Adams Electric Cooperative Green Energy Project

The Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas (ERA) Program, managed by the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED), aims to fund community-driven energy projects that demonstrate clean energy systems, deliver measurable and sustained benefits to people who live in rural or remote areas, and build clean energy knowledge, capacity, and self-reliance throughout rural America. As part of the ERA Program's grant funding opportunity, OCED sought applications with a range of different technologies aimed to improve the resilience, reliability, and affordability of energy systems in communities across the country with 10,000 or fewer people. OCED selected 19 projects across 12 states and 13 tribal nations for a total of up to \$78 million in federal grant funding. In August 2024, OCED issued a grant award committing up to \$5 million to Adams Electric Cooperative for its Adams Electric Cooperative Green Energy Project, located in Schuyler County, IL.



Awardee Fact Sheet Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas: Adams Electric Cooperative Green Energy Project

Project at a Glance

- » **Total OCED Award Amount:** \$5,000,00
- » **Anticipated Duration:** 3 years
- » **Recipient:** Adams Electric Cooperative
- » **Project Locations:** Schuyler County, IL
- » **Start Date:** October 2024

About This Project

Adams Electric Cooperative (AEC) plans to install a 1 MW wind turbine and a 1 MW solar photovoltaic (solar PV) array to provide clean, renewable, and cost-effective electricity for the rural electric cooperative's approximately 7,500 members, including 1,264 members in Schuyler County. The project aims to reinvigorate disadvantaged communities affected by coal-mine closures and increase renewable energy generation in Illinois.

Once fully operational, the project is expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, decrease dependence on fossil fuels, increase energy resiliency, and help stabilize electricity rates. This project's wind and solar systems would directly benefit AEC members by stabilizing electricity rates and providing greater access to renewable energy sources.

Adams Electric Cooperative Green Energy Project

Project Fact Sheet

Project Site

The project would be in Schuyler County, IL, which includes residents that experience a high energy burden.

Community Benefits Commitments

Community benefits commitments are a key component of the Adams Electric Cooperative Green Energy Project. These commitments are informed and developed—in consultation with local communities—to maximize benefits and mitigate any potential negative impacts. The project team intends to implement these commitments through:

- Creating local economic development and job opportunities by **creating equal opportunities for local residents when contracting with construction firms and vendors.**
- Collaborating with local high schools, workforce development centers, and economic development groups to **support clean energy career education and training.**
- **Incorporating community input into project decision-making** through annual member meetings and advisory committee consultation, and sharing project information through open houses, educational events, and facility tours.

More details on the Adams Electric Cooperative Green Energy Project's community benefits commitments can be found in the [Community Benefits Commitments Fact Sheet](#).

Wind Turbine Site



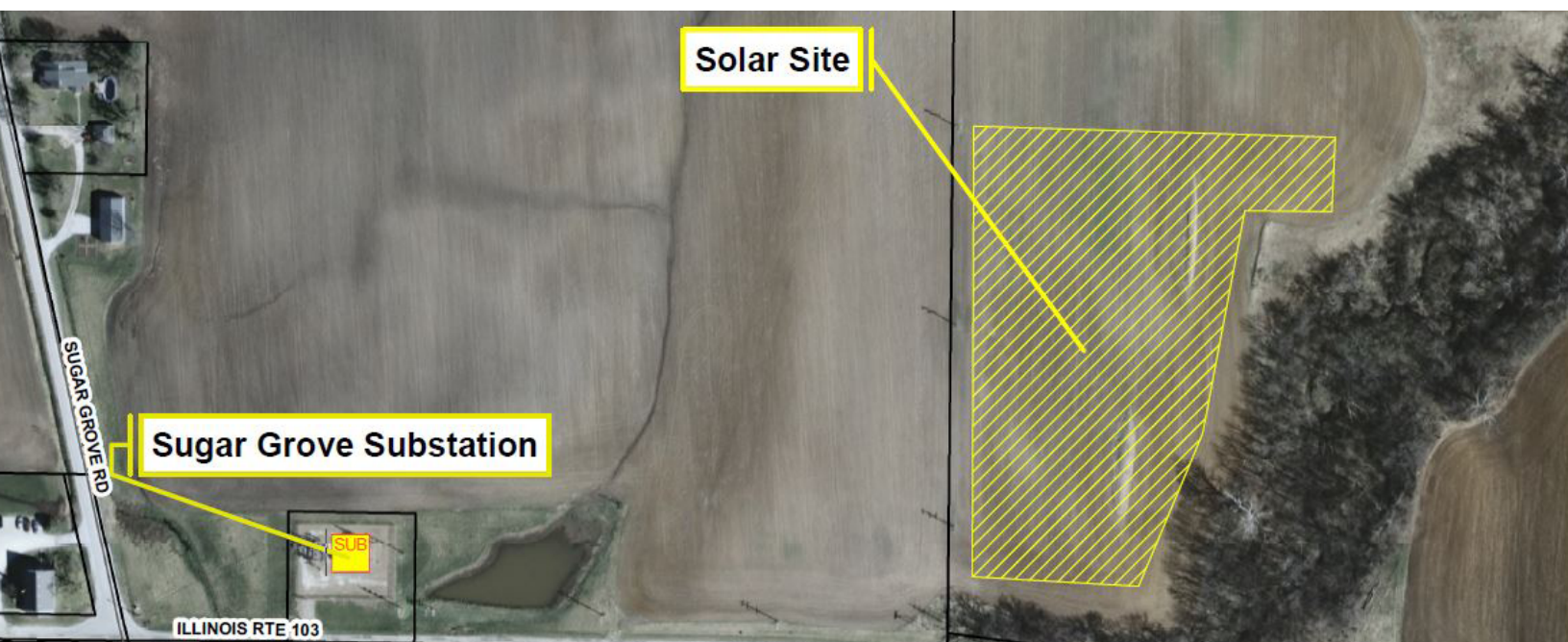
Planned wind turbine location about 1 mile from the planned solar location and the Sugar Grove Substation

Adams Electric Cooperative Green Energy Project

Project Fact Sheet

Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas Program Goals

Nearly one in six Americans live in rural or remote communities and face a unique set of energy challenges due to their smaller populations and isolation from larger electrical systems—including higher electric bills, unreliable energy supplies, and/or no access to electricity at all. The ERA Program aims to address these challenges by funding community-driven energy projects that demonstrate clean energy systems; deliver measurable and sustained benefits to people who live in rural or remote areas; and build clean energy knowledge, capacity, and self-reliance throughout rural America. This program will leverage DOE's expertise in resilient energy solutions while recognizing the unique environmental, cultural, and economic landscapes of rural and remote communities. The selected projects cover a range of clean energy technologies—from solar, battery storage systems and microgrids to hydropower, heat pumps, biomass, and electric vehicle charging infrastructure—to ensure new economic opportunities in every pocket of the nation.



Aerial view of the planned solar array location near the Sugar Grove Substation

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More Resources

Website: energy.gov/oced/era

Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations: energy.gov/oced



The U.S. Department of Energy established OCED to help scale the emerging technologies needed to tackle our most pressing climate challenges and achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. OCED's mission is to deliver clean energy demonstration projects at scale in partnership with the private sector to accelerate deployment, market adoption, and the equitable transition to a decarbonized energy system.