

Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Overview

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California Public
Utilities Commission

EPIC Program Goals

The Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) supports the development of new, emerging, and pre-commercialized clean energy technologies in California. These projects must be designed to produce electricity ratepayer benefits in the form of increased reliability, improved safety, and/or reduced electricity costs. (D.12-05-037)

Three EPIC program areas

- Applied Research and Development
- Technology Demonstration and Deployment
- Market Facilitation

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- California Energy Commission EPIC projects.

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- California Energy Commission and investor-owned utilities EPIC projects.

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- The California Energy Commission administers an annual EPIC budget of \$147.26 million. (D.20-08-042)
- IOU roles in EPIC will be decided as part of Phase 2B of R.19-10-005 with a Commission vote expected as early as November 18, 2021.

EPIC Proceeding and Project Timelines

Timeline Caveats

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- General project timelines offer wider ranges.

EPIC Investment Plan Timeline

Entire process from investment plan formulation to actionable market outcome can take from less than four years to more than a decade.

EPIC Stage	Timeframe
Formulation of investment plans, including public engagement	Up to 1 year
CPUC consideration and approval of investment plans	Roughly 6-9 months
Solicitation development and project awards	Up to 1 year (EPIC project solicitations are released on a rolling basis throughout the investment period)
Project execution	From 1 year to 5+ years
Market outcome	From 1 year to 10+ years

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- Type of EPIC project.
 - For example, applied RD&D projects will likely take longer to produce market-ready deliverables than market facilitation projects.

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- Technology Readiness Level that the project starts at (TRL 1-9), assesses the maturity of a technology.
- Type of EPIC project.
 - For example, applied RD&D projects will likely take longer to produce market-ready deliverables than market facilitation projects.
- Urgency of the need addressed.
 - For example, wildfire safety projects will likely be implemented most quickly due to pressing need.

EPIC Proceeding Timeline

Staff Estimated R.19-10-005 Proceeding Schedule

Proceeding Milestone	Estimated Timing
CEC EPIC 4 Interim Plan (2021) Approved	July 2021
R.19-10-005 Phase 2B Alternate PD Considered	November 2021
CEC EPIC 4 Application Submitted (2022-2025)	December 2021
R.19-10-005 Phase 2C Assigned Commissioner Proposal Issued	Winter 2021
R.19-10-005 Phase 2C Proposed Decision	Spring 2022
CEC EPIC 4 Application Considered	May 2022
IOU EPIC 4 Application Submitted (2021-2025)	December 2022
IOU EPIC 4 Application Considered	May 2023
EPIC 5 Applications Submitted (2026-2030)	December 2025
EPIC 5 Applications Considered	May 2025

EPIC Solicitation Timeline for CEC Projects

Approximate Solicitation Timeline

Estimated Solicitation Schedule	Approximate Timeline (Calendar days)
Solicitation Release	Day 0
Pre-Application Workshop	Day 18
Deadline for Written Questions	Day 20
Post Questions, Answers and Addenda to Website	Day 50
Deadline to Submit Applications	Day 80
Post Notice of Proposed Awards	Day 160
Business Meeting Date	Day 300
Agreement Start Date	Day 360

Policy + Innovation Coordination Group

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PICG Role described in CPUC Decision (D.)18-10-052:

To support the development of the EPIC administrators' capacity to understand CPUC policies and proceedings, and how their EPIC projects best align with those policies and proceedings; and to support the CPUC's capacity to understand and leverage EPIC energy innovations in key policy areas.

Policy + Innovation Coordination Group

Mission described in CPUC Decision (D.)18-10-052:

The PICG is dedicated to:

- (1) The technical, complex coordination task of identifying timely opportunities for substantive feedback and coordination among EPIC investments and California's energy innovation needs and goals, and
- (2) Providing the support functions to allow this feedback and coordination to occur effectively.

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- Held February 18, 2021, Forum discussing highlights from partnership areas with Forum report.
- Developing comprehensive EPIC project database.

Forum 2 Goals

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- Opportunity for CPUC building decarbonization, integrated resource planning, and transportation electrification teams to update administrators and the research community on their proceedings and policy directions.
 - For example, what other types of R&D-related work outside of EPIC are underway in these three areas?

Forum 2 Goals

- Explore possibilities for improved alignment of CPUC proceeding timelines and priorities with EPIC investment plan/project timelines and priorities.

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- Explore possible areas of cross-sector policy and research coordination going forward.
 - For example, how can building electrification measures serve as transportation electrification assets? And vice versa?

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- Does the EPIC planning process provide enough direction to help the private market and other stakeholders prioritize investments and planning decisions?
- How can EPIC project timelines align with timelines for proceedings and decision implementation to best leverage EPIC results in deliberative processes as well as in resource plans, pilots, and other CPUC work?
- How can the CPUC and CEC work complement each other to gain additional benefits from EPIC research findings?

Questions?



For more information:

Electric Program Investment Charge

www.cpuc.ca.gov/energyrdd

Policy + Innovation Coordination Group

<https://epicpartnership.org>



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One more thing...