

# Accelerating the pace of change.

RMI's vision of a clean energy future commits us to **THINK** bigger, **DO** boldly, and **SCALE** globally.



## Powering India's Battery Loop

RMI's *Charting a Circular Battery Future in India* report is shaping the global conversation on clean energy and mineral security. The research sparked an Associated Press feature highlighting how recycling and reusing batteries could create more than 100,000 jobs, meet nearly 40 percent of India's mineral needs, and unlock a ~\$9 billion market opportunity. It's proof that smart circularity can power economic growth and climate progress, together.

## Lightening the Data Load

As data centers spread, communities face real risks to energy reliability and affordability. RMI's *Lightening the Load* report shows how local leaders can meet rising demand with clean energy solutions, from on-site solar and batteries to community resilience hubs and fair large-load tariffs. Communities from the South to the Southwest are using the report's insights to inform decision-making on data centers.



Data center in Ashburn, VA

## A Path to 100 Percent Renewables

RMI's *Caribbean Regional Transition Scenario* shows how island nations can move toward 100 percent renewable energy together by centering the region's abundant solar, wind, geothermal, and hydro resources. By employing modern technologies and smart policies, the scenario charts a unified path away from costly fossil fuel imports and aging diesel systems, toward affordable, reliable power that strengthens energy security across the region.



## Powering Africa's EV Future

Rapid urbanization is making electric mobility an urgent priority across Africa, but fragmented policy remains a major barrier. RMI and the United Nations Environment Programme developed a framework to harmonize policies across regions and help unlock stronger demand, enable cross-border trade, and support inclusive economic growth. Alongside finance mobilization, workforce development, and other key measures that would further support EV markets in the region, this approach can help secure Africa's clean mobility future.

## Reg Lab Scales Up

As utility affordability becomes a growing crisis, RMI's Regulatory Collaborative (Reg Lab) is meeting the moment. Launched three years ago, Reg Lab convenes public utility commission staff to break down siloes and tackle shared challenges. This past year, participation surged as regulators focused on containing utility costs. The latest cohort — triple the size of the original cohort — took what they gained from their participation and ran with it. Several participating states have since advanced regulatory processes to contain costs, informed directly from their experiences in Reg Lab.

## Rethinking Aviation's Hidden Impacts

RMI is advancing how companies measure aviation's climate impacts beyond carbon alone. Through a series of corporate pilot projects, RMI showed that flight-by-flight contrail accounting dramatically improves accuracy compared with broad, traditional methods, which often overestimate impacts. Using real flight data, pilots revealed which flights drive the most warming, enabling companies to avoid the highest-impact routes.



Innovators supported by Third Derivative rethink how materials like concrete are made, helping cut emissions and strengthen industry.

## Make Less, Make Better, Make New

Heavy industry sits at the core of the global economy and at the center of the net-zero challenge. Cement, steel, and chemicals are essential to modern life, yet together they account for a significant share of global emissions. Through Third Derivative, RMI's climate tech accelerator, we are helping transform these sectors by supporting startups that rethink how the materials that underpin modern life are made and proving that decarbonization and competitiveness go hand in hand.

As we made rigorous technical investment across heavy industry, a clear framework emerged for the innovations needed to reach net zero: **Make Less, Make Better, and Make New.**

**Make Less** focuses on reducing demand for virgin materials through smarter resource use. Third Derivative startups are advancing lower-emission emissions in formulations for cement and concrete that cut material use while maintaining performance. In steel and chemicals, innovators are scaling recycling and material efficiency solutions that reduce waste and ease pressure on supply chains.

**Make Better** targets emissions reductions in today's industrial processes. Third Derivative startups are improving efficiency and cutting emissions in steelmaking through electrified furnaces, novel process controls, and cleaner feedstocks. In chemicals, innovators are deploying electrified and modular production systems that lower emissions while improving flexibility and resilience.

**Make New** represents the most transformative leap: entirely new production pathways designed for low or zero emissions from the start. Third Derivative startups are pioneering hydrogen-based ironmaking, next-generation cement chemistries, and breakthrough chemical processes that eliminate fossil fuels altogether — opening the door to fundamentally cleaner industrial systems.

Together, these approaches are unlocking investment-ready pathways. By backing innovators across the framework, Third Derivative is helping build a resilient future for heavy industry grounded in real technologies, companies, and momentum.

## Methane Leaks, Real Stakes

Paramount+'s drama series *Landman* gets one thing right: leaking gas is a serious risk. RMI research finds that wasted gas and methane emissions from West Texas rank among the largest in the US with real impacts on communities, climate, and energy waste. **Read more at [rmi.org/landman](http://rmi.org/landman)**



# Putting Affordability at the Center of the Energy Transition

As energy bills climb across the United States, affordability has emerged as one of the defining challenges of the clean energy transition. Households are feeling the strain of rising electricity costs, while states face growing pressure to modernize aging infrastructure, meet climate goals, and keep energy reliable without pushing costs to customers who can least afford them.

Affordability is not just a consumer issue; it is a system design challenge. Many rising costs stem from outdated planning approaches that prioritize infrastructure expansion over efficiency, flexibility, and customer participation. Addressing this challenge requires more than a single policy or technology. It demands a coordinated, practical approach that puts affordability at the center of energy decision-making. By elevating policies that reduce peak demand, extend the life of existing assets, and empower customers to play an active role in the grid, states can avoid unnecessary spending before it reaches utility bills.

**“Too many households are paying the price for outdated energy policies. This toolkit gives states a practical way to change the rules of the energy system so the energy transition delivers lower bills, not higher ones.”**

— WENDY JAGLOM-KURTZ, MANAGER, US PROGRAM

RMI’s Electricity Affordability Toolkit was created to meet that need. Designed for state policymakers and advocates, the toolkit offers a comprehensive, actionable suite of policies to improve electricity affordability through three core strategies: cost control, cost distribution, and customer agency. Included across those strategies are policy safeguards to ensure low- to moderate-income customers are protected from

*From fuel costs to grid technology solutions, the toolkit offers practical policies to improve affordability.*



*The Electricity Affordability Toolkit gives policymakers practical, decision-ready tools to cut energy costs while accelerating the clean energy transition.*

disproportionate system costs. Rather than prescribing one-size-fits-all solutions, the toolkit equips decision makers with options they can tailor to their state’s unique energy landscape.

It highlights a variety of proven policies that can deliver meaningful savings for customers. Low-income energy-efficiency programs help households reduce energy use and lower monthly bills by improving insulation, appliances, and building performance. Virtual power plants aggregate distributed energy resources such as rooftop solar, batteries, and smart devices, compensating participating customers while lowering system costs and improving grid reliability during peak demand. And advanced transmission technologies increase the capacity and efficiency of existing power lines, allowing states to move more clean energy without the expense and delays of building new infrastructure.

Each of the more than two dozen policies in the toolkit is categorized by its expected time horizon and potential cost savings, enabling policymakers to identify near-term actions that provide immediate bill relief alongside longer-term investments that reduce system costs. The Electricity Affordability Toolkit has been widely welcomed by advocates and policymakers and is already being used to inform education, advocacy, and policy development across states. By translating complex energy solutions into practical, decision-ready guidance, it helps states deliver lower bills while accelerating the clean energy transition.



## SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

**“When we look at impact per dollar, RMI has been our best philanthropic investment.”**

— RUDY RAMSEY

In times of uncertainty, the Ramsey family believes flexibility and trust are not just helpful — they are essential. As long-time supporters of RMI through their foundation, the Rudy and Alice Ramsey Foundation, the family typically gives targeted project support that drives innovation.

Recognizing that many of the trusted nonprofit partners they support are navigating a complex and rapidly changing environment, this year, they made a deliberate shift. Two generations of Ramseys unanimously agreed that long-term progress depends on strong, resilient institutions and, in this moment, unrestricted support mattered most. They believe those closest to the work are best positioned to determine how resources can sustain momentum and maximize impact, saying, “Providing flexible funding allows organizations like RMI to stay focused, adapt as needed, and continue delivering the results that drew us to them in the first place.”

We are deeply grateful to the Ramsey family for their foresight and generosity. In today’s rapidly evolving energy landscape, impact depends on the ability to move quickly, act across systems, and adapt as conditions change. Rising electricity demand, policy volatility, geopolitical uncertainty, and tightening public funding place a premium on organizations that can respond with speed and strategic judgment. The Ramsey’s unrestricted support enables RMI not just to weather uncertainty but to also drive lasting impact.



## WHAT YOU CAN DO



Learn more about any of this work and how you can take part in the clean energy transition by scanning this QR code with the camera app on your smartphone or visiting: [rmi.org/impact-winter-2026](https://rmi.org/impact-winter-2026)