

# Modernize the Bonneville Power Administration

The Northwest is in the midst of a permanent transition in the way electricity is produced, stored, and delivered. Climate change policies, technological innovation, and customer demands for clean energy bring opportunities for decarbonization, clean energy jobs, and infrastructure investment throughout the region.

The urgency of the climate crisis demands aggressive action this decade. The Biden Administration has stepped up by enacting historic policies and funding for climate and clean energy programs. Congress provided new borrowing authority for BPA to make much-needed investments to modernize the regional grid. And the Northwest is charging ahead with some of the strongest climate policies in the nation.

However, **the Northwest's clean energy transformation also brings challenges.** These challenges include:

1. Supplying new electrification loads as the transportation, buildings, and industrial sectors of the economy convert from fossil fuels to clean electricity
2. Upgrading an outdated and insufficient transmission system that is not capable of bringing geographically diverse renewable energy to load centers
3. Addressing legacy and current harms to tribal communities and fish and wildlife that rely on the climate-constrained Columbia River system
4. Tackling the increasing threat of wildfires, heat waves, decreased snowpack, and other impacts of climate change on communities and our energy infrastructure

**Addressing these challenges requires a regional perspective.** BPA owns and operates three-quarters of the regional transmission grid, is the steward and marketer of the Federal Columbia River Power System, and supports dozens of customer utilities. It is therefore imperative that the Bonneville Power Administration be a leader in driving the large-scale transformations in energy supply, energy efficiency and demand management, and transmission that will enable a smoother clean energy transition. To improve reliability, affordability, and power system resilience, this will require doubling down on customer-side resources like conservation, energy efficiency, and demand response, and integrating new energy technologies like energy storage.

**BPA must take leadership in the clean energy transition.** BPA's current business-as-usual approach to energy supply, transmission, and non-Federal resource development is holding back regional progress. As BPA's centennial approaches, it must modernize its approach for the next century, ensuring that the Northwest has affordable, equitable, and clean energy for years to come.

Below, we outline actions BPA should embrace to help the region – and the West – meet our clean energy and climate targets.

