



# e-Lab Accelerator 2022

Call for Project Teams  
January - February 2022



# e-Lab facilitates collaborative processes to develop the ideas, people, pilots, and solutions that will transform the electricity system



Accelerator is an invitation-only, highly immersive workshop experience where dedicated RMI facilitators guide stakeholders through complex challenges to co-create innovative and realistic pathways forward.

## Accelerator 2022 Objectives:

# 01

Critically advance project teams that have the potential for transforming the electricity system to one that is clean, reliable, affordable, and equitable.

Customize structured agendas to meet the unique needs of each project team

# 02

Grow the capacity of individuals and teams to succeed in their project goals.

Provide skills clinics and learning sessions, guide teams in learning by doing

# 03

Build lasting and collaborative relationships required to accelerate change.

Embed moments for connection and cross-team learning as teams work alongside each other

# The e-Lab Convening Approach

- **Craft the objectives**

- Understand the “why”
- Conduct needs assessments
- Develop the required content

- **Design a process**

- Allow for diverse perspectives to be heard
- Nurture Innovation through the recombination of existing ideas, networks, and technologies

- **Create the “container”**

- Create opportunities for collaboration and innovation through trust
- Foster connections to engage and inspire



# Outputs of collaborative innovation

- New framework or organizing principle
- Ideas for a new model or mechanism
- Locating the “innovation edge”
- Ideas for action
- Design of the test or pilot

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- Determination of common ground
- Increased capacity to work together
- Alliances or friendships to draw on
- Buy-in and commitment

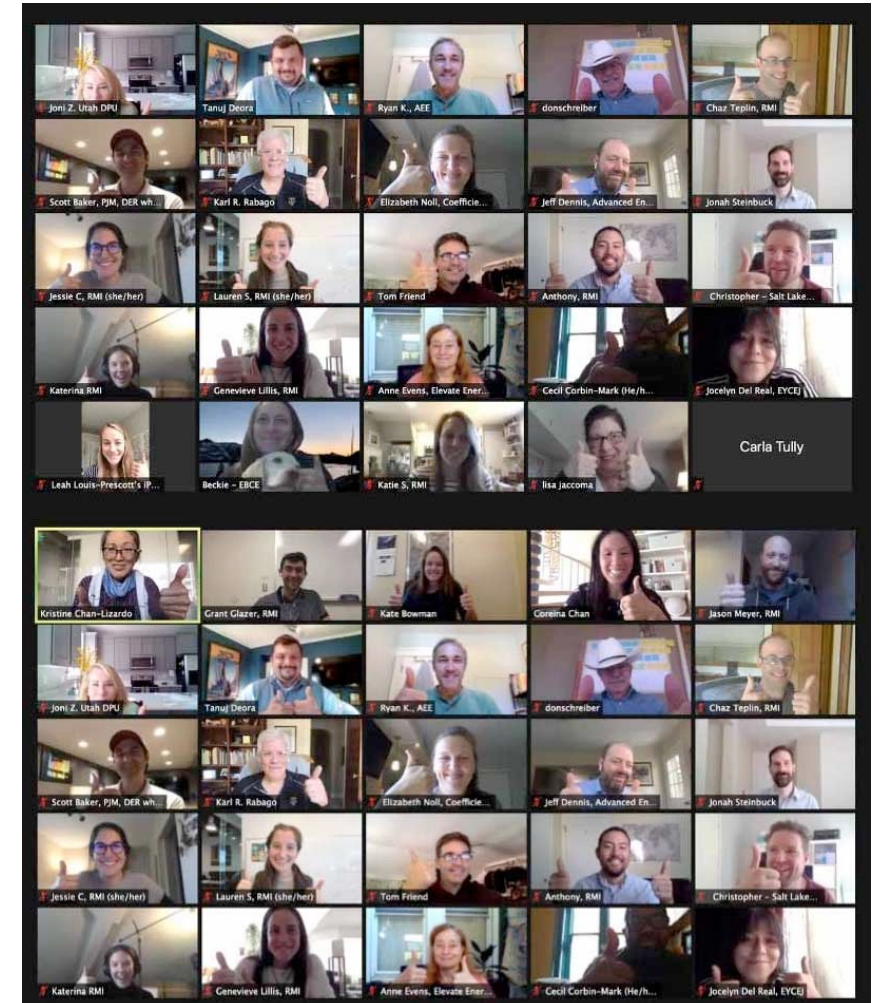


# “Our projects would benefit from the following types of support...”

In participating in the event virtually last year, teams were drawn to several benefits:

- Help in convening a diverse set of stakeholders for the team
- Connectivity to thought leadership and other teams
- The structure and facilitation that creates “locked-in-a-room” intensity
- Facilitated discussions of difficult issues and guided design discussions
- Access to thought leaders and coaches from RMI’s team and e-Lab’s network of faculty coaches

Read about the teams and faculty of Accelerator 2020 here: <https://rmi.org/our-work/electricity/elab-electricity-innovation-lab/elab-accelerator/elab-accelerator-teams-faculty/>



# Accelerator 2020 Faculty Coaches

Each year, Accelerator teams also benefit from the coaching of industry experts that serve as e-Lab faculty. Access to these industry perspectives is one of the most valuable and unique aspects of Accelerator.

- **Albert Lin**, Executive Director, Pearl Street Station Finance Lab
- **Allison Clements**, Principal, goodgrid, LLC
- **Brandon Hofmeister**, CMS Energy Corporation and Consumers Energy, Senior Vice President of Governmental, Regulatory, and Public Affairs
- **Carl Linvill**, Principal, The Regulatory Assistance Project
- **Cecil Corbin-Mark**, Deputy Director, WE ACT for Environmental Justice
- **Celina Bonugli**, Associate, Clean Energy Innovation, WRI
- **Eleanor Stein**, Climate Change Law and Policy Professor, Albany Law School
- **Heidi Leslie**, Vice President, Corporate Strategy Implementation, Emera Inc.
- **Janet Gail Besser**, Managing Director, Smart Electric Power Alliance (SEPA)
- **Jessica Shipley**, Senior Associate, The Regulatory Assistance Project
- **Jon Wellingshoff**, Chief Executive Officer, GridPolicy, Inc.
- **Jocelyn Del Real**, Empower Program Coordinator, East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
- **Josh Keeling**, Director, Cadeo
- **Karl Rábago**, Principal, Rábago Energy LLC
- **Lorenzo Kristov**, Principal, Electric System Policy
- **Oriana Magnera**, Verde, Energy, Climate, Transportation Program Manager
- **Rachel Huang**, Director, Distributed Energy Strategy, SMUD
- **Ric O'Connell**, Executive Director, GridLab
- **Rich Barrone**, Vice President, Advanced Energy Transformation, TRC
- **Sarah Propst**, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)
- **Scott Blunk**, Strategic Business Planner, Building Electrification and Energy Efficiency, SMUD
- **Sonia Aggarwal**, Vice President, Energy Innovation
- **Steven Corneli**, Principal, Strategies for Clean Energy Innovation
- **Tanuj Deora**, Vice President, Market Innovation, Uplight

# What makes a good Accelerator team & project

## 1. A committed team champion:

- helps identify and recruit the people needed to make their team successful.
- shares information with the team and coordinates preparation activities
- typically represents a vested interest in seeing the project succeed, although their role during team times can be defined as being one of many equal team members.



## 2. A diverse multi-stakeholder team:

- representation of all key stakeholders, from multiple organizations
- diversity of age, gender, socioeconomic status, and race



## 3. An innovative project with potential for impact & scaling:

- advancing a new or unique idea that others can learn from and adapt
- enables meaningful, systemic greenhouse gas reductions



## 4. A promising path forward:

- the project will continue after the conclusion of Accelerator
- requirements for further development and implementation can be identified



# Overview of Accelerator 2022 timing

