UNLOCK the GRID

A BLUEPRINT TO DELIVER THE POWER AMERICA NEEDS



WHAT IS UNLOCK THE GRID?

Unlock the Grid **unites policy, technical, and implementation expertise to help states meet rising electricity demand and prepare for future economic growth. Our team offers state policymakers and energy regulators practical and durable policy tools to deliver more power, faster, using clean and innovative solutions.**

We also provide hands-on implementation expertise to help states put policy into action:

POLICY DESIGN. State leaders are inundated with policy playbooks. We help sort through options and design the most effective package tailored to their needs.

POLICY IMPLEMENTATION. Enacting policies is only half the battle. We bring experts to help states deliver on their goals through action.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS. State leaders need strong data to make informed choices. We provide expert technical analysis to inform priorities and better decision making.

Our analysis shows clean energy can meet demand faster than gas,[1] unlock 400 GW of new capacity, and save more than $5 billion per year.[2]

1 GridLab, *The New Reality of Power Generation: An Analysis of Increasing Gas Turbine Costs in the U.S.* (Berkeley, CA: GridLab, September 2025).

2 Brendan Pierpont, Matthias Fripp, and Michelle Solomon, *Let the Sun In: Clean Energy Is the Cheapest Way to Meet Rising Demand* (San Francisco: Energy Innovation, June 2026.

3 Joseph Rand et al., *Queued Up: 2026 Edition, Characteristics of Power Plants Seeking Transmission Interconnection as of the End of 2025* (Berkeley, CA: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, June 2026).

UNLOCKING CLEAN POWER AT SCALE

The U.S. is building new power generation capacity at a record pace. The backbone of this buildout is solar, wind, and energy storage, representing over 90% of expected additions to the grid in 2026 and 2027. Despite record deployment, we are not connecting this power fast enough to the grid. Over 2,000 GW of capacity[3] remains stuck in line, waiting an average of five years to connect to the grid. Americans deserve better.

Experts at *Unlock the Grid* have developed tailor-made solutions for state legislators and energy regulators to unlock clean energy at scale with improved siting and permitting, faster grid connection, and more investment mobilization.



UNLOCKING
CUSTOMER AND LOCAL CLEAN ENERGY

As the energy transition and load growth coincide, small-scale energy projects sited close to where electricity is used and on the distribution system are themselves a critical part of the solution. The potential for small-scale power is enormous: Small-scale resources can meet peak demand at 40-60%[4] of the cost of a gas peaking turbine and come online in a fraction of the time. While small-scale distribution-sited projects are increasingly used as a way to meet the broader grid's needs instead of just the customers that deploy them, significant barriers prevent unlocking their full speed at scale.

Unlock the Grid offers solutions for state legislators and energy regulators to unlock small-scale clean energy with improved permitting, faster grid connection, and more investment mobilization.

UNLOCKING
THE WIRES

As developers and grid operators rush to bring new generation resources online to meet rising demand, the interstate system of our grid — the bulk transmission system — is struggling to keep pace. Throughout most of the country, transmission system expansion has slowed significantly.[5] While the U.S. will need to construct many miles of new transmission infrastructure to respond to future demand, consensus is growing that we must upgrade existing infrastructure today to unlock marginal capacity.

Advanced Transmission Technologies, including high-performance conductors and grid enhancing technologies, can be deployed far faster and far cheaper than traditional upgrades, enabling an opportunity to meet demand growth while keeping costs low for consumers.

Unlock the Grid can help policymakers and other key stakeholders plan for, permit, incentivize, and finance transmission solutions that can quickly unlock new capacity on the grid, speed up interconnection of new load and generation resources, and provide improved reliability.

4 Ryan Hledik and Kate Peters, *Real Reliability: The Value of Virtual Power, Volume I: Summary Report* (The Brattle Group, May 2023).

5 Nathan Shreve et al., Fewer New Miles: Strategic Industries Held Back by Slow Pace of Transmission (Washington, DC: Americans for a Clean Energy Grid, July 2025).



UNLOCK the GRID

HOW DO I WORK WITH UNLOCK THE GRID?

Email us for more information or visit our website and fill out the contact form.

ARJUN KRISHNASWAMI
Director, Unlock the Grid
arjun@s2strategies.org

WWW.UNLOCKTHEGRID.ENERGY

GridLAB
ENERGY INNOVATION
S2 Strategies