

CHARGED INITIATIVE

From Ideation to Refinement and Deployment



WHAT IS CHARGED?

Charting a Path for Greater Electrification on the Distribution System

The CHARGED initiative was formed to support states as they electrify their transportation and building sectors, ensuring that the electricity distribution system is ready for this new era. Amidst a period of regulatory change and technical opportunity, it is imperative that the distribution system not only maintain, but also strengthen affordability and reliability for customers. CHARGED aims to help the industry advance from the current state-by-state piecemeal approach to utility planning and operations for electrification.

CHARGED follows an underlying principle that when gathered together in a structured collaborative space, utilities, advanced energy companies, technical experts, and public interest groups will generate creative and effective solutions that can be scaled, replicated, and customized across the country. The goal is to make progress outside of traditional regulatory processes towards electrification solutions and to improve outcomes in those regulatory processes. Starting with an inaugural three-day convening in April 2024, in Boulder, CO, roughly 60 participants from these diverse stakeholder groups identified tools and methods to enable electrification in ways that minimize infrastructure costs and maintain system reliability. This convening resulted in identification of a dozen specific challenges, roughly 40 least-regrets solutions with potential for immediate implementation, and outlines for 14 longer-term solutions.



WHAT IS CHARGED ADDRESSING?

CHARGED is designed as a comprehensive effort to address the many challenges that utilities have to tackle (the full cycle from planning to operations). This is not a theoretical or research effort but one that is aimed at generating tangible solutions that can be broadly adopted immediately across the United States.

CHARGED INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING

- 1 Distribution system planning** includes issues such as load forecasting, technology characterization, multi-hour analysis/modeling, flexibility considerations, coordination between distribution and transmission system planning.
- 2 Rates and incentives** includes issues such as managed charging rates and protecting low income consumers, focused on electrification-driven loads versus distributed energy resources (DERs) that can export power onto the grid.
- 3 Targeted and integrated deployment strategies** includes issues of program design and delivery.
- 4 Grid connection** includes topics of interconnection, accommodating new and increased loads, and grid-readiness standards.
- 5 Distribution operations** includes topics of distribution level visibility and control of electrified loads, including coordination with aggregators.
- 6 Data access and sharing** includes issues of how data and information can be shared within and outside of the utility, and standardized methods for sharing and communicating information such as distribution-level data, planning assumptions, and customer information.

WHAT IS NEXT FOR CHARGED?

CHARGED is now focusing on:

- Further refining the least-regrets solutions prioritized by CHARGED participants.
- Tackling the longer-term challenges through further ideation and collaboration.
- Implementing multiple least-regrets solutions at the state and utility level.
- Socializing CHARGED findings and ideas across the industry, including with additional public materials from subsequent CHARGED activities.

In order to accomplish these tasks, CHARGED needs more perspectives from the industry, which is where YOU come in! The inaugural convening and its work product confirmed the founding notion for the initiative: structured multi-stakeholder collaboration can advance critical electrification solutions and can occur outside traditional regulatory proceedings.

HOW CAN YOUR ORGANIZATION GET INVOLVED WITH CHARGED AND WHAT CAN CHARGED OFFER?

Joining the CHARGED initiative has benefits! When you collaborate with us, CHARGED offers pro-bono access to experienced subject matter experts and facilitators.

- 1 Facilitation.** Are you a part of a public utility commission or utility tackling complex challenges that require multiple stakeholder perspectives? If so, the CHARGED team can help facilitate those conversations towards reaching productive outcomes.
- 2 Analysis & implementation.** Are you part of a public utility commission or utility interested in testing out a particular solution or technology, such as smart EV charging? If so, CHARGED can help with assessing your options, and helping with deploying these solutions.
- 3 Education.** Are you interested in learning about CHARGED's solutions? If so, CHARGED can speak at your industry event.

GET IN TOUCH

Contact a member of the steering committee for more information and details on how to participate in CHARGED.

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