

ENERGY.AI Initiatives Summary

November 2021

The five current initiatives are driven, facilitated, and supported by the EFL Team and workshops, and led by participants and their organizations. They continue to evolve as the work progresses, and vary in stages of maturity and ownership, but all share similarities and a common goal of addressing social innovation challenges or barriers to allow digital solutions to enable energy transition in Alberta.

Demand Side Management (DSM) in the Utility System

The intent of the initiative is to catalyze broader understanding and policy support for enabling one of the most significant mechanisms for managing energy costs and reducing emissions in use in other jurisdictions, but not currently enabled across Alberta. This will involve engaging various stakeholders to explore what DSM is and what it could deliver in a future of rapidly changing technology, government and private sector policies, and market behaviours. The initiative ultimately hopes to enable the use of DSM as a valuable tool within the evolution and modernization of Alberta's utility system.

Grid Modernization Coalition

The objective is to remove red tape and regulatory barriers and attract investment by allowing renewable energy and community generation projects to move forward in a more streamlined and economic manner. At a high level, this initiative seeks to address how stakeholders and industry can collaboratively pursue grid modernization at the political level. The goal is to convene stakeholders and experts related to grid modernization to specify the opportunities and challenges and offer recommendations to the Government of Alberta. The Minister of Energy and the Minister of Red Tape Reduction are both keenly interested.

Virtual metering: A tool to advance renewable energy production & community generation?

This initiative seeks to understand the value proposition, both benefits and challenges of virtual metering as a solution to realize renewable energy generation in Alberta. Barriers (both perceived and real) exist to the use of virtual metering in the Alberta grid space for the benefits of renewable energy generation. In the long-run this idea desires to explore the value proposition and pathway of virtual metering as a solution to increase community generation. In the short-term, it seeks to understand if there are regulatory barriers to adoption.

Concierge for Accelerating Grid Solutions

This initiative looks to provide a place for improved and more meaningful, action-oriented mentoring, networking, and connection matchmaking, that fosters a self-governing, self-selective multi-stakeholder ecosystem to solve grid and other innovation challenges between large and small businesses over the short-to-mid term. It looks to help connect innovators with larger providers or communities working on energy transition. The workshops are being leveraged to get feedback on the idea overall and create a small pilot to test from a use and participation perspective.

Building a Customer & Provider Relationship

Albertans need to be part of the energy transition conversation, and right now when it comes to electricity use they feel disengaged, powerless, and without much choice. The purpose of this initiative is to ensure that electricity customers are active advocates and partners in shaping the future of electricity in the province, have a positive relationship with electricity, and are empowered to make choices that satisfy their unique goals. The idea is to use one pilot project that is currently scheduled within an existing Alberta utility to test new provider/customer relationship strategies that might be useful to other products and programs across Alberta.