

# OPEN GOVERNMENT PLAN 4.0

**U.S. Department of Energy  
September 15, 2016**

## Table of Contents

<b>New and Expanded Initiatives:</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Section A: Open Data .....	<b>2</b>
<i>Energy Information Agency’s (EIA) U.S. Electric System Operating Data Tool</i> .....	2
<i>EIA releases new data add-on tool for Google Sheets</i> .....	3
<i>Orange Button</i> .....	4
Section B: Proactive Disclosure .....	<b>5</b>
Section C: Privacy .....	<b>5</b>
Section D: Whistleblower .....	<b>5</b>
Section E: Websites .....	<b>6</b>
ENERGY.GOV Platform Expansion .....	6
Section F: Open Innovation Methods .....	<b>7</b>
Open Data by Design .....	7
<i>Open-WARP (Open Wave Analysis and Response Program) Challenge</i> .....	7
Section G: Access to Scientific Data and Publications .....	<b>7</b>
Section H: Open Source Software.....	<b>9</b>
Section I: Spending Information.....	<b>10</b>
<b>Ongoing Initiatives:</b> .....	<b>10</b>
Section A: Participation in Transparency Initiatives .....	<b>10</b>
DATA.GOV.....	10
E-RULEMAKING.....	11
GRANTS.GOV .....	12
USAspending.GOV .....	12
CFDA.GOV .....	13
Section B: Public Notice .....	<b>13</b>
E-RULEMAKING.....	13
Section C: Records Management.....	<b>14</b>
Section D: Freedom of Information (FOIA) Requests.....	<b>15</b>
FOIA: A PRESUMPTION OF OPENNESS .....	15
Section E: Congressional Requests .....	<b>16</b>
Section F: Declassification.....	<b>16</b>
Section G: Public Participation .....	<b>17</b>
EIA Information Center: .....	17
OpenEI .....	17
Office of Science: .....	17
Section H: Collaboration .....	<b>17</b>
Section I: Flagship Initiatives.....	<b>18</b>
<b>CONCLUSION</b> .....	<b>21</b>

## New and Expanded Initiatives:

### Section A: Open Data

The Department of Energy focuses on using transformative science and technology solutions to enable its core mission to ensure America's security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental and nuclear challenges. Data is a key ingredient to this mission, which is why DOE supports the Open Data movement. DOE believes providing open access to energy data can accelerate the pace of scientific discovery and empower entrepreneurs to build new products and services. DOE is continually implementing new initiatives to increase access and use of its data.

DOE catalogs its public data assets in a standard format and makes them available via the Energy.Gov and Data.Gov websites. These datasets are collected from across the Department and its National Laboratories. DOE is dedicated to making these resources easier to find and has developed the Enterprise Data Inventory (EDI) and Public Data Listing (PDL). The EDI and PDL are similar, however, the PDL may contain redacted, nonpublic datasets. It is formatted into a JSON file and used to populate the Data.Gov website by harvesting the General Services Administration's (GSA) Data.Gov tool from Energy.Gov. The Department is continually updating this list. Some recently completed or ongoing initiatives are as follows:

#### ***Energy Information Agency's (EIA) U.S. Electric System Operating Data Tool***

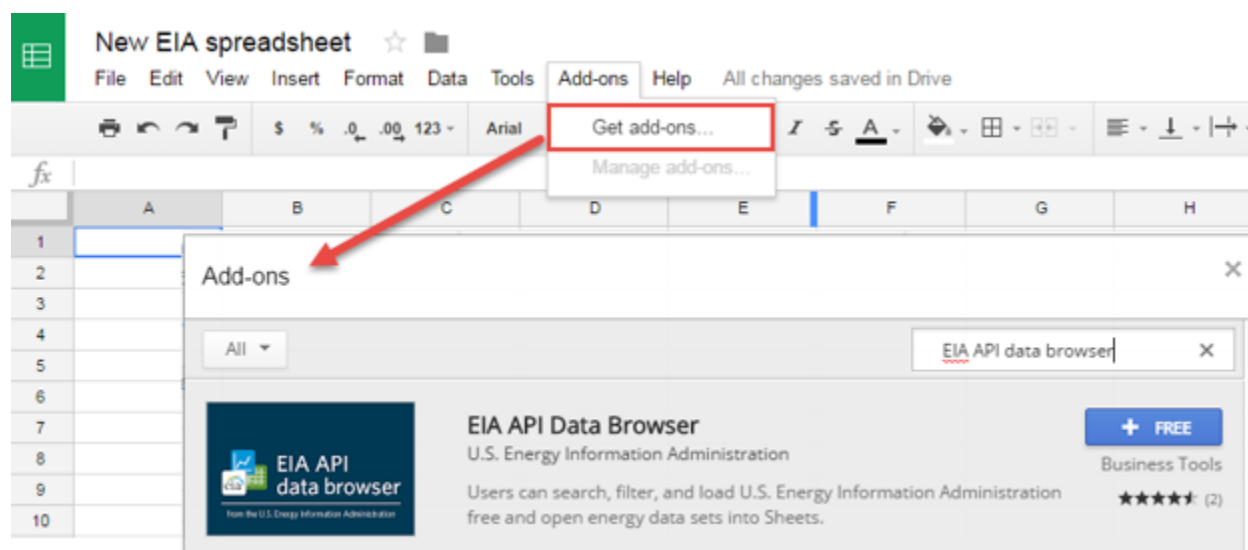
EIA has unveiled its [U.S. Electric System Operating Data Tool](#), which provides hourly electricity operating data, including actual and forecast demand, net generation, and the power flowing between electric systems. The tool features nearly real-time demand data, plus analysis and visualizations of hourly, daily, and weekly electricity supply, and demand on a national and regional levels which make up the U.S. electric grid. The EIA-930 survey, the first hourly data collection conducted by a Federal statistical agency, collects information directly from each interconnected electric system. EIA's U.S. Electric System Operating Data tool expands the availability of data to the 48 contiguous states, and makes it available in a consistent format from a single source. Among other applications, the data can be used to provide timely information on electric system recovery after power interruptions, and to help evaluate the effects of renewable energy, smart grid, and demand-response programs on power system operations. The data can also facilitate more informed analysis and policy decisions on national and regional levels. Using the tool, users can visualize and analyze:

- ☞ Total U.S. and regional electricity demand on an hourly basis
- ☞ The hourly flow of electricity between electric systems
- ☞ The wide variety in electric systems' daily demand and the seasonality of daily demand patterns
- ☞ The extent to which electric systems rely on internal and external sources of supply to meet their demand


- ☞ Potential stress on electric systems when actual demand significantly exceeds forecasted demand
- ☞ Total hourly flows of electricity with Canada and Mexico

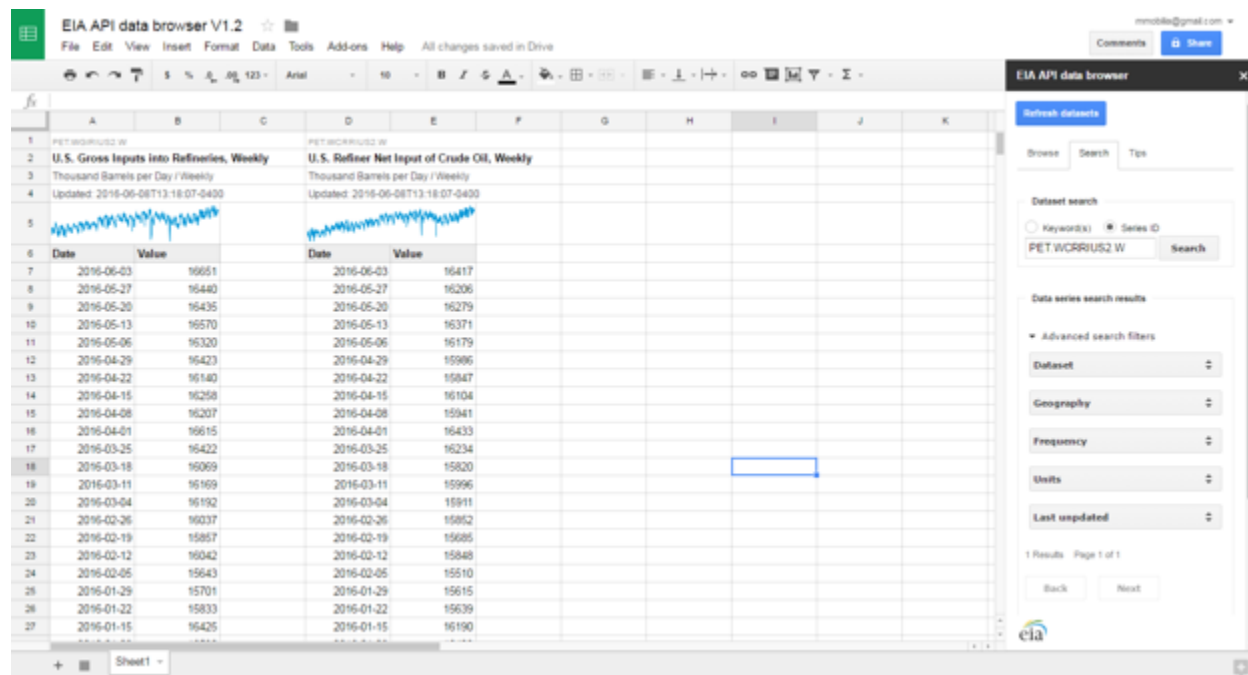
### ***EIA releases new data add-on tool for Google Sheets***

EIA has released a free software tool that allows users to directly import into Google Sheets the energy data available through the agency's application programming interface (API). Google Sheets is a free online spreadsheet alternative that can be accessed and shared from anywhere through a web browser or through a phone or tablet. EIA's Google Sheets add-on provides access to easily updateable energy data for users who do not use or may not have access to Excel. The Google Sheets add-on enables users to browse EIA's energy API data categories or search keywords to find domestic and international energy data for the production, consumption, and price of different fuels, as well as EIA's short-term forecasts and long-term projections.



The Google Sheets add-on represents EIA's latest step in DOE's continuing efforts to share more of its energy data in easily updated, customizable ways. Google sheets is a free online spreadsheet alternative that can be accessed and shared from anywhere through a web browser or through a phone or tablet app. EIA currently has 1.2 million data series available through its API, developed as part of EIA's open data program. The Excel add-in is popular with users of EIA data, with approximately 100,000 requests a month. EIA's Google Sheets add-on provides access to easily updateable energy data for users who do not use or may not have access to Excel. It is the first government add-on developed for Google Sheets, and was developed in coordination with Google to ensure compatibility and usability. The free add-on is available through the [Chrome Webstore](#). The Google Sheets add-on works like the Excel version. Users can find, search, browse, query, and automatically update data series, essentially

giving them access to any data EIA has available in the API. Throughout EIA's website, the  symbol is used to denote a link to a page with the series' API source key. A refresh button allows users to update all series within their spreadsheet to the latest EIA data with just one click. Both the Excel add-in and Google Sheets add-on provide one-click instant download of an entire time series. In addition, the Google Sheets add-on displays a spark-line chart to give users an instant preview of a data series over time.



### Orange Button

DOE National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) is participating in a new engagement effort called Orange Button. DOE Solar is partnering with industry on the development of data standards for solar data, see <http://www.orangebuttondata.org/>. Orange Button supports the creation and adoption of industry-led open data standards for rapid and seamless data exchange, across the solar value chain, from origination to decommissioning. Standardizing data allows for a reduction in soft costs--making it easier to share solar data and speed up processes, like financing. There are two main focuses for the data platform work. One is focused on translating data structures into standardized formats and the other is focused on connecting industry to the standardized data, which will enable improved access and advance the solar marketplace. Discovering and standardizing the most desired sets of solar data is the first priority. The Solar Data Translation Platform (SDTP) will be a cloud-based solution designed to translate disparate file formats and data structures into the community-led data standard. This work is being led by kWh Analytics. The goal of this platform is to lower the barriers to adoption and accelerate the use of the data standards. NREL is leading the development of the Solar Data Exchange Platform, which is a comprehensive catalog for solar data that connects

standardized data access to the solar industry in order to advance the solar marketplace. The platform will catalog data, provide links and federate data to external relevant websites, and provide metadata for data provenance and licensing. The goal of this platform is to successfully transition the platform to an industry stakeholder willing and capable of keeping the platform running indefinitely, enabling a marketplace for solar data exchanges, purchases, and connections. DOE is actively working with state governments, customers, utilities, financiers, solar companies, entrepreneurs, and other industry stakeholders to determine the needs and set data standards.

### **Section B: Proactive Disclosure**

DOE advances transparency, accountability and the presumption of openness through proactive disclosure of datasets via the Open Data initiative, its Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) library and its public affairs webpage. These initiatives enable the Department to provide the public with access to information that is frequently requested.

The Department's Open Data webpage is located at <http://energy.gov/data/open-energy-data>. This webpage enables the Department to promote efficiency and transparency, and provides innovators and the public with information in a readily available and useful format.

The Department's FOIA webpage is located at <http://energy.gov/management/office-management/operational-management/freedom-information-act>. It provides answers to questions about programs at the Department and provides information which is available to the public without submitting a FOIA request.

### **Section C: Privacy**

DOE, in alignment with the Open Government Directive, publishes the Department's Privacy Act Systems of Records, Privacy Impact Assessments, and DOE privacy policies on the DOE privacy website for access by the general public. Through this website, the public has access to a wide-range of information concerning the Department's Privacy Program, including how to access Privacy Act records. The website is located at <http://www.energy.gov/cio/office-chief-information-officer/services/guidance/privacy>. The Department remains strongly committed to providing useful privacy management information in the public domain. In addition, each year DOE reports privacy compliance in the Senior Agency Official for Privacy section of the Federal Information Security Management Act Report (FISMA) that is provided to the Office of Management and Budget, and Congress. DOE provides annual training to all employees on their responsibilities to protect personal information managed under their immediate control. DOE continues to evaluate new and more effective ways to prevent incidents that result in the compromise of personal information.

### **Section D: Whistleblower**

DOE is in full compliance with the Whistleblower Enhancement Protection Act of 2012 (WPEA). WPEA strengthens the protections for federal employees who disclose evidence of waste, fraud, or abuse which were previously protected under the Whistleblower Protection Act

(“WPA”). The purpose of these Acts is to protect federal employees and applicants for employment from retaliation in the form of an adverse personnel action, or threats to take an adverse personnel action by a federal agency when an employee or applicant has made any disclosure of information that he or she reasonably believes evidences a violation of law, rule or regulation; gross mismanagement; gross waste of funds; abuse of authority; or substantial and specific danger to public health or safety.

Employees are provided whistleblower protection guidance via email. In addition, employees are required to complete an annual WPEA training confirming they are aware of WPEA guidance and regulation. A link to the Office of Special Counsel’s Whistleblower Disclosure’s site is available on every page on [Energy.gov](http://Energy.gov).

### Section E: Websites

DOE was one of the first federal agencies to participate in Analytics.USA.Gov. Energy.Gov analytics are available to the public and can be viewed at <https://analytics.usa.gov/energy/>. The Department has encouraged participation in the program by:

- Providing step by step instructions on how to be Digital Analytics Program (DAP) compliant
- Coordinating conversations with GSA
- Reminding Offices of the important compliance deadlines
- Providing one-on-one support

The DOE Digital Strategy Report can be viewed at

<http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/2013/11/f5/digitalstrategy.html>

### ENERGY.GOV Platform Expansion

Over 95% of program and staff offices have moved onto the Energy.gov platform, and the last remaining office is preparing to migrate to the platform. Having a central platform has led to increased sharing of content, improved search engine optimization, and reduced duplication of work and effort. On average, Energy.Gov had 3.5 million page views each month during FY15. Additionally, this platform expansion initiative offers potential cost savings advantages by allowing offices to eliminate duplicative contracts for hosting, development, and technical support. Energy.Gov also allows DOE to easily comply with federal digital mandates by applying standards to one single site rather than across multiple sites. For example, maintaining Energy.Gov in compliance with [Digital Analytics Program \(DAP\)](#), enables compliance of any website being migrated or any new website. This eliminates the need for duplicate efforts. Prior to Energy.Gov consolidation, individual websites were hosted on numerous platforms and through numerous vendors. FedRamp-certified central cloud service has brought public-facing websites in the Department to a modern, uniform platform with 24-hour monitoring and guaranteed uptime.

Currently, [www.Energy.gov](http://www.Energy.gov) is going through a “Design Refresh” to:

- Increase user reach by making it easier to share content across offices
- Prepare the website for Drupal 8.0, including installation of the Paragraph module
- Add more flexibility to offices to brand and lay out their individual pages

- Add two new servers to meet anticipated future needs

## Section F: Open Innovation Methods

DOE continues to engage in activities designed to increase strategic use of open innovation to develop ideas and technologies which engage people and organizations in the private sector, nonprofit and academic communities.

### *Sun Shot Initiative*

DOE announced up to \$107 million in new projects and planned funding in order to support America's continued leadership in clean energy innovation through solar technology. Under the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's (EERE) SunShot Initiative, the Department will fund 40 projects with a total of \$42 million to improve photovoltaic performance, reliability, manufacturability, and to enable greater market penetration for solar technologies. In addition to the new projects announced today, the Department intends to make up to \$65 million in additional funding available for upcoming solar research and development projects to continue driving down the cost of solar energy and accelerating widespread national deployment.

<http://energy.gov/eere/articles/help-solve-solar-s-big-challenge>

### **Open Data by Design**

DOE launched three contests in its year-long American Energy Data Challenge initiative. During the third contest – called Open Data by Design – the public was challenged to create exciting new visualization designs that would make our open energy data resources more valuable and easily understood.

<http://energy.gov/data/articles/think-outside-box-during-our-open-data-design-contest>

### *Open-WARP (Open Wave Analysis and Response Program) Challenge*

DOE's Water Power Program held an Open-WARP (Open Wave Analysis and Response Program) Challenge. This innovative challenge brought together experts in data, business, and energy from academia and the public and private sectors to move the needle forward on water power.

<http://energy.gov/eere/water/articles/calling-all-coders-help-advance-americas-wave-power-industry>

## Section G: Access to Scientific Data and Publications

### *DOE Provides Access to Scientific Publications via DOE PAGES<sup>Beta</sup>*

Since DOE Open Government Plan 3.0 was issued, the Department has taken a series of historic steps to make scholarly scientific publications resulting from DOE research funding publicly accessible and searchable at no charge to readers.

On February 22, 2013, the Assistant to the President/Senior Advisor and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP), Dr. John Holdren, issued a



memorandum, "[Increasing Access to the Results of Federally Funded Scientific Research](#)," to all agency and department heads. The memorandum directed federal agencies with more than \$100 million in annual research and development to develop plans for increasing public access to peer-reviewed scientific publications and digital data resulting from federally funded research investments.

In July 2014, in response to the OSTP memorandum, the Department prepared and published the [DOE Public Access Plan](#), detailing the steps it would take to increase public access to scientific publications and to scientific data in digital formats.

In August 2014, pursuant to the plan, the Department launched a web-based portal, the DOE Public Access Gateway for Energy and Science<sup>Beta</sup> ([DOE PAGES<sup>Beta</sup>](#)), offering free public access to the best available full-text version of a DOE-affiliated scholarly publication DOE PAGES<sup>Beta</sup>, developed and maintained by the DOE Office of Scientific and Technical Information ([OSTI](#)), is a major transparency initiative. Through DOE PAGES<sup>Beta</sup> DOE is making publicly accessible the "gold standard" of scientific communication, peer-reviewed journal articles, or final accepted manuscripts.

In addition, DOE PAGES<sup>Beta</sup> entails significant collaborations. DOE OSTI is leveraging its long-established infrastructure for managing scientific and technical information as a means for collecting DOE-supported authors' accepted manuscripts. OSTI spearheads the [DOE Scientific and Technical Information Program](#), a collaboration of STI liaisons from DOE program, field, site, and procurement offices, National Laboratories, and research facilities working to ensure that the results of DOE-funded research and development are collected, disseminated, and preserved. Through the DOE STIP, accepted manuscripts are collected and submitted to OSTI via the corporate [DOE E-Link](#) STI's management system for dissemination on DOE PAGES<sup>Beta</sup>.

The DOE portal also integrates the public access efforts of publishers through a partnership with the publisher consortium CHORUS – the Clearinghouse for the Open Research of the United States. To complement its DOE-supplied content, DOE PAGES<sup>Beta</sup> ingests publishers-supplied metadata and links to DOE articles. Thus, when a publisher provides a publicly accessible article about DOE Research and Development (R&D) results, DOE PAGES<sup>Beta</sup> links to that article or provides access to the corresponding accepted manuscript.

When DOE PAGES<sup>Beta</sup> was launched in 2014, it contained an initial collection of accepted manuscripts and journal articles. Now, the portal contains 26,900 accepted manuscripts and journal articles, including 18,800 that are publicly accessible.

*SciTech Connect, Primary Repository for DOE Science, Technology, and Engineering Research Information, Continues to Grow*

[SciTech Connect](#) is a portal to publicly-available DOE-sponsored R&D results, including technical reports, bibliographic citations, journal articles, conference papers, books, multimedia, software, and data information, from the 1940s to today. Developed and launched by OSTI in

2013, SciTech Connect is the primary repository for DOE science, technology, and engineering research information.

SciTech Connect contains more than 70 years of scientific and technical information from DOE and its predecessor agencies, and employs an innovative semantic search tool enabling scientists, researchers, and the scientifically attentive public to retrieve relevant information. SciTech Connect searches the contents of [DOE PAGES<sup>Beta</sup>](#), [ScienceCinema](#), [DOEpatents](#), and [DOE Data Explorer](#). The collection continues to grow as new scientific and technical information resulting from DOE research becomes available. SciTech Connect has more than 2.85 million total records, including citations to 1.5 million journal articles, 990,000 of which have digital object identifiers linking to full-text articles on publishers' websites. SciTech Connect also has more than 427,000 full-text DOE-sponsored scientific and technical information documents.

#### *WorldWideScience.org Will Search U.S. and Other Governments' Public Access Portals*

DOE's OSTI developed and currently hosts [WorldWideScience.org](#), a global science gateway, which offers users the ability to simultaneously search over 100 scientific and technical information databases from more than 70 countries in real-time. Multilingual translations capabilities, are provided in ten languages, and information is available in a variety of formats, including text, multimedia, and data. The WorldWideScience Alliance, a strategic partnership comprised of national and international science agencies, libraries, and information centers, provides the governance structure for WorldWideScience.org. Through this initiative, DOE's research results are broadly disseminated to a global audience, which supports scientific collaboration and information exchange between DOE researchers and international colleagues.

As the public access movement continues to expand within the United States and other countries, the WorldWideScience Alliance envisions an important new role for WorldWideScience.org. Namely, it will be possible to offer aggregated, federated searching of public access resources and portals, allowing users to perform one-stop searching of publicly funded research from around the world. The [Department of Energy Public Access Gateway for Energy and Science \(DOE PAGES\)<sup>Beta</sup>](#) has already been added to WorldWideScience.org, and plans are underway to incorporate additional public access portals from other U.S. federal agencies in the coming months, as well as from other Alliance members and international partners.

## **Section H: Open Source Software**

**Open Source Software** DOE is committed to using open source software to manage websites and web content. Energy.Gov is running on Drupal/Github open source software. Over the past four years, DOE has consolidated more than 30 of its staff and program offices from separate websites to Energy.Gov -- the agency's central public-facing website. DOE is reviewing its'

libraries to evaluate what can be shared with the public as well as engaging other federal agencies that are using Drupal.

## **Section I: Spending Information**

The Digital Accountability and Transparency Act of 2014 (DATA Act; Pub. L. 113-101) requires agencies to provide quarterly submissions of financial and procurement data to Treasury for presentation on USASpending.Gov beginning in May 2017. The combination of agency financial and procurement data will provide a more comprehensive view of federal spending than is currently available on USASpending.Gov. These submissions meet our Open Government objectives of expanding public access to data resources, increasing transparency and enabling participation and collaboration with stakeholders, partners and the general public. DOE is currently developing data files to provide the expanded information for the first submission to Treasury by the May 2017 statutory deadline. While the DATA Act files will provide the public with a more complete view of DOE spending, DOE already has its own robust internal reporting and analysis tools that it uses to support agency management and decision-making processes. The DOE Integrated Data Warehouse (IDW) contains accounting, budget, and procurement data that are used by DOE headquarters and field offices, in combination with program data, to manage operations, assess program performance, monitor budget and procurement activity, identify budget requirements, and generate internal and external report.

## **Ongoing Initiatives:**

### **Section A: Participation in Transparency Initiatives**

#### **DATA.GOV**

Open data resources help businesses and consumers every day. For example, shoppers almost always look at the labels on light bulbs and the fuel efficiency stickers on new cars, both of which are derived from Department of Energy programs. Government weather reports feed into the daily management of every large solar and wind power plant in the country.

Energy.gov/data includes targeted features for different groups of data customers. For coders, this resource hub includes featured developer tools such as new Application Programming Interfaces (APIs). There are also features on popular open datasets and search tools which are valuable for students, regulators, and energy professionals. Government managers of open data, particularly those familiar with the Data.Gov platform, can take advantage of “federated search” capabilities by leveraging a growing data catalogue.

Finally, entrepreneurs and job creators can see exactly how open data is fueling economic growth and even contribute their own stories. The resource hub will continue to grow with the community it supports. Planned features include improving interoperability with other data platforms like Energy.data.Gov, openei.org and the National Library of Energy. There are updates from Energy Data Jams and the Energy Datapalooza. The content and capabilities will grow along with a portfolio of “agency.gov/data” sites which are being created by other Federal

agencies. Ultimately, the goals of this coordinated effort are to improve our level of customer service for open data as well to empower innovators to create and sustain valuable products which help all Americans.

### ***E-RULEMAKING***

DOE participates in the E-Rulemaking program in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency. E-Rulemaking is a Federal-wide E-Government program which operates the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) and the Regulations.gov website. Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Implementation Guidance, (M-03-18, August 1, 2003), for the E-Government Act of 2002, directed Federal Agencies to make their regulatory docket information accessible and searchable to the public using the Regulations.gov web site, the public facing side of the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS). FDMS meets specific strategies of making information more accessible; innovation in information management; and excellence in information services; the law; and to remove the institutional barriers which have made it extremely difficult for the public to navigate the vastness of federal regulatory activities. Through a customizable agency interface, FDMS provides DOE with the ability to manage docket materials through the use of role-based access controls; workflow and collaboration processes; creating/managing/revising content; comment management; and integrated COTS scanning solutions. Regulations.Gov serves as a trusted source of Federal information providing the public with easy one-stop access to all posted agency information. This access has revolutionized the way DOE writes rules, solicits comments, and collaborates with the public in its decision-making.

The DOE Open Data program has grown and progressed since the government-wide open data policy was published. DOE began with approximately 260 datasets and now has over 1,500 datasets, and over 4,200 downloadable URLs. With encouragement from OMB and the Open Data community, DOE's PDL is considered a Best Practice across the 24 participating Federal agencies.

DOE uses the GSA CKAN tool for cataloging its datasets, and takes advantage of any feature that becomes available, which can be used to improve collaboration and communication for increasing datasets on data.gov. Each Program and Staff Office has been given editor rights to their respective organizations so that they can manage their own datasets on an ongoing basis.

Data release procedures are located at <http://energy.gov/data/procedures-public-release-data>. DOE Orders 200.1A, 200.2, 241.1B, 243.1B, 471.1B, 471.3, 471.6, and 475.2B address various data issues and prescribe roles and responsibilities, see <https://www.directives.doe.gov/>. Each Program and Staff Office provides policies and guidance, generally posted on their websites, similar to the one on Energy.Gov which apply to the Department, at <http://energy.gov/about-us/web-policies>. DOE's Open Data progress is measured through OMB's Quarterly Integrated Data Collection (IDC) -- Open Data Progress, Use, and Impact process, which has aided the DOE's progress and improvement of its open data presence. For example, for the February

2016 IDC submission, OMB asked agencies to enrich their datasets by “Ensuring all public domain and open license information is properly documented.” DOE was able to pass this requirement, as well as others, to its internal dataset owning organizations and require them to fill in any gaps in the meta-data associated with each dataset. Progress on DOE’s Open Data performance is evaluated quarterly based on several Key Performance Indicators (KPI). The Open Data KPIs are numerous but, assist with enriching the quality of the datasets being published by DOE. The results of the quarterly evaluation are posted on the Project Open Data Dashboard at <http://labs.data.gov/dashboard/offices>. Following each quarterly evaluation, DOE meets with the OMB Open Data Examiner to discuss the scores DOE received. For the May 2016 evaluation, DOE was green in all Open Data categories: EDI, PDL, Public Engagement, Privacy & Security, Human Capital, and Use & Impact. In particular, all of DOE’s datasets contained the license/usage information pertaining to that dataset.

<http://www.eia.gov/opendata/> .

DOE has significantly increased the number of Application Programming Interfaces (API) to 182 since publication of its 2014 plan. In that plan, DOE highlighted a new initiative by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) to implement the EIA API, which can be viewed at <http://www.eia.gov/opendata/> . EIA also implemented datasets for the Annual Energy Outlook [https://www.eia.gov/forecasts/aeo/tables\\_ref.cfm](https://www.eia.gov/forecasts/aeo/tables_ref.cfm) , Short-Term Energy Outlook <http://www.eia.gov/forecasts/steo/> , and Monthly Energy Review <http://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/monthly/> , and the Bulk Download Facility <http://www.eia.gov/opendata/bulkfiles.cfm> , all of which are included in Data.Gov . By making EIA data available in these new formats, the creativity in the private, the non-profit, and the public sectors can be harnessed to find new ways to innovate and create value-added services powered by public data. Customers can download and process data releases in minutes.

### ***GRANTS.GOV***

Grants.gov provides a single website to find and apply for federal discretionary grants. Previously, grant processes varied widely across agencies and programs, resulting in a complicated, burdensome, and costly methodology for the public to find and apply for grants. Grants.Gov has streamlined the federal grants process. The Grants.gov system makes it faster, easier and more cost effective for grant applicants to electronically interact with federal agencies. The public can conduct grant opportunity research with improved search capabilities from a simple key word search to advanced searches over numerous grant opportunity categories. Grant opportunities can be sent directly to grant applicants’ desktops through custom search profiles; and potential applicants can be notified by email of future grant opportunities as they are posted.

### ***USAspending.GOV***

In May 2017, Treasury will launch the next generation of USAspending.gov which will include expanded data required by the Digital Accountability and Transparency Act. The combination of agency financial and procurement data will provide a more comprehensive view of federal

spending. The submission of this data meets our Open Government objectives of expanding public access to data resources, increasing transparency and enabling participation and collaboration with stakeholders, partners and the general public.

### **CFDA.GOV**

The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance is a government-wide compendium of Federal programs, projects, services, and activities that provide assistance or benefits to the American public. It contains financial and nonfinancial assistance programs administered by departments of the Federal government. The CFDA requires DOE to provide a variety of types of assistance. These types of assistance include:

Formula Grants - Allocations of money to States or their subdivisions in accordance with distribution formulas prescribed by law or administrative regulation, for activities of a continuing nature not confined to a specific project.

Project Grants - The funding, for fixed or known periods, of specific projects. Project grants can include fellowships, scholarships, research grants, training grants, traineeships, experimental and demonstration grants, evaluation grants, planning grants, technical assistance grants, survey grants, and construction grants.

Direct Loans - Financial assistance provided through the lending of Federal monies for a specific period of time, with a reasonable expectation of repayment. Such loans may or may not require the payment of interest.

Dissemination of Technical Information - Programs that provide for the publication and distribution of information or data of a specialized or technical nature frequently through clearinghouses or libraries. This does not include conventional public information services designed for general public consumption.

### **Section B: Public Notice**

The Department's proposed actions and method of informing the public about significant department activities and business are enabled in number of ways which include the following:

#### ***E-RULEMAKING***

The Department of Energy participates in the E-Rulemaking program in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency. E-Rulemaking is a Federal-wide E-Government program which operates the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS) and the Regulations.gov website. OMB Implementation Guidance, (M-03-18, August 1, 2003), for the E-Government Act of 2002, directed Federal Agencies to make their regulatory docket information accessible and searchable to the public using the Regulations.gov web site, the public facing side of the Federal Docket Management System (FDMS).

In addition to these methods of notifying and engaging the general public, the public is kept informed via the Department's vast social network presence:

Facebook	<a href="http://facebook.com/energygov">http://facebook.com/energygov</a>
Twitter	<a href="http://twitter.com/energy">http://twitter.com/energy</a>
YouTube	<a href="http://www.youtube.com/user/usdepartmentofenergy">http://www.youtube.com/user/usdepartmentofenergy</a>
Flickr	<a href="http://www.flickr.com/photos/departmentofenergy/">http://www.flickr.com/photos/departmentofenergy/</a>
Google+	<a href="http://plus.google.com/+EnergyGov/">http://plus.google.com/+EnergyGov/</a>
Pinterest	<a href="http://www.pinterest.com/energy/">http://www.pinterest.com/energy/</a>
Instagram	<a href="http://instagram.com/energy">http://instagram.com/energy</a>
Storify	<a href="http://storify.com/energy">http://storify.com/energy</a>

### Section C: Records Management

DOE adheres to and follows the records management requirements and guidelines as defined under 44 U.S.C. Chapters 29, 31, 33, and 36 CFR 12 Subchapter B. Additionally, pursuant to the “Memorandum on Managing Government Records” and the supporting “Managing Government Records Directive,” DOE plans to comply with the management of email records in an electronic format by December 31st, 2016. DOE has accepted the Capstone approach and is adopting the General Records Schedule (GRS) 6.1. The Department is on track to meet the requirements to manage permanent records in an electronic format by December 2019.

The Department recently launched a project to increase the scheduling of records contained within the Electronic Information Systems (EIS). DOE is also tracking new trends in technology including solutions to manage text messages, instant messages, and social media records.

- 44 USC 29, 31, 33: <https://www.archives.gov/about/laws/>
- 36 CFR 12 Subchapter B: <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/36/chapter-XII/subchapter-B>
- Managing Government Records Directive: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/2012/m-12-18.pdf>
- Memorandum on Managing Government Records: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/11/28/presidential-memorandum-managing-government-records>
- DOE Records Management (energy.gov): <http://energy.gov/cio/office-chief-information-officer/services/guidance/records-management>
- DOE Records Management (PowerPedia): [https://powerpedia.energy.gov/wiki/Records\\_management](https://powerpedia.energy.gov/wiki/Records_management)



## Section D: Freedom of Information (FOIA) Requests

### FOIA: A PRESUMPTION OF OPENNESS

Federal guidelines direct all executive branch departments and agencies to apply a presumption of openness when administering the FOIA and to have in place effective systems for responding to FOIA requests is the responsibility of everyone in each agency, and in order to improve FOIA performance, agencies must address the key roles played by a broad range of personnel who work with each agency's FOIA professionals. The Department of Energy's FOIA Program is administered by the Office of Management. The Director, Office of Management, is the Chief FOIA Officer for the Department. The FOIA Program is managed by the Headquarters FOIA Officer with a staff of Departmental specialists who provide agency-wide policy, guidance, and training for all employees with FOIA responsibilities. In addition, each DOE Program and Headquarters staff office has a designated FOIA Coordinator that facilitates searches and reviews of records. FOIA Coordinators consult with subject-matter-experts in their offices and Attorneys in the Office of the General Counsel to prepare the written responses to FOIA requesters. A FOIA Officer is designated for each DOE Field Office and is responsible for processing requests for records under the jurisdiction of the Field Office. The staffs of the Headquarters FOIA Program and most Field FOIA Programs include full-time FOIA Specialists. The Department continues to work diligently to improve its FOIA performance and to integrate a presumption of openness. The Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) in tandem with the FOIA Office and the Office of General Counsel (GC) continue to conduct trainings via conference calls for the field and Headquarters (HQ). The training sessions cover a broad area of topics such as FOIA exemptions, agency records vs. personal records, scoping, and fee categories. The FOIA Office also conducts periodic conference calls with field personnel to discuss FOIA issues and developments. The HQ FOIA Office also conducts individual training sessions for various HQ program offices and staff that were new to processing requests. The number of attendees and topics of the sessions vary according to the needs of the office. The FOIA Officers and offices continue to routinely reach out to requesters from all communities to discuss FOIA requests in general. Our communication consists of clarifying and narrowing requests to reduce processing fees and processing time. Moreover, we discuss the status of pending cases and other issues that enable us to process requests more efficiently. At times, communications include the subject matter experts (SMEs) for the records requested. They have specialized insight into the technical aspects the records which facilitate a more productive discussion. Open communication with the requester is a practice which has been, and continues to be, encouraged as way to keep the requester apprised of our ongoing processing efforts. On multiple occasions, we work with the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to foster better communication with various requesters. We also actively participate in American Society of Access Professionals (ASAP) meetings which allow us to interact with the requester community. The Department continues to maintain display posters regarding FOIA responsibility.

To ensure that the agency remains committed to the President's agenda, the Secretary of Energy issued a new memorandum for Heads of all DOE elements regarding the FOIA program on August 27, 2013, and it can be found at



<http://www.energy.gov/management/downloads/memorandum-secretary-moniz-freedom-information-act-foia>

This memorandum discussed his full support of the President's commitment to open government and transparency. He encouraged the improvement of response times to FOIA requests and to closing longstanding requests. He also declared his expectation that DOE's senior leaders continue to support the President's guidance regarding transparency and to make certain that FOIA requests are responded to in an expeditious manner.

Training calls assist in ensuring FOIA professionals are trained and updated on current procedures. We continue to educate offices on how to conduct searches. We believe this will help to decrease the time it takes record holders to conduct searches. The public can submit their FOIA requests to DOE through an online electronic form on the public DOE web site at <http://www.energy.gov/management/office-management/operational-management/freedom-information-act>.

The process for submitting and tracking requests is described on the electronic form page. To access contact information for FOIA Requester Service Centers, Public Liaisons and Officers at DOE Headquarters, field offices, power administrations and national labs, please visit DOE FOIA Contacts page

<http://www.energy.gov/management/office-management/operational-management/freedom-information-act/foia-contacts>.

The Annual FOIA Report (including staffing information) and the Chief FOIA Officer Report can be found at

<http://www.energy.gov/management/office-management/operational-management/freedom-information-act/documents/annual-reports>.

### **Section E: Congressional Requests**

DOE's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs (CI) is tasked with overseeing and maintaining the Department's relationships with government entities and stakeholders. Through diligent usage of available platforms, CI keeps all appropriate Congressional committees, governmental organizations and other impacted stakeholders apprised of the Department's activities. The CI responsibilities and functions are discussed on its [website](#).

### **Section F: Declassification**

DOE recently completed two significant declassification efforts (the Manhattan District History and release of Hearing Transcripts) and has made the newly released documents publicly available on the OpenNet database.

In July 2014, DOE released to the public the [Manhattan District History](#), a multi-volume classified history of the Manhattan Project. Commissioned in late 1944 by General Leslie Groves, the history was "intended to describe, in simple terms, easily understood by the average reader, just what the Manhattan District did, and how, when, and where."

In October 2014, DOE also released [the full transcript of hearings](#) held by the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) in the spring of 1954 on Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, who built and directed the Los Alamos National Laboratory in the Manhattan Project effort to develop the atomic bomb during World War II. The hearings were held as a result of concerns that Oppenheimer had connections to communists and might have been an agent of the Soviet Union.

## Section G: Public Participation

DOE has implemented various feedback mechanisms at the Departmental, Program and Staff Office Levels. Some of the methods of public notification are highlighted, as follows.

**EIA Information Center:** EIA responds to an average of 10,000 customer inquiries per year through its Information Center. Customers are provided with customized responses to information and data requests, assistance with explanation and interpretation of data and conversions, referrals to EIA experts for in-depth data and information requirements, and referrals to other DOE and Federal agencies, state agencies, and trade associations as appropriate. These services are available via email at [InfoCtr@eia.gov](mailto:InfoCtr@eia.gov), with an average response time of one business day.

### OpenEI

**[OpenEI Wiki](#):** Linked energy information on datasets, engaging the public because all stakeholders can create an account to add/edit Wiki content on energy.

**[OpenEI Datasets](#):** OpenEI is populated with DOE generated datasets, but any users with an OpenEI account can also add new datasets to share on OpenEI.

**[OpenEI Community](#):** Active discussions and collaboration on energy data initiatives and information on hundreds of topics crowdsourced from industry and government agencies.

**Office of Science:** The Office of Science provides communication mechanisms and links to its repositories and social networks, which are discussed at <http://science.energy.gov/about/sti/>.

## Section H: Collaboration

DOE utilizes various technology platforms to improve collaboration internally and externally.

### *New DOE Data ID Service Microsite Helps Increase Access to Scientific Research Data*

In November 2015, to increase the DOI registration service's visibility and utility, OSTI launched a new [DOE Data ID Service microsite](#). The site provides information on how the DOE Data ID Service came into existence, the benefits of registering datasets for DOIs, and a full explanation of how the registration process works.

Through the DOE Data ID Service, OSTI assigns DOIs to datasets submitted by DOE and its contractor or grantee researchers and registers the DOIs with DataCite to aid in citation, discovery, and retrieval. OSTI is an active member of DataCite, an international organization

that supports data visibility, ease of data citation in scholarly publications, data preservation, and future re-use, data access and retrievability.

The Data ID Service is a useful tool for increasing access to digital data, as the [DOE Public Access Plan](#) noted: "The Department's Office of Scientific and Technical Information can provide digital object identifiers to datasets resulting from DOE-funded research. To improve the discoverability of and attribution for datasets created and used in the course of the research, DOE encourages the citation and identification of datasets with persistent identifiers such as DOIs."

The DOE Data ID Service is available to DOE lab and grantee researchers, and it accommodates both manual and automatic submissions. OSTI provides this free data registration service to enhance DOE's management of this important resource. OSTI, the only U.S. government member of DataCite, also can assign DOIs to other federal agencies' datasets on a cost-reimbursable basis

Additionally, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Outreach (EERE) holds water power events such as those described on <http://energy.gov/eere/water/calendars/water-power-events> and reaches out to groups via <http://en.openei.org/community/group/openei-community-central>.

## Section I: Flagship Initiatives

The Department is committed to making energy information and data more accessible, understandable, relevant, and responsive to user needs. EIA's API provides access to more than 1.6 million data series available through:

- RESTful web services
- Bulk data files
- Widgets that embed interactive visualizations of EIA data on any website
- An Excel add-in
- An add-on tool for Google Sheets

To date, 8,381 API keys have been issued and more than 15 million calls for data were made to the API in July 2016.

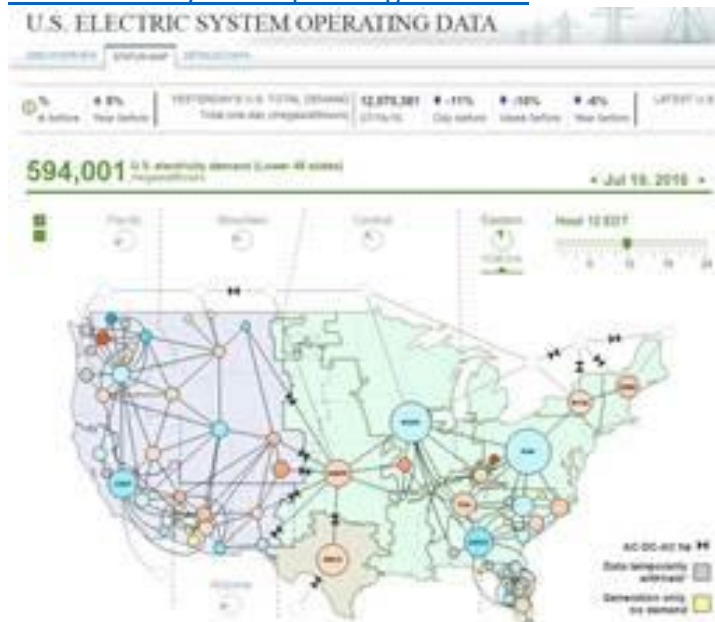
Currently, EIA's API contains the following main data sets:

- Hourly electricity operating data, including actual and forecast demand, net generation, and the power flowing between electric systems
- 408,000 electricity series organized into 29,000 categories
- 30,000 State Energy Data System series organized into 600 categories
- 115,052 petroleum series and associated categories
- 34,790 U.S. crude imports series and associated categories

- 11,989 natural gas series and associated categories
- 132,331 coal series and associated categories
- 3,872 Short-Term Energy Outlook series and associated categories
- 368,466 Annual Energy Outlook series and associated categories
- 92,836 International energy series

EIA achieved the following milestones since DOE issued its last Open Government Plan. This is only a representation of the phenomenal advancements EIA has accomplished since OGP 3.0. For additional information, please visit: [Learn more about EIA's open data program.](#)

1. [U.S. Electric System Operating Data tool](#)



2. [Canada, Mexico, United States Launch North American Cooperation on Energy Information Site](#)

English | Español | Français

## North American Cooperation on Energy Information (NACEI)



The Energy Secretaries and Minister from Canada, Mexico, and the United States initiated a framework for trilateral consultation and sharing of energy information for the North American region in December 2014. A robust collaboration effort was launched to:

- improve respective energy import and export data
- share publicly available geospatial information related to energy infrastructure
- exchange views and projections on cross-border energy flows
- develop a cross reference for terminology, concepts, and definitions

Information, including data and maps, is available at the following links:



Mexico



United States



Canada

### 3. [International Energy Portal](#)



#### 4. [U.S. Crude Oil Import Tracking Tool](#)

##### U.S. crude oil import tracking tool



## CONCLUSION

DOE recognizes transparency, partnership and collaboration are critical to the success of the Department and the nation. The Department will continue employing these principles in our strategic planning and operations with the assistance of the American people. Learn more about Open Government at <http://www.energy.gov/open>. Your recommendations on how DOE can improve its Open Government Plan and initiatives are welcome at [open@hq.doe.gov](mailto:open@hq.doe.gov).