

**Regional Energy Resource Council**  
**May 18, 2021 Meeting**  
**Advice Statement**

It is an auspicious day - TVA's 88th anniversary reminds us that TVA's purpose is in its mission of providing low-cost and reliable energy to the Valley. Today's 21<sup>st</sup> century sweeping energy system challenges are similar in scope to those a nascent TVA encountered nine decades ago.

These challenges represent opportunities TVA can realize by applying the tenets of the Asset Strategy, Sustainability and Low Carbon Reports, and Transformative Innovation Initiatives in its long-term planning going forward.

The Council recommends that the Board and staff consider the following actions as they prepare TVA for the energy system of the future:

**People**

Workforce Development

- Prepare both TVA employees and workers in the region for the clean energy transition, including training in data analytics; and
- Encourage younger people into the technology process sooner than later.

Energy Burden

- Any negative effects resulting from applying these tenets to transitioning TVA to low-carbon future should be both considered and minimized for low-income energy burdened households; and
- Include these low-income households when calculating the benefits of a decarbonized future.

Communications/Stakeholders/Messaging

- Better communicate TVA's rooftop solar and distributed energy policies;
- "Meet people where they are" so that lay people can understand what TVA and its partners are doing and how things are changing;
- Time-of-use programs and smart grid applications are needed but not at the expense of low-cost reliable energy; and
- Use social media to communicate, conduct surveys, and ask people what they think about and want from TVA.

**Policy**

- Engage with Federal partners on broadband deployment and the existing franchise structure and advanced research and technology development; and
- Investigate DOT right-of way partnership for fiber optimization in rural regions.

**Programs/Planning**

- Consider future IRP modelling at the distribution level;
- Consider time-of-use discounts for off-peak EV charging;
- Ensure equitable deployment of new technologies (i.e., smart meters, EVs, etc.) to people regardless of socioeconomic status;
- Employ cybersecurity to ensure the energy system of the future is safe, not vulnerable; and
- Prioritize investments in technologies that have high likelihood of success.