New Energy Works: a community of practice for the electro-industrial era

Background

RMI is launching a community of practice called New Energy Works (NEW) to help state, regional, and municipal energy and economic development leaders meet load growth challenges and act on economic development opportunities in the new "electro-industrial era." NEW, rooted in collaboration and peer-learning, will support these practitioners in developing investment strategies backed by analytical research that strengthen local economies, modernize energy systems, and deliver tangible community benefits. Through a mix of monthly virtual learning sessions and in-person programming whenever possible, participants will engage in ongoing learning, collaboration, and problem-solving with peers from their respective places and across the country.

The Electro-Industrial Era

The "electro-industrial era" refers to the rapid growth of industries that depend on robust electricity generation and advanced energy systems. This includes increasing demand for:

- new computing power
- electricity generation and transmission
- energy storage systems
- semiconductors
- electric vehicles and related supply chains

These sectors are deeply interconnected, interdependent, and often compete for the same resources, particularly energy supply and grid capacity. To successfully navigate this landscape and deliver sustained investment, economic opportunities, and improve quality of life, these practitioners must better align energy system planning and economic development. This can be challenging in practice, as energy and economic development efforts are often siloed, and they do not always have access to timely data, tools, and technical support. NEW is designed to help bridge these gaps.

New Energy Works

New Energy Works provides a platform for peer learning, practical insights, and dissemination of innovative and scalable success stories. For economic development leaders, New Energy Works will provide data-driven insights on market opportunities, investment attraction, and incentive-design best practices. For energy policy and program leaders, this community offers insights about overall energy system improvements and how to balance increases in electricity demand and grid infrastructure needs with affordability and economic priorities.

New Energy Works convenes participants through monthly virtual sessions and in-person gatherings whenever possible focused on opportunities and best practices in subnational industrial strategy development. More specifically, sessions will feature insights on industrial zones, next-generation geothermal, policy solutions, and project-level cost-benefit analysis. These engagements are designed to equip participants with the tools and insights they need to develop action plans for attracting and managing electro-industrial investment within their respective communities.

Contact Information

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