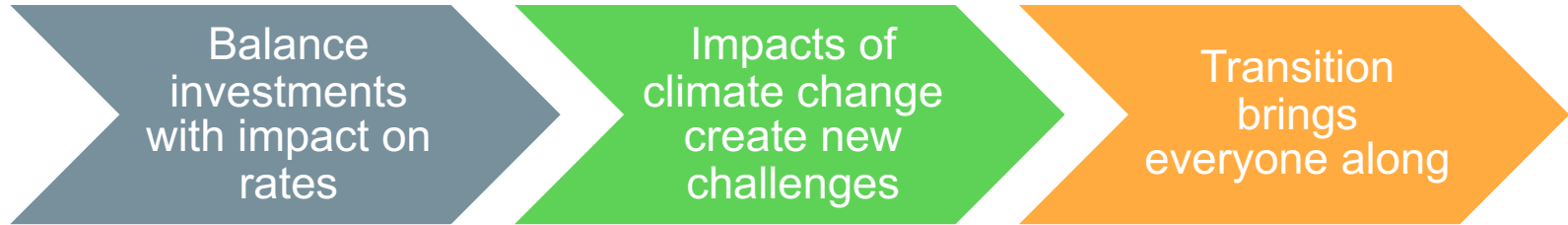


Electric Infrastructure Investment Proposals

House Committee on Energy and Technology | Feb. 18, 2022



Smart Investments Accelerate Energy Transformation



- Vermont utilities shared approach
- Aligned with Climate Commission and Comprehensive Energy Plan
- Must meet goals at least cost to consumer
- Reach all corners of the state
- Benefit of all/any state or federal provided funds flow directly to customers
- Thoughtful targeted investments

Federal and State Infrastructure Funding Request

Seek funds from federal stimulus (ARPA) and infrastructure (IIJA) to defray costs for customers of utility resilience upgrades to accelerate electrification and support a more reliable, two-way grid

Governor Recommended - FY2023 (ARPA)

- Sec. XX(e) \$20,000,000 to the DPS to provide financial and technical assistance for low- and moderate-income Vermonters to upgrade home electrical systems to enable installation of energy saving technologies.
- Sec. XX(f) \$2,000,000 to DPS for load management

Electric Utility Position

- **Support.** Funding should be distributed to utility customers based on a pro rata share, or if by other means, on a geographically equitable basis.
- **Support.** Initial utility request sought \$10M for storage technologies.

Federal and State Infrastructure Funding Request, cont.

Seek funds from federal stimulus (ARPA) and infrastructure (IIJA) to defray costs for customers of utility resilience upgrades to accelerate electrification and support a more reliable, two-way grid

Additional Recommendations for Investment - Not included in Governor Recommended

- \$11,000,000 to DUs that have locations in their service territory without established Advance Metering Infrastructure (AMI). AMI helps accelerate load control and other grid management programs, but also does not have any other current ready source for federal support. Lack of AMI is a barrier to receiving other federal energy sector grants.
- \$30,000,000 to DUs on a load share basis for strategic upgrades to substations and distribution across the Vermont grid for resiliency in light of climate change and additional capacity needed to accelerate the state's ability to meet renewable generation and electrification (load hosting) goals
 - ARPA eligibility potential if in targeted Census tracts
 - Would anticipate funds to flow through Department of Public Service/State Energy Office to show need and that projects conform with state energy policy and present least cost solution

Federal and State Infrastructure Funding Request, cont.

Seek funds from federal stimulus (ARPA) and infrastructure (IIJA) to defray costs for customers of utility resilience upgrades to accelerate electrification and support a more reliable, two-way grid

Additional Recommendations for Investment - Not included in Governor Recommended

- \$1,500,000 for expanding the registered electrician apprenticeship program
 - To include additional training (telecom) for current electric lineworkers and a focus on attracting non-traditional and disadvantaged candidates

Federal and State Infrastructure Funding Request, cont.

Seek funds from federal stimulus (ARPA) and infrastructure (IIJA) to defray costs for customers of utility resilience upgrades to accelerate electrification and support a more reliable, two-way grid

Additional Recommendations for Investment - Not included in Governor Recommended

- \$15,000,000 for targeted Ash tree removal in rights of way to aid overall system resilience and reliability.
 - One-time investment that is statewide issue due to changing climate
 - Current costs also borne by municipalities and other public landowners, but this investment would take care of the existing dangerous trees
 - ARPA eligible potential? (see Forest, Parks & Rec proposal to plant new trees in town centers - combine with removal where applicable?)
- \$20,000,000 for establishing a Resiliency Zone program. Distribution utilities can seek funding to create Resiliency Zones utilities batteries installed at or near critical facilities, potentially paired with local renewable energy.
 - ARPA capital fund eligible - potential overlap with the work in H.518
 - Also potential in IIJA funding sources, would potentially require state match or other funding supports

Questions?

- Vermont Electric Co-Op, Andrea Cohen
acohen@vermontelectric.coop
- Burlington Electric Department, Amber Widmayer
AWidmayer@burlingtonelectric.com
- VT Public Power Supply Authority, Ken Nolan
knolan@vppsa.com
- Washington Electric Co-Op, Louis Porter
louis.porter@wec.coop
- VELCO, Shana Louiselle
slouiselle@velco.com
- Green Mountain Power, Candace Morgan
candace.morgan@greenmountainpower.com
- Stowe Electric, Michael Lazorchak
mlazorchak@stoweelectric.com