



**California Public Utilities Commission**  
505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PRESS RELEASE**

Media Contact: Terrie Prosper, 415.703.1366, [news@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:news@cpuc.ca.gov)

## **CPUC LAUNCHES NEW EFFORT TO ACCELERATE AND COORDINATE ENERGY RD&D WITH EMERGING ISSUES**

SAN FRANCISCO, July 29, 2020 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today is taking further action to focus electricity research, development, and deployment (RD&D) projects to better connect ratepayer-funded projects with current and emerging policy issues. Through four new workstreams, the CPUC will aggregate lessons learned from RD&D leaders and other stakeholders around key areas of shared interest across projects.

The workstreams will focus on the following Partnership Areas in 2020:

1. Equity: How can we ensure that the transition to clean energy is equitable?
2. Wildfire Mitigation: How do we develop new tools to prioritize and weigh wildfire mitigation investments?
3. Transportation Electrification: How can transportation electrification support grid reliability and promote grid decarbonization?
4. Utility Public Safety Power Shut-offs (PSPS): How do we minimize social and economic disruptions of utility PSPS events for the most critical public services and the most vulnerable communities?

CPUC Decision [18-01-008](#) and [D.18-10-052](#) established the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Policy+Innovation Coordination Group, comprised of EPIC program administrators, CPUC Commissioners, CPUC Energy Division staff, and the Project Coordinator. The purpose of the group is to better leverage lessons learned from RD&D projects through increased collaboration among EPIC program administrators and between program administrations and the CPUC.



Participants in the four workstreams will share their direct experience in ongoing EPIC research, development, and deployment projects. Workstreams will explore policy obstacles to new and emerging technology adoption, help inform ongoing and upcoming CPUC proceedings, and create new collaborations across research projects to accelerate energy innovation. The Partnership Areas apply to current EPIC projects, and do not direct funding for future investments.

The Partnership Areas were chosen after work by the CPUC Policy+Innovation Coordination Group to identify areas in which RD&D projects funded through the CPUC's EPIC Program could be better coordinated to accelerate innovation, and to create a feedback loop between the State's energy RD&D efforts and emerging energy policy challenges.

Stakeholders that are interested in joining the workstreams can find more information and detailed descriptions of each of the Partnership Areas at [EPICPartnership.org](http://EPICPartnership.org). All workstreams will be conducted virtually starting in September 2020 and will continue through November 2020.

### **The CPUC's Electricity RD&D Investments**

EPIC supports the development of new, emerging, and non-commercialized clean energy technologies in California. These projects benefit electricity ratepayers with increased reliability, improved safety, and/or reduced electricity costs.

The CPUC oversees and monitors EPIC, which is paid for by utility ratepayers. Four administrators currently administer EPIC: the California Energy Commission (CEC), which administers 80 percent of EPIC funds, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison, and San Diego Gas & Electric, which together administer the remaining 20 percent of EPIC funds.

In 2019, the CPUC selected The Accelerate Group and 2R Group to serve as Project Coordinator of the Policy+Innovation Coordination Group through a competitive RFP process. The role of the Project Coordinator is to facilitate coordination between the CPUC's energy policy and planning needs, and the energy RD&D supported by the EPIC funding.

To find out more about the Policy+Innovation Coordination Group, visit [EPICPartnership.org](http://EPICPartnership.org).



The CPUC regulates services and utilities, protects consumers, safeguards the environment, and assures Californians' access to safe and reliable utility infrastructure and services. For more information on the CPUC, please visit [www.cpuc.ca.gov](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov).

###

