

Distributed Energy Demonstration Act of 2017

Summary

New innovations, such as using household water heaters as batteries, hold vast potential to update and improve America's aging electricity grid infrastructure. But such technologies need to be tested in real-world settings before they can be deployed to update the grid on a large scale.

The Distributed Energy Demonstration Act will provide funding for voluntary demonstration projects to support testing and implementation of innovative technologies that would make up a 21st century electricity grid.

This legislation will direct the Department of Energy to create competitive, cost-share demonstration grant programs that will:

- Provide \$50 million for electric utilities to advance the integration of small-scale, distributed energy resources like rooftop solar panels and new energy storage technologies.
- Provide \$50 million for electricity providers and utilities to design and implement an energy storage demonstration program using household hot water heaters.
- Provide \$40 million for public and private organizations to advance electric vehicle technologies through vehicle-to-grid integration.
- Provide \$50 million for electric utilities to streamline energy transactions on the electrical grid through voluntarily modernizing how utilities buy and sell electricity based on real-time, minute-by-minute changes in the price of electricity.

This legislation will also:

- Reauthorize DOE grants that support smart grid deployment and require utilities to have a plan for integrating smart grid technologies in order to qualify for a grant.
- Protect the privacy of individuals and businesses and their respective sensitive data by prohibiting any federal entity from requesting personally identifiable data collected as a result of provisions in this legislation.