

The Clean Distributed Energy Grid Integration Act (S.1201)

The Clean Distributed Energy Grid Integration Act will strengthen our nation's energy security, reduce pollution, increase electric reliability and spur job creation by improving the deployment of efficient and cost effective energy resources like solar, wind, energy storage, combined heat and power (CHP), fuel cells and waste heat to power (WHP).

Often the cheapest, most reliable and efficient energy source, distributed energy creates electricity at or near the customer, as opposed to centralized generation at large power plants that often requires electricity to be transmitted long distances to consumers. While large power stations are costly to build and often difficult to site in densely populated areas, distributed energy can be rolled out quickly at a fraction of the cost, providing targeted, localized relief to the grid. The benefits of clean energy are numerous and include energy savings, improved environmental quality, avoided costly upgrades to transmission and distribution infrastructure and grid reliability in the event of electricity outages or emergencies.

Despite the economic, energy and environmental benefits of clean distributed energy sources, complicated regulatory and technical challenges limit its deployment and integration onto the existing grid. For example, the absence of uniform procedures, coupled with excessive fees to connect these efficient and more affordable energy systems to the electric grid, often prevents their more widespread use.

With the installation of clean energy resources becoming more prevalent, regulators, utilities and leaders in this sector need to determine how distributed energy systems will work together for the benefit of the grid. The Clean Distributed Energy Grid Integration Act addresses obstacles limiting the use of clean distributed energy resources, thereby reducing energy costs and improving the power quality and resiliency of the electric grid.

What the Clean Distributed Energy Grid Integration Act Will Do

- **Reports on the Status of Grid Integration**
 - Directs the Department of Energy (DOE) to develop a report that will detail the status of integration of distributed energy technologies into the grid and identify all technical and regulatory hurdles that inhibit the expanded usage of clean energy resources.
- **Researches Technical Barriers Limiting the Grid Integration of Clean Distributed Energy**
 - Directs the DOE to solicit research proposals that will address critical technical barriers impeding distributed energy grid integration.
- **Creates a Stakeholder Working Group to Provide Solutions to Clean Energy Challenges**
 - Directs the DOE to convene a Stakeholder Working Group consisting of representatives with expertise in the development, implementation, siting and integration of distributed energy technology or systems into the electric grid.
 - The Stakeholder Working Group will be charged to review regulatory policies and provide solutions to obstacles limiting clean energy integration.
- **Demonstrates Intelligent Grid Integration of Clean Distributed Energy Systems**
 - Creates a competitive grant program for entities to demonstrate how to achieve successful integration of distributed energy sources into the electricity grid.
 - This grant program is open to State and local agencies, public and private institutions, electric utilities and equipment manufacturers.