

e⁻Lab Accelerator 2020

APRIL 27 – APRIL 30, 2020 AT SUNDANCE MOUNTAIN RESORT IN UTAH

On April 27th, [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, reliable, affordable, and equitable.*** 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:

- **Regulatory and utility business model reform:**¹ projects to update utility regulations and create new utility business models that accelerate the transformation to a low-carbon energy system.

Examples: performance-based regulation or innovative rate design; new utility programs, services, and revenue opportunities; utility or solution provider business models to aggregate DER services, including efficiency and demand-side management; utility business model reforms to serve low- and moderate-income communities.

- **State-level and regional clean energy planning and implementation:** projects to support state-level and regional clean energy or decarbonization policy goals.

Examples: state-level or regional policy for clean energy goals; planning for decarbonization with wholesale markets, neighboring states, and other regional partners; inclusive, community-focused stakeholder engagement processes; state- or city-wide targets and metrics for tracking progress.

- **System-level planning and resource procurement and utilization for a low-carbon power sector:** projects that drive decarbonization of the grid while meeting emerging transmission, distribution, and generation needs.

Examples: wholesale market design and integration of DERs at scale; planning and coordination across RTOs and ISOs; optimizing or expanding the transmission system to support a decarbonized future; resource planning and procurement to replace or avoid fossil fuel-fired generation assets; integrated resource planning to leverage DER services and value streams, including projects for non-wires solutions that defer or avoid traditional grid

¹ Investor-owned, municipal, and cooperative electric utilities are included in this category.

infrastructure investment; grid modernization to support decarbonization; planning and resource utilization for economy-wide beneficial electrification, including transportation.

- **Transitioning away from legacy assets:** projects to facilitate a swift and equitable transition away from carbon intensive power generation to non-emitting resources.

Examples: securitization and other financing tools to support uneconomic fossil fuel plant retirement; enabling the low-carbon transition of co-ops and municipal power districts; transitioning energy economies while keeping communities at the center.

- **Electrification of buildings:** city-, state-, and utility-level policies, regulatory solutions, or technologies that help scale widespread transition of homes and businesses off of fossil fuels for space and water heating and other end uses, toward the efficient use of low-carbon electricity, and manage the long-term trajectory of gas and electric utilities in a decarbonized future.

Examples: regulations that support the widespread electrification of buildings; energy efficiency policies to support beneficial electrification; projects that support electrification and efficiency for low- and moderate-income customers; plans for a transition in the gas utility business model or for managing stranded costs in gas infrastructure; demand flexibility for electrified end uses; grid integrated and efficient buildings.

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, race, and ethnicity. eLab believes these diverse perspectives and experiences are required to create transformational change.
- To assist us in tracking our diversity targets and improving participant diversity at future eLab events, we will invite you to optionally disclose your gender and racial or ethnic background during registration after teams are selected. Responses are confidential and will be anonymized.

LOGISTICS

eLab Accelerator starts in the early afternoon on April 27, 2020 and will conclude after lunch on April 30. 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 \$1800/person for non-profits and government, and \$2200/person for industry. A limited number of scholarships are available for those with structural barriers to attendance.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Completed applications are due to Cara Goldenberg at cgoldenberg@rmi.org by January 17, 2020. Early submission is encouraged as RMI can preliminarily review and provide feedback to applications submitted before December 13, 2019. All project selections will be made by mid-February 2020.

TEAM APPLICATION

Project Title (6 words or less)

Project Type (e.g., Regulatory and utility business model reform)

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

In 4 paragraphs or less, describe the problem. What key energy challenges or unsolved questions does it address? How would advancing this project drive innovation to support meaningful and lasting impact in the electricity sector?

Problem statement to address at e-Lab Accelerator

What are 1-3 key questions 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?

Statement on Diversity and Supplementary Information

In this section, please include a statement on how your team promotes diversity at eLab Accelerator. Feel free to also 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 Cara Goldenberg at cgoldenberg@rmi.org by January 17, 2020.