

CALIFORNIA LEADS THE WORLD IN PRODUCING INNOVATIVE POLICY SOLUTIONS TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE.

This year, the Legislature has an opportunity to take the next step to make clean energy cheap and plentiful for all Californians: integrating California's modern grid operator with utilities in our neighboring states.

While modern and cutting edge, California's electricity grid is also limited. It is unable to fully utilize our abundant clean energy resources, like solar, wind and geothermal, which are sometimes wasted when there is a surplus. By connecting our electric grid to neighboring states, California could, for example, sell excess solar when the sun is shining here and buy wind from other western states when it's not.

Moving to a modern power system that integrates utilities across California with utilities in states with similar climate policies, like Washington, Oregon and Nevada, will create important benefits.

Jobs and economic activity. By unlocking the operational limitation on more wind and solar, California clean energy companies will enjoy access to expanded markets, generating billions of dollars of economic activity and steady growth of in-state full-time jobs by 2030.

Lower energy costs for bill-payers. A larger footprint for the grid allows for more efficient use of the investments we have already made, and reduces costs to consumers.

Contribute to California's climate goals. California can affordably reduce its dependence on fossil fuels, reach its clean energy and carbon reduction goals, and lead America at a time when energy and climate progress is especially at risk.

Address energy injustice. By operating more efficiently, California's natural gas plants will also operate more cleanly, as they were originally intended.

Increase reliability. The shift to a regional grid would expand resource flexibility and improve transmission planning and grid reliability.

Improve air quality. A regional energy market would reduce emissions of critical air pollutants in the state by giving grid operators access to renewables more often throughout the day and evening instead of relying on fossil fuels.

Maintain California's climate leadership. By partnering with states that share California's environmental ethic, the state can retain its control and ability to procure the resources it prefers in accordance with its climate and energy goals.