







Clean Energy and Microgrid Opportunities to Make Electricity Affordable, Reliable, and Clean in New Orleans

The City of New Orleans, Louisiana, is participating in the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Communities Local Energy Action Program (LEAP) Pilot, which is supporting 24 communities across the United States in their efforts to transition to clean energy to improve energy reliability, lower energy costs, and strengthen local economies. Communities LEAP is specifically open to low-income, energy-burdened communities that are also experiencing either direct environmental justice impacts, or direct economic impacts from a shift away from historical reliance on fossil fuels.

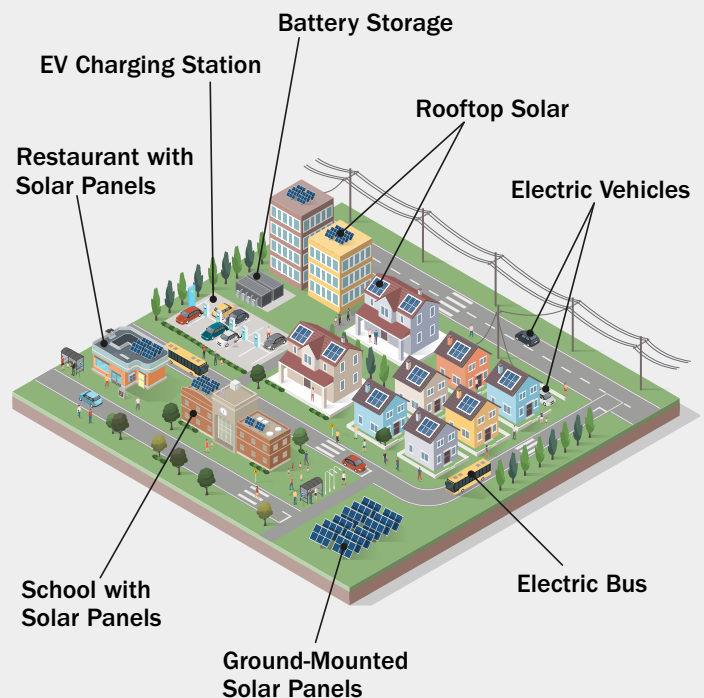
Through Communities LEAP, a New Orleans community coalition will work with a technical assistance (TA) provider network to develop an implementation roadmap that makes recommendations for future investments to:

-  **Lower energy bills** for residents who pay a disproportionately high share of their incomes for natural gas and electricity
-  **Build microgrids** to make electricity services more reliable, even during storms
-  **Reduce pollution from energy generation** to improve air quality, promote environmental justice, and address climate change
-  **Develop a local clean energy workforce.**

The community coalition includes staff from the New Orleans Office of Economic Development, the Office of Resilience and Sustainability, the Hazard Mitigation Office, and the Greater New Orleans Housing Alliance (GNOHA). The Communities LEAP TA provider network is coordinated by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and includes private and public organizations with expertise in clean energy, environmental justice, economic development, and equitable investment.

What is a microgrid?

Microgrids are small-scale electrical grids that can enable local sources of energy, like rooftop solar and battery storage, to keep electricity on in a community even when storms or other disruptions shut down the larger grid.



NREL is coordinating a wide range of community stakeholders and experts to analyze the community's energy needs, priorities, and resources and will provide an analysis for the New Orleans community coalition to develop microgrids and help meet the city's clean energy goals. The roadmap will make recommendations for future investments that can create green jobs, reduce emissions, help address climate change, protect natural resources, and keep the power on, even after a storm.

Email cleap@nola.gov with any questions.