



# Supporting Innovation in the Energy Transition

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# NREL at a Glance

## 3,675 Workforce, including:

- 2,732 regular/limited term
- 490 contingent workers
- 211 postdoctoral researchers
- 152 graduate student interns
- 90 undergraduate student interns

—as of 9/30/2023

## World-class research expertise in:

- Renewable Energy
- Sustainable Transportation & Fuels
- Buildings and Industry
- Energy Systems Integration

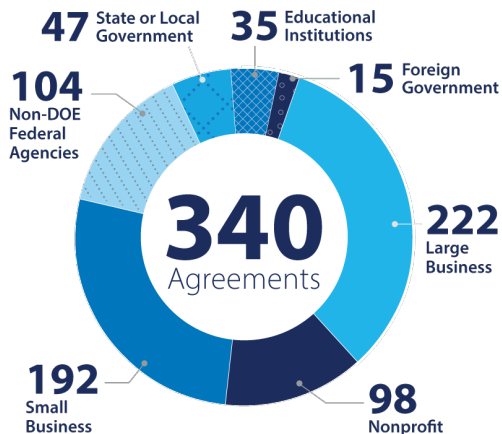
## Partnerships with:

- Industry
- Academia
- Government

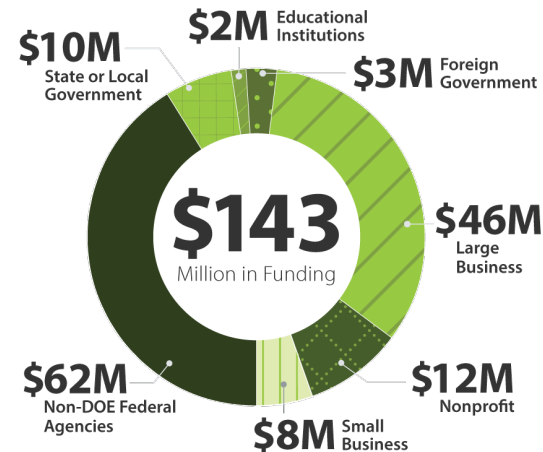
**4 Campuses** operate as living laboratories



## More Than 1,000 Active Partnerships in FY 2023



Agreements by Business Type



Funding by Business Type

# NREL Science Drives Innovation



## Renewable Energy

- Solar
- Wind
- Water
- Geothermal



## Sustainable Transportation & Fuels

- Bioenergy
- Hydrogen and Fuel Cells
- Transportation and Mobility



## Buildings and Industry

- Buildings
- Industrial Efficiency and Decarbonization
- Advanced Materials and Manufacturing
- State, Local, and Tribal Governments



## Energy Systems Integration

- Energy Security and Resilience
- Grid Modernization
- Integrated Energy Solutions

# NREL Brings Distinct Capabilities

## Foundational Science

Bench-scale- discovery



Solar Energy Research Facility  
Science and Technology Facility  
Field Test Laboratory Building



## Accelerated Technology Scale-Up

Scaling R&D and Process Engineering



Energy Materials and Processing  
at Scale (Completion 2025)



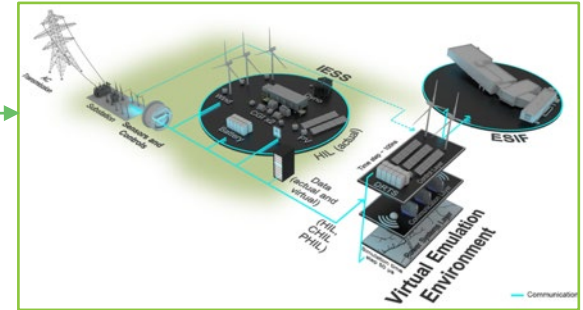
Energy Systems  
Integration Facility



- Carbon-free H<sub>2</sub>
- Products from electrochemical processes and CO<sub>2</sub>
- Advanced Batteries
- PV, Wind, Water Power, Geothermal
- New Buildings and Industrial Materials, Manufacturing and Systems
- Grid and security tech

## Systems

R&D with Industry Partners



Advanced Research on  
Integrated Energy Systems

## Markets

High-Performance Computing, Simulation, and Visualization

# Why Can't Industry Do What We're Doing?

Industry invests in short-term R&D when they are confident about a return on investment.

## NREL:

- Assumes a longer, broader view.
- Takes on early-stage, high-risk R&D.
- Conducts research that makes it possible for industry to bring important new solutions to the market.



Photo by Werni Jocum, NREL

*“It is often too risky for the private sector to be on that bleeding edge of research where profits are years and years away.”*

Venkatesh Narayanamurti,  
Professor of Science and Technology Policy,  
Harvard Kennedy School, told *The Washington Post*

# Resources at the Edge

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Advancing the Energy Transition in  
Communities



Office of Indian Energy

Office of ENERGY EFFICIENCY & RENEWABLE ENERGY



LA DWP Los Angeles Department of Water & Power



NREL has partnered with and supported **more than 3,000** communities, tribes, jurisdictions, utilities, and businesses for energy transitions planning, technical assistance, capacity building, workforce development, and more.

# The collective power of DOE and the national labs helps communities reach their goals



## Stakeholder engagement and decision support

Map and assess actionable pathways for achieving clean energy goals, with continuous community input



## Customized modeling and analysis

Apply customized tools to provide decision-supportive analysis on critical policy and technology decisions



## Simulation, emulation, and validation

De-risk large-scale deployments through realistic simulations/emulations on the ARIES platform



## Local capacity building and training

Support workforce and institutional capacity development on clean energy, equity, policies, smart buildings, electric transportation



## Peer-to-peer learning with other communities

Work through coalitions to leverage lessons from other jurisdictions and share best practices



# C2C: Tailored Support to Transform Community Clean Energy Ambitions Into Tangible Results

Inspired by LA100, C2C enhanced capabilities with ARIES validation is scaling technical innovations.

## C2C: Clean Energy to Communities

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Multiple teams of utilities, local governments, and community-based organizations in the **first 3 years**

One utility  
over 3 years



(Community-Led  
Goal Setting)

# ARIES

+  Validation

(Technical Advisement)



Pathway analysis



(Implementation)

# Solving Integration and Operation Challenges before Installation

By emulating community assets and grids, we can reduce uncertainty and risk in energy project deployment and accelerate transition.



GE Turbine at ARIES is Plugged Into Virtual Community



Solar Array at ARIES

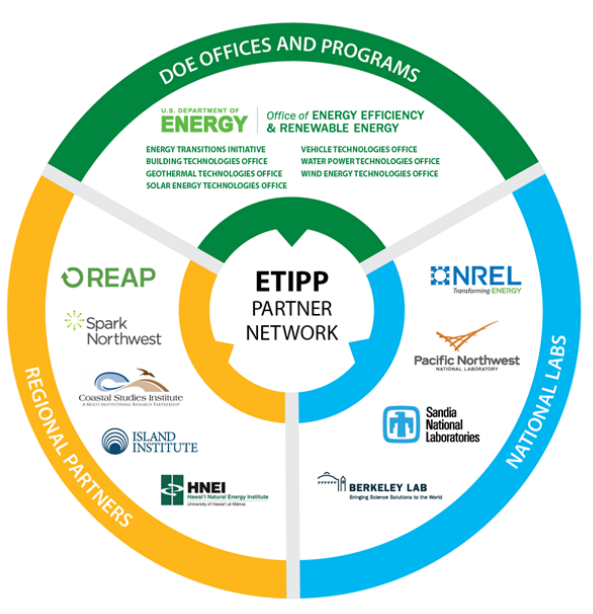


Systems Performance Lab at NREL (Residential Building Appliances and Charging Stations)



# ETIPP Overview

ETIPP connects remote and island communities with regional and national energy experts who can provide **strategic energy analysis and planning** for local energy resilience projects.



## 7 U.S. DOE Offices

Funding, support, expertise

Foster cross-technology collaboration, planning and solutions

## 4 National Labs

Deep energy-sector experience, expertise

Technology-neutral technical assistance

## 5 Regional Partners

Local, trusted, community-based

Stakeholder engagement and outreach

## 32 Communities

Unique challenges, values, goals

Identify energy challenges and ideal transitions

Share experiences and learnings, regionally and internationally

# ETIPP Community: Sitka, Alaska

**Project goals:** Support a growing community with changing needs by providing:

- Long-term planning to address anticipated energy needs
- A strategy to minimize rate impacts on customers
- Solutions to bolster energy resilience and minimize climate impacts (e.g., avoid future reliance on diesel)
- Data to secure financing for energy investments

**Scope:** Assess available renewable resources in and around the community while planning for a more modern grid control system

1. *Generation planning:* Renewable energy assessment
2. *Microgrid planning:* Grid model development and training
3. *Optimization of resources for economic benefit:* Evaluation of green energy export options

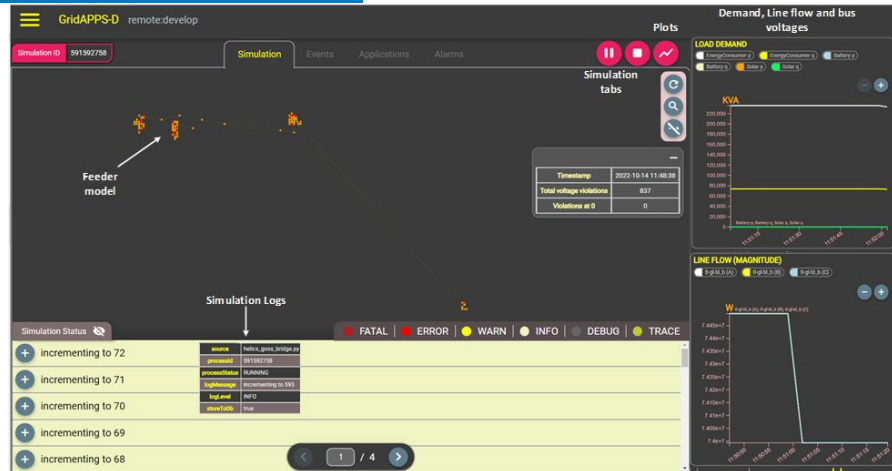


Photo by Grant Turner, City and Borough of Sitka

# Steady-State and Dynamic Grid Model Development

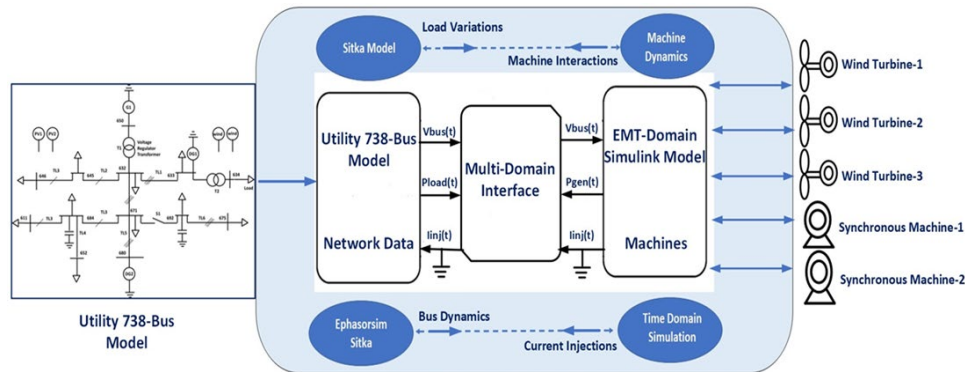
## Steady-state model of electric grid

- Leveraged existing data from City and Borough of Sitka (CBS)
- Built model in an open-source tool for planning and designing distribution systems
- Planning tool for CBS
  - Simulate distribution system power flows
  - Test various scenarios (operational, added generation resources, changing loads)
  - Evaluate value of new controls before investment
  - Sync with other commercial tools



## Dynamic Grid Model

- Built dynamic grid model based on steady-state model
  - Evaluates grid stability and control impacts with addition of renewable energy generation
- Existing hydro and load control can support up to 9 MW of intermittent renewable energy integration
- Higher levels of wind/solar integration will require microgrid controls, upgrades to existing hydro/load control, and/or battery storage.

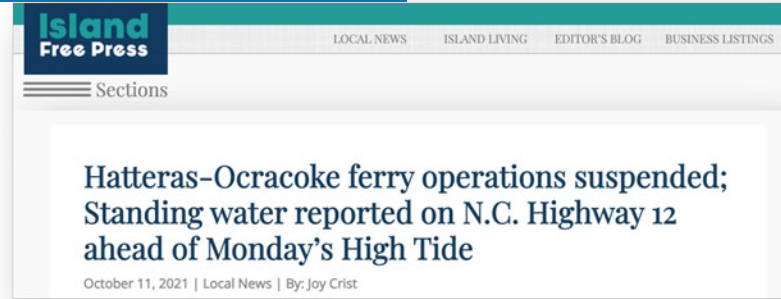


# ETIPP Community: Ocracoke, NC

ETIPP is assisting Tideland Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), the utility provider for Ocracoke, in assessing the prospect of electrifying their ferry fleet.

## Activities

- Data collection and site assessment
- Assess the current state of electric marine transportation technologies
- Perform a feasibility and cost-benefit analysis



# Approach



## Routes

Determine routes for electrification and travel details (duration, distance...)



## Schedules

Assess service schedules to determine ferry dwell



## Energy

Assess energy needs per route to determine charging requirements during dwell



## Power

Assess EVSE options and vessel energy storage needs



## Site

Consider installation requirements including grid and port upgrades



Thank You

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