eLab Webinar What Can e⁻Lab Accelerator Do For You?

eLab Accelerator Sundance Mountain Resort, Utah April 27 - April 30, 2020





AN INITIATIVE OF



Webinar Logistics

• All participants are on mute. Please submit questions via the "Questions" window in your control panel.

• You will receive a link to a recording of this webinar within 24 hours.

• For any technical difficulties during the webinar, please email:

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Intro to RMI and Accelerator Core Team



Since 1982, Rocky Mountain Institute has advanced market-based solutions that transform global energy use to create a clean, prosperous, and secure future. An independent, nonprofit thinkand-do tank, RMI engages with businesses, communities, and institutions to accelerate and scale replicable solutions that drive the cost-effective shift from fossil fuels to efficiency and renewables.



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Objectives for Webinar

- Provide an overview of eLab and eLab Accelerator
- Describe specifics of Accelerator 2020, including:
 - What Accelerator provides projects
 - Accelerator 2020 project types
 - What makes a strong Accelerator project
- Highlight example projects from past years
- Describe the application process
- Answer questions on Accelerator event and application process





Overview of e⁻Lab



e⁻Lab facilitates collaborative innovation processes to develop the ideas, people, and pilots that will transform the electricity system







e⁻Lab Engagements







"Bootcamp" for project teams

Accelerate high-potential projects, share insights and approaches, and learn from peers working on related efforts

Advance innovative solutions in the electricity system

Collaborate with peers to create new solutions, pressure-test ideas, and build lasting connections

Bringing e⁻Lab process "inside" your organization

Facilitate internal processes to advance internal innovation, external engagements, multi-stakeholder meetings, or training sessions







Electricity Innovation Lab



Overview of Accelerator



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What is Accelerator?

e-Lab Accelerator is an invitation-only, four-day facilitated workshop bringing together teams working on high-impact, innovative, and scalable projects in the electricity system.

Overall Meeting Objectives

- To accelerate high-potential projects and support them moving to the "next-level"
- To share e⁻Lab insights and approaches
- To learn from a broad peer group working on related projects





What Accelerator Provides

- A <u>structured working session</u> to make progress on their project or initiative
- A <u>rich learning experience</u> featuring experts on the latest thinking around business, technology, regulation, and policy related to the U.S. electricity sector
- **Tools and training** to conceptualize problems in collaborative and innovative ways
- <u>New alliances</u> to form a broader support network with other teams working on similar projects
- A <u>unique environment</u> conducive to creativity and breakthrough ideas





The Methodology of Accelerator

- Applying the social change lab model:
 - Taking a systemic, participative, and creative & experimental approach to overcome social, dynamic, and generative complexity
- Maximizes opportunities for meaningful project work and individual learning, including several modes of working:
 - Facilitated project team working sessions targeting that project's biggest needs,
 - Cross-team learning exchange,
 - · Topic training with faculty, and
 - Development of action plans where appropriate.

<u>Dynamic Complexity</u> Cause and effect are far apart and interdependent Requires systemic approach <u>Social Complexity</u> Actors have different perspectives & interests

Requires collaborative approach

<u>Generative Complexity</u> Future is unfamiliar and undetermined Requires experimental approach



Example Agenda

Day 1

• Frame the overall Accelerator approach and why we think it is useful

Day 2

- Build a shared foundation for the projects that will support forward momentum
- Identify key questions that the project team has
- Identify potential leverage points

Day 3

- Identify missing voices and resources
- Develop "solution hypotheses" for moving the project forward
- Get feedback from the other participants on how to improve the approach

Day 4

- Develop a plan for moving the project forward
- Make requests and give offers of support
- Gather commitments and next steps for the project



Accelerator Faculty

Faculty include diverse experts from across the electricity system that can help inform the work of project teams

• Examples of expertise:

Regulatory transformation, portfolio design for renewable resources, transition strategies for energy system change, and venture capital in electricity, among other subjects.

Past Accelerator faculty include:

Tom Starrs, SunPower Allison Clements, Energy Foundation Rachel Huang, Sacramento Municipal Utilities District Carl Linvill, Regulatory Assistance Project Lorenzo Kristov, California Independent System Operator Eleanor Stein, SUNY Albany John Burnett, Duke Energy





Accelerator Projects & Project Teams





Accelerator is Project-Focused

- There will be **<u>12 teams</u>** at Accelerator 2020.
- <u>5 7 people</u> make up a team, representing multiple project stakeholders.
- Projects have a clear lead/owner, designated as team champion.
 - Team champions are our primary point of contact before, during, and after Accelerator.
- Projects must be actively under development but can be at varying levels of maturity.
- Successful teams bring together the right combination of vision, experience, knowledge, and commitment to a project that can accelerate change in the electricity system.



Projects are Theme-Focused (1/2)

In general, projects are innovative, scalable, and enable the transition to a lowcarbon energy system. Projects typically fall into one of five categories:

Regulatory and utility business model reform	Projects to update utility regulations and create new utility business models that accelerate the transformation to a low-carbon energy system.
State-level and regional clean energy planning and implementation	Projects to support state-level and regional clean energy or decarbonization policy goals.
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.



Projects are Theme-Focused (2/2)

Transitioning away from legacy assets

Projects to facilitate a swift and equitable transition away from carbon-intensive power generation to non-emitting resources.

Electrification of buildings

Policies, regulatory solutions, or technologies that help scale widespread transition of homes and businesses off of fossil fuels toward efficient use of low-carbon energy, and manage the long-term trajectory of gas and electric utilities in a decarbonized future.



Accelerator Facilitators

Each team at Accelerator has a dedicated RMI facilitator, who helps to:

- Develop project and project team for Accelerator (after project selection)
- Prepare project team for Accelerator
- Guide the work of the team at Accelerator
- Support project after Accelerator





What makes a good application

- <u>Strong team champion</u>: Team champions should be committed to making the most out of their time at Accelerator and willing to put in the time and effort to prepare for the event, including identifying and recruiting the people needed to make their team successful.
- <u>Diverse team</u>: Teams should be multi-stakeholder, rather than comprised of participants from a single organization. Teams should reflect diversity of age, gender, socioeconomic status, and race.
- **Innovative project**: Is this project advancing a new or unique idea? Are faculty, other participants, and VIP observers going to want to learn from it?
- Potential for impact: Is this project scalable? How does the project make a lasting impact on the electricity system? Does this project enable meaningful greenhouse gas reductions?
- **<u>Promising path forward</u>**: Does this project have a way to continue beyond Accelerator? What is required for further development and/or implementation?



Project Selection Criteria

Selection Criteria	Selection Considerations
Project Status	 Active project Significant or supportive initial project activity Clear project future
Project Statement	 Clear understanding of project objective Clear understanding of need from Accelerator Clear understanding of Accelerator product
Project Impact	 Direct impact Proof point Replicable and scalable Good story Platform to lead change
Stakeholder Team	 <u>Diverse</u> Participants have the ability to affect change Key stakeholders in attendance
Team Champion	 Enthusiastic/driven ownership of project Ability to sustain efforts during Accelerator Ability to sustain efforts after Accelerator



Past Accelerator Project Examples



Decarbonizing Minnesota's Natural Gas End Uses



Project Objectives

- Develop a shared understanding of natural gas usage in MN, as well as the technologies and opportunities to decarbonize those end uses.
- Examine opportunities and begin to develop a shared vision for the relative roles of electrification, biogas, power-to-gas in a decarbonization strategy.
- Consider and assess the potential roles of natural gas and the natural gas utility in a deeply decarbonized economy.



Work at Accelerator



- This team deepened their understanding of natural gas utility business models, before diving deep into the potential technologies to decarbonize Minnesota's natural gas end uses, laying out what was currently known, what the risks were, and what still needed to be researched.
- The group began to outline and plan for a stakeholder process to more deeply examine the future of the natural gas utility and possibilities for decarbonizing end uses.
- Lastly, the group discussed initiating a study about the technical potential of various decarbonizing technologies in Minnesota.



Accelerator Impact



- Since Accelerator, stakeholders have continued to work together to design "g21," a broader, ongoing, collaborative stakeholder process focused on decarbonizing natural gas end uses in MN. The first meeting of this process was held in early November.
- This effort is primarily championed by Great Plains Institute and Center for Energy and Environment, in close collaboration with many other stakeholders.



Duke Energy Clean Cities Initiative



Project Objective

 Build productive partnerships between Duke Energy and North Carolina communities in order to achieve carbon reduction goals in the time frames set by each city.

Project Description

- Communities across North Carolina have set goals to power their operations with 100% clean energy, and in some cases as soon as 2030.
- While these goals align with those of Duke Energy, achieving them will require developing and implementing new and innovative solutions quickly.
- Duke Energy and representatives from Charlotte, Asheville, and Raleigh collaborated to prioritize clean energy initiatives and strategies for partnership moving forward.



Work at Accelerator



- Prioritized a municipal green tariff and electric vehicle pilot as projects to move forward
- Mapped stakeholders for further outreach to create a collaborative, inclusive process
- Established timeline for major activities in developing local energy solutions



Accelerator Impact



- Since Accelerator, the group has formalized their collaboration by forming a charter and added three new municipalities.
- The collaborative is working to establish two pilots:
 - Shared solar program that leverages city-owned assets and allows cities to receive renewable energy credits
 - Green tariff designed specifically for local government customers
- The collaborative meets regularly and continues to engage with RMI convening events.



Project Application and Recruitment





Timeline to Accelerator





Accelerator Participant Fee and Scholarships

- The participant fee for Accelerator is \$1,800 per person for nonprofits and government entities and \$2,200 per person for for-profits. Fees include the following:
 - Transportation to and from the Salt Lake City Airport
 - All meals
 - All event activities
 - Lodging at Sundance
- A **limited number of scholarships** are available to offset cost of participation for individuals who might not otherwise be able to attend.



Accelerator Application

• Application Questions

- Project Title
- Project Type
- Project Description
- Problem Statement
- Project Champion
- Proposed Diverse Multi-stakeholder Team
- Additional Stakeholders or Expertise
- Progress to Date
- Potential for Impact
- Additional Project Resources for Consideration
- Statement on Diversity and Supplemental Information
- RMI staff are here to work with you to help you submit the best application possible. We will provide feedback to applications submitted before December 13.
- Application can be found at the link below: <u>https://rmi.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/eLab-Accelerator-2020-Application-1.pdf</u>





Questions?



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