



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

**NOTICE OF REQUEST FOR
INFORMATION (RFI)**

Distributed Battery Storage Systems to Address Grid Needs

Introduction

The DC Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) is requesting input from interested parties available to provide services in the District of Columbia regarding how distributed batteries can provide key grid services in the District. DOEE is particularly interested in parties with interest and expertise in deploying batteries of between 100 kW and 30 MW of capacity in any one location.

Background

DOEE's mission is to improve the quality of life for District residents by protecting the environment, expanding access to clean energy, and building a sustainable future. As required by the Climate Commitment Amendment Act of 2022, DOEE is advancing its Clean Energy DC 2.0 Plan — a roadmap to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 60% from 2006 levels by 2030 and achieve net-zero emissions by 2045.

Distributed battery resources are a critical component of this strategy. When located at or near the point of use — particularly in low-to-moderate income (LMI) and environmental justice communities — these systems enhance equitable access to clean energy benefits, strengthen local resilience, and help reduce energy burdens. Distributed batteries also provide key grid services, including reducing peak demand, supporting voltage stability, mitigating congestion, and improving overall grid flexibility and reliability across the District.

To scale distributed battery deployment meaningfully, DOEE must mobilize both capital and operational expertise. This RFI seeks to understand the market landscape of institutions and organizations prepared to finance, install, and maintain distributed battery systems throughout the District.

Purpose

This Request for Information (RFI) seeks responses from battery manufacturers, installers, the local utility, academic institutions, engineering firms, and other parties with relevant information on the role that distributed batteries can play in addressing grid needs in the District of Columbia. This includes supporting "N-1" scenarios — where a key grid resource (e.g., a substation or feeder) is unavailable — as well as addressing needs such as peak shaving, demand response, demand charge savings, frequency regulation, voltage regulation, black start, system capacity, and other relevant grid services.

1. Deployment approaches. DOEE is seeking insights on how distributed batteries can be deployed to provide grid services in the District.

2. Grid service prioritization. DOEE seeks respondents' views on which grid services distributed batteries are best suited to provide in the District, and which of these services respondents consider most valuable or most readily monetizable in the DC context, and why.

3. Cost information. DOEE seeks information on the cost associated with deploying batteries to provide grid services in the District under a variety of scenarios, including:

- a. Providing system capacity for at least 4 hours under a substation-level N-1 scenario for at least 20 MW of capacity;
- b. Providing peak shaving services for the District as a whole, sufficient to reduce peak demand on the 5 highest-demand days below the level of the 360th-highest demand day;
- c. Providing a minimum of 24-hour resilience support to at least 10 critical infrastructure sites across the District, with daily load needs of 100–250 kWh;
- d. Any other use case relevant to the District that respondents have experience with in other jurisdictions.

4. Compensation frameworks. DOEE seeks information on the compensation frameworks necessary to support battery deployment for grid services in the District, including tax credits and various financing and ownership models. Respondents should address:

- a. PJM capacity market participation;
- b. DC locational value (e.g., T&D network constraints);
- c. Other ancillary services.

5. Ownership structures. DOEE seeks information on the advantages and disadvantages of various battery ownership structures for supporting grid services and other important functions in the District.

6. Mobile battery deployment. DOEE seeks information on the advantages and disadvantages of mobile battery deployments to support major demand events in an urban context.

7. Siting, permitting, and safety. DOEE seeks information on the challenges associated with siting commercial-scale batteries in an urban, mixed-use environment such as the District, including:

- a. Barriers presented by current building codes, fire safety regulations, or permitting processes;
- b. Any changes to codes, permitting pathways, or fire/life-safety requirements that respondents believe would be necessary or beneficial to enable commercial-scale battery deployment in DC;
- c. Siting considerations specific to dense urban environments (e.g., space constraints, proximity to occupied buildings, interconnection queue timelines).

Submissions

Responses should be submitted via email to 2026BatteryRFI@dc.gov with the subject line “Distributed Battery RFI – [Primary Respondent Name]” by August 15, 2026.

An informational session will be held:

July 24, 2026, 11:00 AM Eastern Time

Register: <https://dcnet.webex.com/weblink/register/ra5dfbf05671187b28558e4d1f4c4d8d4>

Meeting number (access code): 2301 365 2813

Meeting password: public

This is a Request for Information (RFI) only – it is not being posted as an actual statement of work (SOW) at this time, nor does it constitute a Request for Proposal (RFP) or Request for Application (RFA) or a promise to issue an RFP or RFA in the future.

DOEE may choose to reissue this RFI again at a later date to gather further input.