

# e-Lab<sup>®</sup> Accelerator 2022

MAY 2 -13, 2022 | VIRTUAL (ZOOM)

e-Lab's Accelerator "bootcamp" helps maximize the impact of critical project teams transitioning the electricity sector to clean energy. RMI selects which projects participate, then assigns a dedicated facilitation crew. These facilitators & content experts help teams navigate contentious discussion topics and generate innovative solutions to complex problems by:

- Assessing the needs of the team for making fast and effective progress
- Designing collaborative exercises specific to the team's unique dynamics
- Identifying coaching needs in specific technical areas

Up to twelve teams are invited to participate concurrently during a two-week period. Teams meet virtually in workshop sessions dedicated to their project, connect with other teams working on similar cutting-edge projects to exchange insights, and receive feedback on key questions from e-Lab's extensive network of energy consultants and researchers.

In past Accelerators, teams have benefitted from unprecedented access to expertise and feedback for their projects, experienced how the collaborative e-Lab methodology moves stakeholders past challenges, and witnessed the acceleration of their team's work in accomplishing months of progress through the skilled guidance and content expertise of the RMI team.

## What to expect for the 2022 event:

- **Venue:** Accelerator is being held virtually. Primary platforms will be Zoom and Mural.
- **Event commitment:** Team members engage in 18+ hours of real-time workshoping together May 2 to May 13, 2022. Sessions average 3 hours per day on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday of each week. Skills clinics and networking events are scheduled on Wednesdays and Fridays.
- **Preparation commitment:** The RMI facilitation team works with teams in the month before the event—soliciting input through needs assessments, connecting with potential faculty coaches, and preparing a series of team-specific meetings to maximize progress during their time spent together.
- **Diversity, equity, and inclusion:** RMI seeks participation from diverse perspectives and experiences in Accelerator, including but not limited to representation across ethnic identification, age, geography, class, and gender identification. RMI will be asking for demographics, suggesting recruitment tactics, and providing honoraria to support participation from historically underrepresented racial and low-income focused organizations.
- **Assignments:** As appropriate, facilitators and team leaders may propose work assignments for team members to complete between team sessions.
- **All-participant sessions:** During the event's two weeks, projects share ideas and feedback in cross-team sessions.
- **Showcase:** A May 26<sup>th</sup> Showcase brings all participating teams in front of a wider industry audience to present their projects. RMI sends invitations to those beyond the Accelerator participants who are identified as key individuals and representatives for supporting and scaling the work of project teams.

## The types of project teams that RMI looks to support:

This year RMI seeks project teams closely aligned with our program strategies to accelerate the electricity system's transition to clean, reliable, affordable, and equitable. We look to work with teams that are:

Building the missing links needed to accelerate the transition of our energy infrastructure

- Planning a material deployment of DERs including energy efficiency, demand response, and electrification technologies with a multi-stakeholder team as a **virtual power plant test case**.
- Applying open-source tools to a grid planning study to streamline grid modeling approaches, **demonstrating how easier access to definitive tools for stakeholders and policymakers benefits grid analysis**.
- Creating next-generation principles for integrated resource planning and looking for test cases to **demonstrate how IRPs can support equitable economy-wide decarbonization** with community and stakeholder input.
- Working with state utilities and departments of transportation to **leverage existing highway rights of way in siting key transmission lines** to support new wind and solar projects.
- Strategizing how utilities can **reduce emissions in one of the more challenging sectors: building heating**.
- **Advocating for community-driven participation and renewable energy** in crafting a state net-zero carbon target by 2030.

Aligning utility regulations and incentives to work towards equitable and affordable clean energy

- Defining **regulatory best practices for improving equity, minimizing harmful impacts, and prioritizing benefits to communities** when considering utility rates, resource plans, and new rules.
- Advancing climate-aligned **performance-based regulation in new states**, with multi-stakeholder input.

Supporting equitable community and workforce transitions as current generation assets retire

- Coordinating policy engagement nationally in developing **principles for federal transition policy**.
- Bringing together key stakeholders, including utilities, government, and investors, to drive **implementation of community and worker-centric economic development projects**.

For information about the teams and faculty of Accelerator 2020, visit our website: <https://rmi.org/our-work/electricity/elab-electricity-innovation-lab/elab-accelerator/elab-accelerator-teams-faculty/>.

**Team Composition and Diversity**

Teams that have been historically successful at e-Lab Accelerator have been made up of diverse stakeholders from multiple organizations. Teams are made up of a team champion, team participants, and visiting faculty coaches who will provide their industry expertise and feedback to each project. When filling out the application, please keep diversity and team roles in mind.

The following are the different types of roles on an Accelerator team:

- **Team Champion:** who helps recruit and coordinate the project's team members
- **Participant:** Accelerator attendees invited to contribute as team members of a specific project
- **Faculty:** industry experts and consultants that RMI invites to provide coaching and feedback to teams
- **Sponsor:** individual or organization providing funding or other resources, prospective or current

**Application Deadlines and Contact Information**

Contact us to discuss bringing your project to Accelerator 2022. Want to participate on a specific team or serve as a faculty coach? Contact us to let us know as well!

- **The deadline has been extended to March 7<sup>th</sup>. Draft applications are welcome for review and feedback beforehand.**
- Please email completed applications to Avery McEvoy at [amcevoy@rmi.org](mailto:amcevoy@rmi.org).
- Feel free to contact Kristine Chan-Lizardo ([kcl@rmi.org](mailto:kcl@rmi.org)) at e-Lab with any additional questions.

Let's accelerate, together!

# e-Lab Accelerator 2022 | Application

**Project Title** (6 words or less to share publicly)

## Team Champion

The team champion(s) serves as the primary point of contact for the project and helps recruit project stakeholders, share information with the team, and coordinate preparation activities. They typically represent a vested interest in seeing the project succeed, although their role during team time can be defined as being one of many equal team members. Please provide relevant contact information (name, email, phone number) for the team champion or co-champions.

## Project Description and Objectives

In explaining the project and its goals, please share how it aligns with the strategies above. What would success for the project look like at the end of Accelerator? Are there long-term aspirations beyond this project to share?

## Who is committed or invited to join you at Accelerator?

Create the proposed list of project stakeholders, those who would influence the success or failure of the project, not necessarily the final team. While team champions are ultimately responsible for securing team member commitments, RMI can help design the most impactful teams for project acceleration and can help recruit diverse multi-stakeholder representation.

Name, Title	Organization	Invited or Committed?	Team Role*	Email


\*Team roles include Champion, Participant, Faculty, Sponsor

**Which stakeholders are core to the project’s success and why?**

Who has been engaged already? Are any key perspectives missing?

**Statement on Equity and Inclusion**

Please share thoughts on how this project team can support and advocate for equity and inclusion in its work – whether through specific outcomes, representatives on the team, or specific processes to solicit input and feedback.

**Have you or others on your team attended an e-Lab event before?**

If so, please provide details.

**What aspect(s) of Accelerator are you expecting to benefit your team most?**

Please submit completed application forms to Avery McEvoy at [amcevoy@rmi.org](mailto:amcevoy@rmi.org) by March 7, 2022.