

Description

Many organizations rely on central plants and district heating and cooling, but they face unique challenges as they try to decarbonize these systems. This working group will offer guidance and convene peer exchange sessions on topics related to decarbonizing central plants and district energy systems. U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) experts will work with partners to better understand their existing systems and identify challenges and potential solutions specific to their system type. The working group will cover best practices for central plant decarbonization, how to best approach phased implementation, and funding options.

Small group discussions will allow for substantive peer exchange and catered technical guidance for partners with similar systems and challenges. The feedback and input of working group members will lead to the development of new resources as well as technical assistance offerings.

Schedule

The working group cohorts will meet every 4 weeks for approximately five months in a series of five, 60-minute facilitated calls starting in Fall 2024.

Working Group Format

- ▶ Includes DOE and partners presentations and targeted discussions
- ▶ A mix of workshop and peer exchange elements
- ▶ Partners are encouraged to bring additional team members based on topic, including facilities management, capital planning, and finance

Example Central Plant Decarbonization Subtopics

- ▶ System Characterization
- ▶ Exploration of Challenges and Solutions
- ▶ Studies and Assessments
- ▶ Implementation
- ▶ Funding and Financing

Outcomes

- ▶ DOE will catalog how participants are planning to reduce GHG emissions at their central plants, and their approaches for transitioning the plants over time
- ▶ DOE will develop resources based on partner contributions. Resources may include a guide for central plant transition planning for owners and/or scope of work for owners
- ▶ Working group members will be recognized for their contributions

Expectations for Participating Partners

- ▶ Attendance at a majority of working group meetings
- ▶ Contribution of insights and experiences with central plant decarbonization
- ▶ Working with DOE and Laboratory staff to assist in the completion of action items
- ▶ Working group members in all stages of central plant decarbonization are welcome; partners who are in the early stages, those who are actively exploring strategies, those who have completed plans, and those implementing decarbonization projects may all contribute and find value from the working group
- ▶ Encourages relevant team members throughout their organization to join the working group for relevant meetings, such as facilities, energy management, procurement, and finance personnel