

e-Lab Accelerator 2019

APRIL 30 – MAY 3, 2019 AT SUNDANCE MOUNTAIN RESORT IN UTAH

On April 30th, [Rocky Mountain Institute \(RMI\)](#) will convene [e-Lab Accelerator](#), an invitation-only four-day facilitated workshop bringing together teams working on high-impact, innovative, and scalable projects in the electricity system.

Teams participating in e-Lab Accelerator should expect a dynamic working session, not a conference. Trained facilitators and technical experts will lead your team through effective collaborative processes, and provide customized topical coaching, targeted training, and tailored feedback to support each team's unique project. On hand to support teams during Accelerator are e-Lab Faculty with national expertise relevant to selected project teams, and staff from RMI and [Reos Partners](#).

The focus of all activities will be to support and propel initiatives towards meaningful and collaborative action. Towards this end, teams will find:

- Structured working sessions to make real progress on their project or initiative while testing new ideas
- Tools and training to conceptualize problems in collaborative and innovative ways
- Coaching and insights from e-Lab Faculty
- A rich learning experience featuring national experts on the latest thinking around the clean energy transition
- Opportunities to build new alliances and a broader support network with other teams working on similar projects

WHO SHOULD APPLY

RMI is seeking applications from project teams who are working on **innovative and scalable solutions that speed the transition of the electricity system to one that is clean, resilient, and affordable**. RMI will select 12 winning teams to achieve a balance of project types and scopes. The project or opportunity that a team is working on must be actively under development, although projects may range from an idea just being developed to a project that is well underway.

Potential projects include ones that advance:

- **New business models for utilities and other solutions providers:** projects to advance new business models that accelerate the transformation to a low-carbon energy system.
Examples: new utility programs and services; new utility revenue opportunities; performance-based regulation; securitization of aging assets; business models to aggregate DER services and participants; innovative approaches to DER financing.
- **Grid modernization and planning for DERs:** projects to meet emerging transmission, distribution, and generation needs through integrated planning for non-fossil resources.
Examples: resource planning to replace or avoid fossil-fuel fired capacity; non-wires solutions that defer or avoid traditional grid infrastructure investment; integrated resource planning to leverage DER services and value streams; grid modernization investments that leverage new grid capabilities.
- **Electrification of buildings:** projects to help scale widespread transition of homes and businesses off of fossil fuels for space and water heating and other end uses, toward efficient use of low-carbon electricity.
Examples: programs that support the widespread electrification of buildings; energy efficiency policies to support beneficial electrification; planning for a transition in the gas utility business model or for managing stranded costs in gas infrastructure; demand flexibility for heating loads.
- **DER adoption at scale:** other projects to accelerate the adoption of cost-competitive and beneficial DERs.
Examples: business models that serve low- and moderate-income communities; regulatory reform and innovative stakeholder processes focused on DERs; resilience valuation and planning; EV-grid solutions; transactive energy and new market platforms.

TEAM COMPOSITION AND DIVERSITY

Teams are 5-7 people representing critical project stakeholders and partners. Teams should include the diverse institutional perspectives required to solve the complex problem you're bringing to Accelerator.

- Our selection process requires teams to be multi-stakeholder, rather than comprised of participants from a single organization.
- Successful teams will also reflect diversity of age, gender, socioeconomic status, and race. eLab believes these diverse perspectives and experience are required to create transformational change.

LOGISTICS

eLab Accelerator starts in the early afternoon on April 30, and will conclude after lunch on May 3. Attendance fees cover three nights of room and board at Sundance Mountain Resort, transportation to and from the SLC airport, and a portion of RMI's cost of planning and convening eLab Accelerator. Fees are \$1700/person for non-profits and government, and \$2100/person for industry. A limited number of scholarships are available for those with structural barriers to attendance.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Completed applications are due to Sherri Billimoria at sbillimoria@rmi.org by January 18, 2019. Early submission is encouraged as RMI can preliminarily review and provide feedback to applications submitted before December 14, 2018. All project selections will be made by mid-February 2019.

TEAM APPLICATION

Project Title (6 words or less)

Project Type (e.g., Electrification of Buildings)

Project Champion

The project champion is the primary point of contact and can help recruit project stakeholders, share information with the team, and coordinate preparation activities. Please provide relevant contact information.

Project Description

How would advancing this project support innovation in the electricity industry? What key challenges or unsolved questions does it address?

Problem Statement

What are the specific question(s) your team seeks to address during the four days of eLab Accelerator? Why are these critical and timely? Why is eLab Accelerator the right place to address these questions?

Proposed Multi-Stakeholder Team

7 people or less, including champion. This list can constitute a preliminary assessment of the “project stakeholders” and will not necessarily dictate the final team. RMI staff can help to design the most impactful teams for project acceleration, but applicants are ultimately responsible for team composition and are highly encouraged to apply with as complete a team as possible.

Who is committed or invited to join you at Accelerator?

Name	Organization	Title	Invited or Committed?	Team/Project Role	Email

Why are these stakeholders the right ones to tackle this question?

Who has been engaged and in what capacity?

What additional stakeholders, perspectives, or expertise are critical to project success?

For example, is utility support or approval needed for project completion? Does the project need additional local leadership or financial expertise?

Progress & Impact

Describe what progress your team has made on your project to date. What key decision points are coming up? What does successful impact look like in 1 year, 3 years, and 5 years?

Supplementary Information

Feel free to include letters of support or additional content to support your application.

How did you hear about eLab Accelerator?

Examples include Twitter, LinkedIn, a specific person, etc.

Have you or others on your team attended an eLab event before?

If so, provide details.

Please submit completed application forms to Sherri Billimoria at sbillimoria@rmi.org by January 18, 2019.