



REGIONAL GRID TRANSFORMATION

Initiative Progress Report

VERSION THREE: 04/2025





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Acknowledgments

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) would like to thank the following organizations for their committed work to define and pursue the implementation of grid transformation within the TVA service region.

Their leadership will help the region build a resilient, flexible and integrated electric system that meets regional customer needs of the future.

Bowling Green
Municipal Utilities

BrightRidge

Cleveland Utilities

East Mississippi
Electric Power
Association

EPB

Harriman Utilities
Board

Huntsville Utilities

Jackson Energy
Authority

Knoxville Utilities
Board

Middle Tennessee
Electric

Memphis Light, Gas
and Water

North East Mississippi
Electric Power Association

Nashville Electric Service

Pickwick Electric

Pennyrile Rural Electric
Cooperative Corporation

Scottsboro Electric
Power Board

Starkville Utilities

Tennessee Valley Authority

Tennessee Valley
Public Power Association



Glossary

Conservation voltage reduction (CVR)

The intentional operation of the transmission and distribution system to provide customer voltages in the lower end of the acceptable range, with the goal of achieving energy and demand reductions for customers.

Decarbonization

The reduction or replacement of energy sources that produce carbon emissions, such as coal, oil and natural gas, with energy sources that emit less or no carbon, such as wind, solar and nuclear energy.

Demand voltage reduction (DVR)

This is a strategy to lower the system operating voltage during the forecast peak window, thus reducing the energy delivered, which results in lower demand.

Digitalization

Enabling or improving processes by leveraging digital technologies and digital data.

Distributed energy resources (DER)

Small, modular, energy generation and storage technologies, such as solar panels and batteries, that provide electric capacity or energy where you need it.

Electrification

The process of replacing technologies that use fossil fuels, such as coal, oil and natural gas, with technologies that use cleaner electric energy sources.

Extreme weather events

Occurrences of unusually severe weather or climate conditions that cause devastating impacts on communities and natural ecosystems (e.g., tornadoes, storms, extreme heat and cold).

Situational awareness

An understanding of the current conditions of grid operations and performance.

ACRONYMS

AMI	Advanced metering infrastructure
AMR	Automated meter reading
BIL	Bipartisan Infrastructure Law
DE	Duke Energy
DER	Distributed energy resources
DOE	Department of Energy
EPB	formerly Electric Power Board of Chattanooga
EPRI	Electric Power Research Institute
ESG	Environment, society and governance
HU	Huntsville Utilities
IJA	Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
IRA	Inflation Reduction Act
ISOP	Integrated System Operations Planning
KUB	Knoxville Utilities Board
LPC	Local Power Company
NES	Nashville Electric Service
ORNL	Oak Ridge National Laboratory
TVA	Tennessee Valley Authority
T&D	Transmission and distribution

Introduction

The Need for Grid Transformation

In today's energy landscape, significant trends are changing how we use energy. Remote work and smart home technologies continue to prosper, leading to increased reliance on cloud computing, web-based tools and energy-efficient appliances for improved productivity and quality of life. Businesses of all sizes are adopting technology advancements and sustainable practices to meet consumer demands, regulatory standards and energy conservation goals. The growing popularity of distributed energy resources (DER), such as solar panels and battery storage, reflects a move toward cleaner energy solutions in an increasingly electrified world.

These trends are transforming power supply dynamics, signaling the need for proactive planning and innovative solutions to meet future demands. According to the Department of Energy (DOE), **investments in grid expansion and modernization are essential**, given the aging infrastructure and increasing frequency of extreme weather events. To participate in and benefit from clean energy sources, the TVA service region must take action now to build a grid that supports a resilient, sustainable and prosperous future.



DOE INDEPENDENT ESTIMATES

Electricity transmission systems

NEED TO EXPAND BY

60%

by 2030 and may need to triple by 2050¹.

Extreme weather events

in the TVA service region make it clear that America's existing energy infrastructure will not endure their continuing impacts¹.

2022 Winter Storm Elliott

2021 Texas Freeze

2021 Western Kentucky tornado

Deploying advanced grid solutions

can increase the capacity of the existing grid to support

20-100 GW

of incremental peak demand when installed individually².

AT LEAST

91 GW

of peak demand growth expected within the next decade².

The number of clean energy generation and storage projects

slated to be added to the grid is growing and with the investments from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), even more clean energy sources will join the queue for grid integration¹.

Most solutions could be deployed on the existing grid in under

3-5 years

and at lower cost and greater value than conventional approaches².



For more information, explore the [DOE Liftoff Report¹](#).

Aligning with the Vision

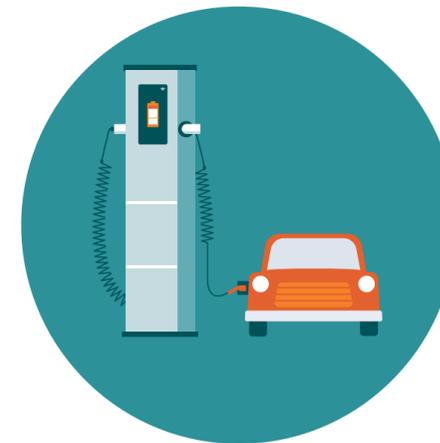
With a vast service territory spanning parts of seven southeastern states, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and its network of 153 local power company (LPCs) partners provide electricity to approximately 10 million residents and businesses. To ensure a thriving, resilient future for all, the region must work together toward a shared goal.

[Valley Vision](#) serves as a strategic framework, detailing key trends, challenges and opportunities shaping the future of the energy industry for the region. Outlined through a 24-month planning process involving a Collaboration Group representing regional stakeholders, Valley Vision addresses the emerging energy landscape and aims to create value for the entire region amidst evolving trends and uncertainties. This collaborative approach enables LPCs to tap into a wealth of collective knowledge and expertise, empowering them to make informed decisions and drive meaningful progress.

Exploring key drivers such as decentralization, electrification and decarbonization equips LPCs with the insights needed to anticipate future challenges and opportunities. By identifying key areas for investment and development, such as DER, smart grid technologies and customer engagement initiatives, LPCs can prioritize their resources and initiatives to maximize impact.

KEY DRIVERS

1. Decentralization



2. Electrification

3. Decarbonization



Transforming the Regional Grid

Valley Vision set the strategic direction for TVA and its partners to align, collaborate, leverage new technologies, create value for the region and prepare for the energy future. The [Regional Grid Transformation \(RGT\)](#) initiative aims to partner with LPCs to address regional challenges and pave the way for that future.

At the heart of RGT lies a commitment to empower LPCs with the tools, resources and expertise necessary to thrive in a dynamic energy marketplace. By integrating advanced technologies, optimizing grid operations and fostering collaboration between TVA and LPCs, RGT enables LPCs to enhance their capabilities in line with the objectives outlined in Valley Vision and collectively drive grid transformation across the region.

Valley Vision and the Regional Grid Transformation initiative have a shared goal to future-proof the power grid.



The Value of Grid Transformation

The long-term financial benefits of grid transformation improvements are more than double the initial investments, representing a significant return on investment for LPCs and business across the TVA service region. Envision an estimated \$4-7 billion in net benefits across the region, with positive returns anticipated in less than a decade.

As we collectively invest in a dynamic grid system, these benefits echo throughout the entire region.

ESTIMATED

\$4-7B

in net benefits
across the TVA service region

GREATER THAN

2:1

benefit-to-cost ratio

yielded by investment

TIMEFRAME OF

6-8

years

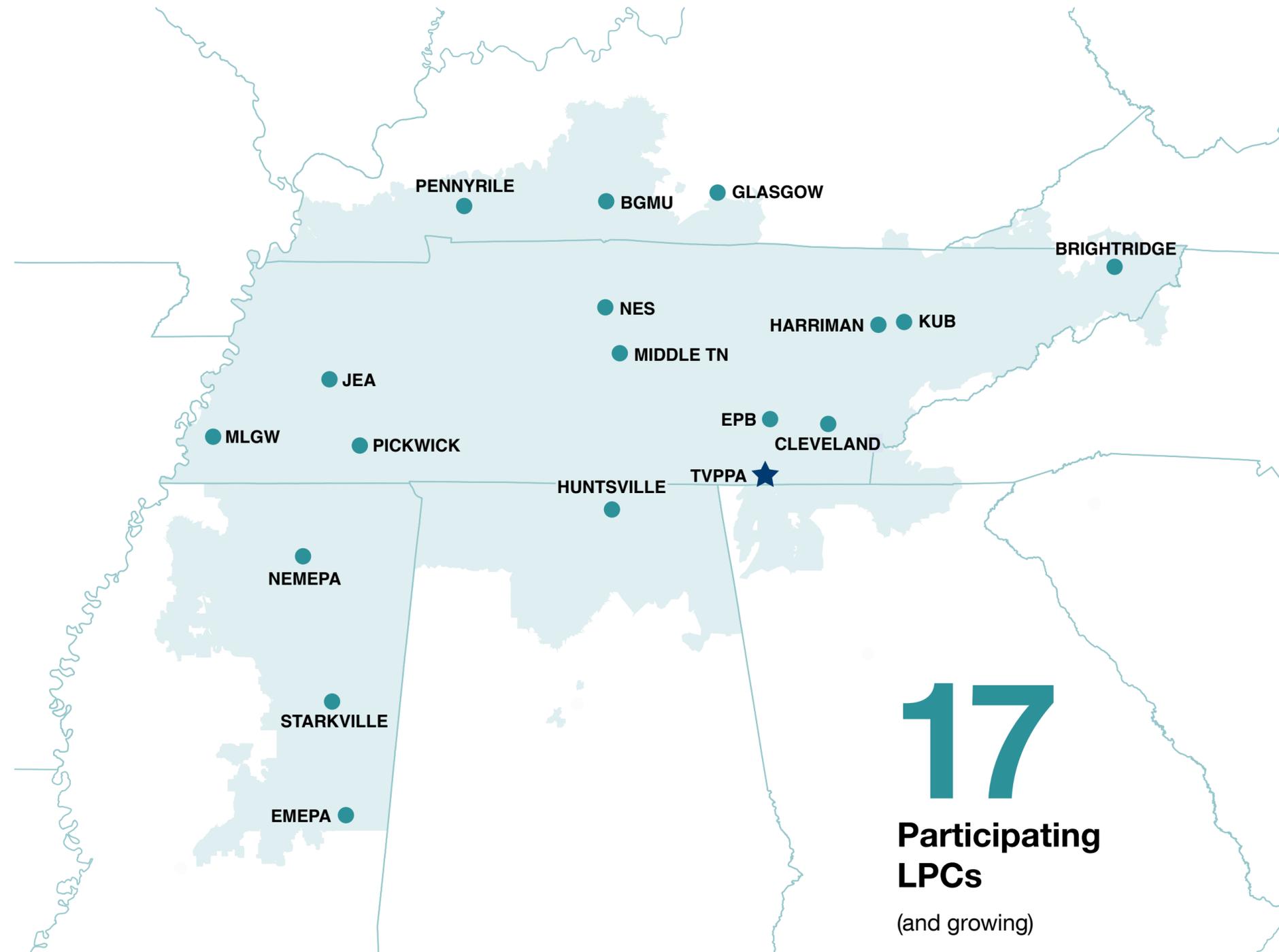
for net benefits to turn positive

Collaborative Approach

A major component of the RGT initiative is the creation of a new integrated planning model for LPCs and TVA to partner throughout the process of developing and maintaining an integrated grid.

The strength of the partnership between TVA, LPCs and other stakeholders is foundational in achieving an interconnected grid that builds a resilient, flexible and integrated electric system that meets customer needs of the future. The Working Team—the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), Tennessee Valley Public Power Association (TVPPA), TVA and 17 LPCs—outlined actions to implement, deploy and scale that will drive greater efficiencies, provide overall cost savings and deliver broad value for the region.

Transforming the regional grid will maximize value to communities and drive shared benefits by enhancing customer satisfaction and preserving energy affordability, resiliency and reliability.



17
**Participating
 LPCs**
 (and growing)

Roadmaps

Roadmaps

TVA and LPCs have an opportunity to leverage data and technology to proactively prepare for more cost-effective and efficient operations while supporting technology, customer and societal needs. The Working Team realized the importance of building roadmaps that would support LPCs on their grid transformation journey.

Strategic Roadmap

By examining the electric power system holistically across generation, transmission and distribution, the Working Team carefully assessed the current grid through the lens of the trends and pain points facing the energy industry. The [RGT Strategic Roadmap](#) is the product of that collaboration and outlines the recommended capability areas and goals for advancement that support TVA's overarching strategy for pursuing grid transformation.

These capabilities are organized into five categories—referred to as Capability Areas, as defined in the RGT Strategic Roadmap.

5

Capability Areas



Integrated Planning



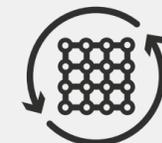
Regional Guidelines



Enhanced T&D Operations



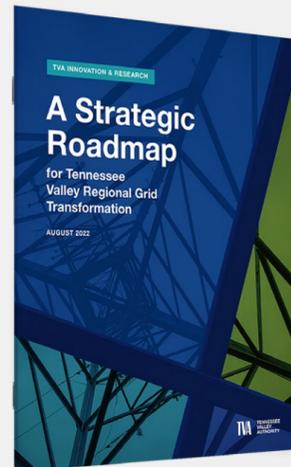
Exceptional End-User Experience



Grid Transformation Enabling

LPCs and communities can use the Strategic Roadmap to understand regional priorities and the actions needed to progress capability areas toward regional grid transformation.

Investments in these areas will result in benefits to LPCs, TVA, end-use consumers and the region. Regardless of their starting point, LPCs can review the Strategic Roadmap to understand the capabilities needed for grid transformation and how to accelerate, expand and create new value throughout the process.



Explore the [RGT Strategic Roadmap](#) to identify where your organization is on the path to grid modernization.



Tactical Roadmaps

While the Strategic Roadmap provides a high-level guide, it lacks detail on what the tactical, prescriptive process might look like for a specific LPC. That's where the [RGT Tactical Grid Transformation Roadmaps](#) come in.

Developed by the Working Team, the Tactical Roadmaps each feature a specific regional grid transformation plan, highlighting technologies or capabilities deployment for nine respective LPCs and TVA. The purpose of the Tactical Roadmaps is to provide more detailed information and insights about the individual actions of each participating LPC; each roadmap details the unique capabilities, needs, opportunities and challenges of a specific LPC, providing an in-depth look at an actionable RGT plan at the community level.

The wide range of roadmaps can help LPCs interested in RGT examine the approach another LPC with similar characteristics may be taking to transform their own grid. The variation in LPC Working Team members and their individual roadmaps demonstrate that every community can implement grid transformation projects, no matter size, current progress or priorities.

By outlining the technologies being explored or implemented and the estimated timelines for deployment, other LPCs can consider the activities and technologies that provide the most value and best help them prepare their grid for the future.



Explore the [RGT Tactical Roadmaps](#) to identify which activities and technologies best fit your organization's needs.

LPC TACTICAL ROADMAP

Huntsville Utilities

ALABAMA

200,000
Customers



HIGH
customer density

Huntsville Utilities' (HU) desire to increase reliability and resiliency for their customers led to their participation in the RGT initiative. To meet current and future customer expectations, HU plans to prioritize grid and operational improvements while maintaining electric rates at an affordable level. It also continues to evaluate other drivers, like local business development, new load growth and environmental considerations when assessing overall needs for grid improvements.

[LEARN MORE](#)


“Too often, what’s important is pushed aside by what’s urgent, but the RGT process has provided a structured way for us to remain focused on the innovations coming our way.”

— HUNTSVILLE UTILITIES

LPC TACTICAL ROADMAP

Bowling Green Municipal Utilities (BGMU)

KENTUCKY

30,000

Customers



HIGH
customer density

BGMU joined the Working Team LPCs of the RGT initiative to provide the best service possible to their customers by working with TVA and LPCs to better prepare for industry changes. BGMU is a smaller utility and their participation in the Working Team and their perspective on grid transformations helps ensure RGT is reflective of all Valley LPCs. BGMU benefits from the interest and support of local leadership, enabling them to take part in this collaborative effort to help promote progress across the region.

[LEARN MORE](#)


“Participation in this initiative allows us the opportunity to share ideas, discuss experiences and learn from our peers.”

— WORKING GROUP MEMBER, BGMU

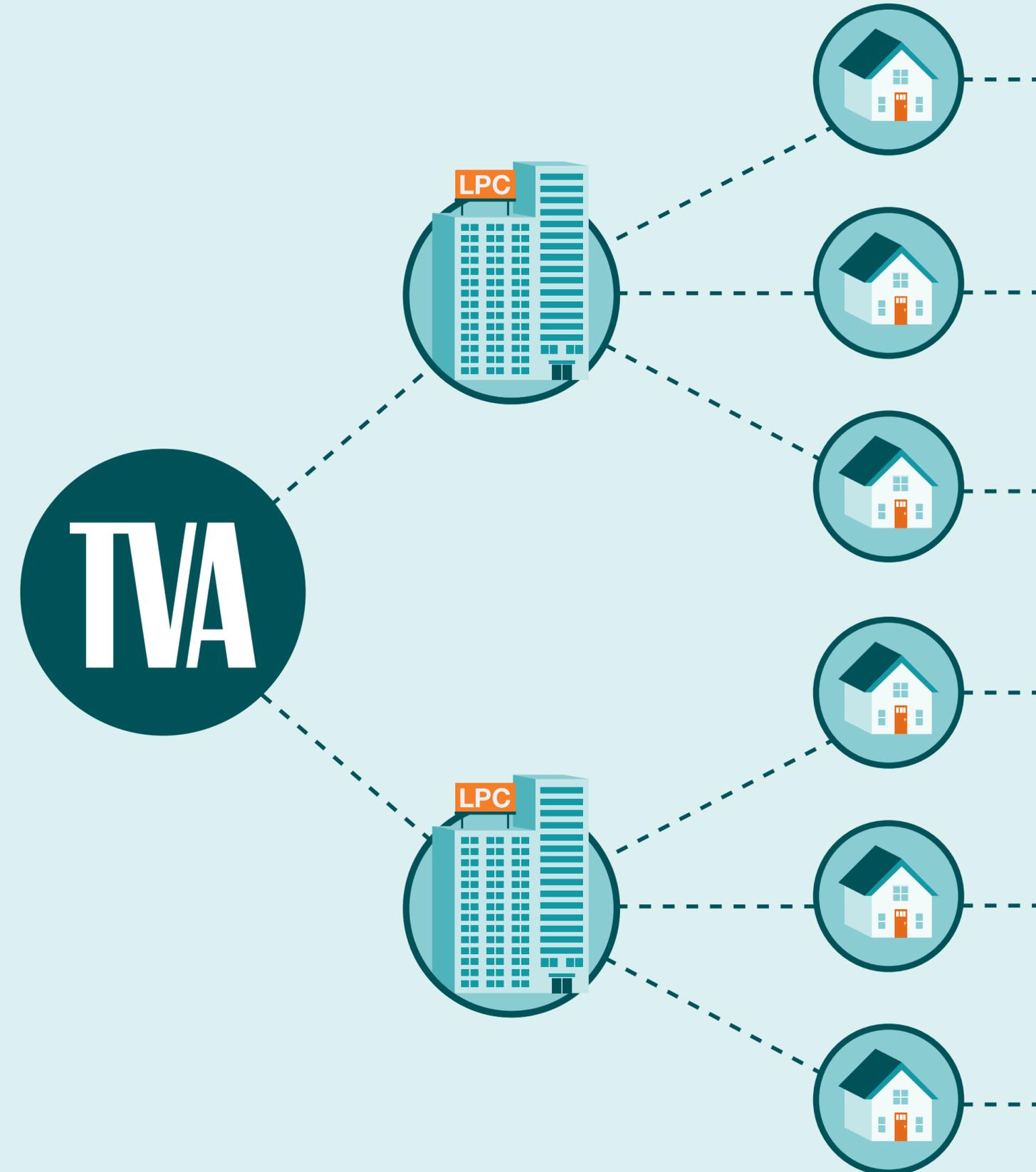
Taking Action

Taking Action

Transforming the regional grid will take stakeholders across the region working together to make progress in meaningful, substantial ways. LPCs and TVA can leverage their respective expertise and resources to develop comprehensive plans that address the unique needs and challenges of the TVA service region. Whether through collaborative pilot projects between LPCs and TVA or case studies highlighting individual LPCs making strides to modernize their grid, sharing of lessons learned and successful strategies ensures collective growth, action and advancement of Valley Vision's focus areas.

“By sharing our resources, we can accomplish much greater things than any of us can accomplish individually.”

— WORKING TEAM MEMBER, NASHVILLE ELECTRIC SERVICE (NES)



Pilot Projects

TVA is committed to helping LPCs make progress in areas that are most meaningful and valuable for their communities, organizations and end-use customers. To support advancement, RGT partners with select LPCs to pilot projects that produce scalable processes and repeatable results to better facilitate growth across the region.



This collaborative approach ensures alignment with Valley Vision and fosters a culture of innovation and continuous improvement across the TVA service region.

LPC PILOT

DER Interconnection

The DER Interconnection Pilot Project, a collaboration between TVA and ten LPCs, aimed to address challenges arising from the increasing deployment of DER like solar panels and battery storage in the TVA service area.

Through educational workshops, a maturity assessment and harmonization efforts, the pilot developed 82 recommendations for advancing interconnection practices across the region. This collaborative effort represents a significant step toward standardization and cooperation in DER interconnection processes, ultimately benefiting grid reliability and supporting the clean energy transition in the region.

[LEARN MORE](#)

LPC PILOT

Integrated Planning

In collaboration with TVA, HU participated in an Integrated Planning Pilot Project initiative to enhance their planning capabilities in alignment with the RGT strategic roadmap. Faced with challenges such as increased solar and combined heat and power (CHP) projects, growing loads and EV adoption, HU recognized the importance of integrated planning to address these issues effectively.

By applying Wide Area Distribution Analysis techniques and proactive planning for solar/storage and system upgrades, HU can now better anticipate and address future needs strategically. The pilot project not only benefited HU and its customers but also sought mutual benefits for TVA and regional LPC peers through holistic, outcome-based planning.

[LEARN MORE](#)

PROGRESS WITH PILOTS

The Integrated Planning Pilot Project provided measurable value and insight for the RGT initiative.

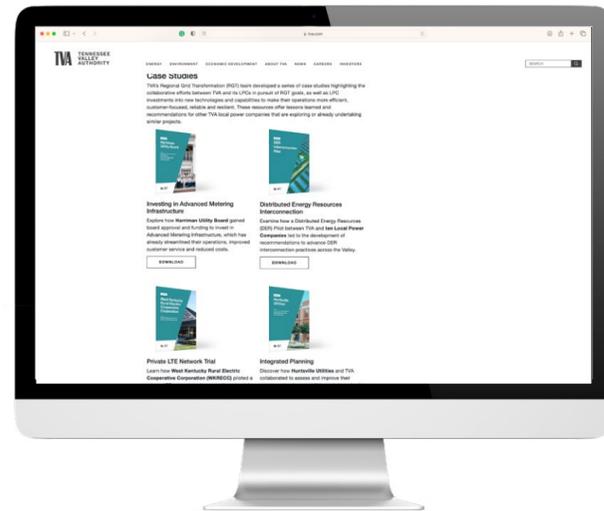
The team is building on this progress and momentum with the 2.0 Integrated Planning Pilot kicking off in 2024, providing additional learnings as the region continues on the path to collective grid modernization.




Case Studies

While pilot projects offer the opportunity for TVA and LPCs to partner on initiatives, LPCs are also making meaningful strides toward grid modernization on their own. LPC investments into new technologies and capabilities make their operations more efficient, customer-focused, reliable and resilient. The RGT team developed a series of case studies highlighting LPCs in pursuit of RGT goals. These resources offer lessons learned and recommendations for other LPCs that are exploring or already undertaking similar projects.

Case studies are published on the RGT website as they are developed, so keep an eye out for updates.



The energy future depends on projects, investments and upgrades that support grid modernization.

Case studies of successful initiatives provide vital insights that help other LPCs make progress in tangible, meaningful ways.

As RGT continues to evolve to meet the needs of our LPC partners, more case studies and lessons learned will be shared.

[LEARN MORE](#)

CASE STUDY

Investing in Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI)

PROJECT

Harriman Utility Board AMI Deployment

TECHNOLOGY

AMI

OBJECTIVE

Deploy smart meters throughout its distribution system to improve operational efficiency and expand customer offerings. Harriman Utility Board has not only improved its operational efficiency but also unlocked the ability to offer more tailored services to its customers.

[Explore more](#) about how Harriman Utility Board gained board approval and funding to invest in AMI.



CASE STUDY

Private LTE Network Trial

PROJECT

West Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation (WKRECC)

TECHNOLOGY

Private LTE Network

OBJECTIVE

Establishing a private LTE network enables WKRECC to integrate and optimize smart grid initiatives and enable several key functions for the utility, including SCADA, dynamic pricing, real-time monitoring and control of devices behind the meter—such as solar panels, batteries and appliances—and enhanced workforce capabilities for laptop users and truck drivers.

[Explore more](#) about how West Kentucky Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation (WKRECC) accelerated the modernization of its electric distribution system.



Capability Progression Model

Introducing the Capability Progression Model

The **Capability Progression Model** (CPM) is a framework designed to help local power companies (LPCs) identify which capabilities are necessary for the grid of the future and self-assess their progress toward each of these capabilities.

The CPM is designed for and with LPCs to meet the needs of our stakeholders across the region. To benefit from the value and cost savings grid modernization offers, LPCs need to be able to identify the capabilities and technologies that will have the greatest impact on their operations and infrastructure. By outlining capability progression and example technologies, TVA ensures LPCs have what they need to make meaningful, measurable advancements that can lead to a sustainable future for their organizations and those they serve.

LPCs are driving progress; TVA is just helping them navigate with Valley Vision in mind.

THE CAPABILITY PROGRESSION MODEL



Establishes Minimum Capability Levels

considered must-haves for all LPCs



Supports LPCs

in maturing capabilities and recognizing achievements



Outlines an Investment Path

related to each capability area

Assessing Progress Across the Region

Recognizing that each LPC has unique needs, the Working Team wanted to assess the current state of transformation of the regional grid to provide value for every LPC, no matter where they stand on the path to grid modernization.

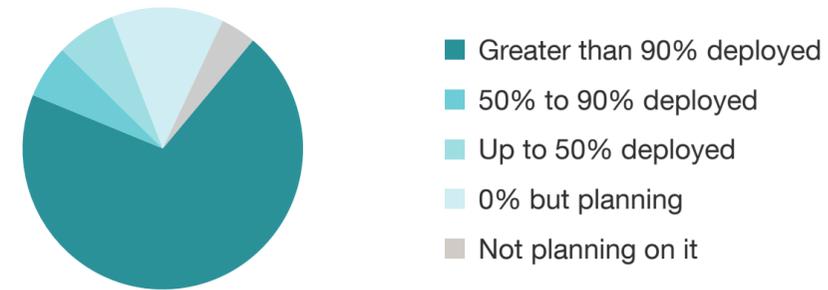
Administered in 2022, the Valley-wide LPC Capability Assessment survey—which had a 96% response rate from LPCs—directly informed the capability standards and supporting technologies of the CPM. The CPM began as a technology-focused pyramid based on feedback from this assessment, and the results helped TVA and LPCs categorize capabilities as foundational or more advanced, setting proper expectations for LPC implementation.

96%

response rate from LPCs

directly informed the capability standards and supporting technologies of the CPM.

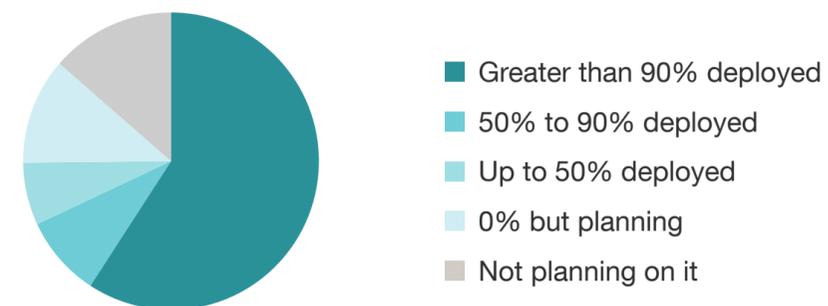
AMI DEPLOYMENT



SCADA USE



FIBER OPTICS DEPLOYMENT



The Four Stages of Grid Modernization Progression

The CPM features 18 capabilities that fall under one of four stages of progression: **Enabling**, **Planning and Assessing**, **Value Generating** and **Enhancing**.

As LPCs build **enabling** capabilities, achieving capabilities in the following three stages will become easier. For example, grid situational awareness is an **enabling** capability and refers to the ability of LPCs to monitor and report on their distribution system in real-time. Grid optimization, a **value-generating** capability, uses the information uncovered and sourced through grid situational awareness to optimize the performance and efficiency of the grid. To accomplish grid optimization, LPCs must first have achieved some level of grid situational awareness.

The CPM is an evolving framework, and TVA is working diligently with LPCs and other stakeholders to provide guidance and resources around these capabilities.

18
capabilities
in the CPM



4
stages of
progression

STAGES OF PROGRESSION

1

Enabling

Enabling capabilities are foundational to a utility. They help “unlock” more advanced capabilities, leading to added benefits and value for the utility and its end-use customers. For example, Telecommunications is a critical enabler of a modern and efficient grid that can restore power during outage events rapidly, and it also supports the growth in EVs and new solar and storage resources.

2

Planning and Assessing

Planning and Assessing capabilities help a utility better understand and plan its system. For example, System Modeling improves the ability to adapt to extreme weather events, understand options for alternatives and enable locational elements of DER and load.

3

Value Generating

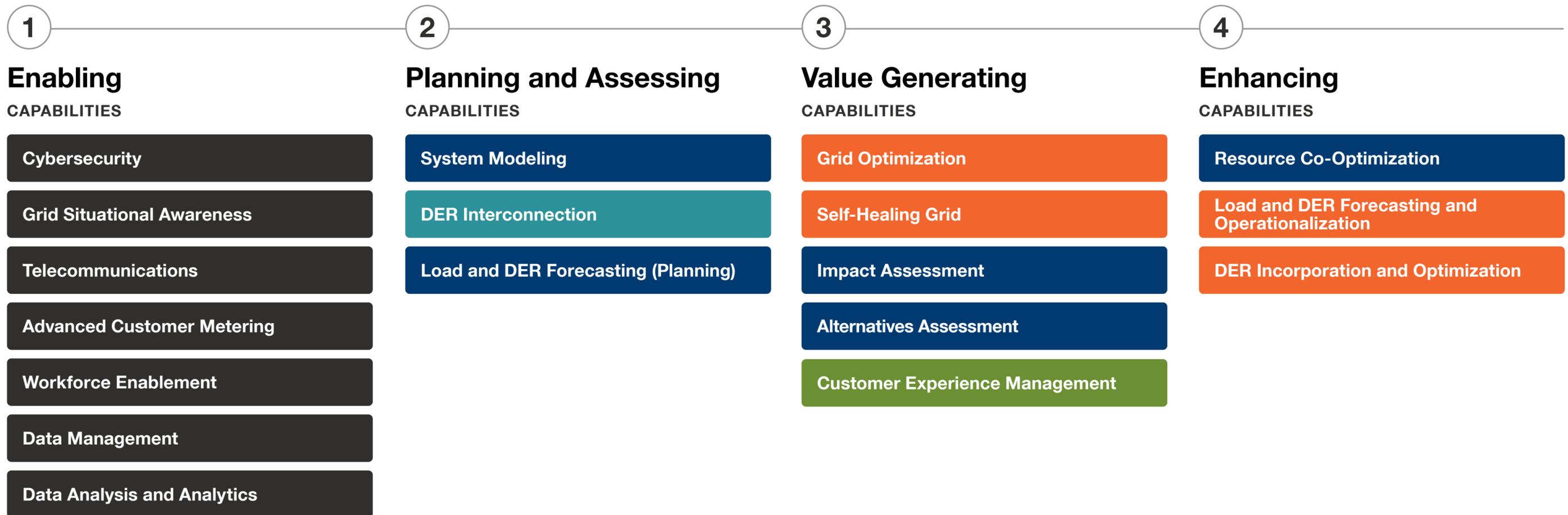
Value Generating capabilities enable a utility to better optimize and control their system to provide better service to the end-use customers as well as support the bulk electric system.

4

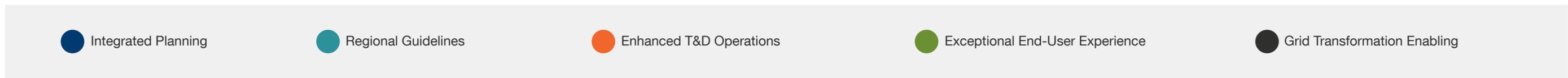
Enhancing

Enhancing capabilities provide the opportunity for LPCs to extract more value out of the existing operational systems and capabilities across the enterprise.

Capability Progression Model



CAPABILITY CATEGORIES



Standards for Maturing in a Capability

The RGT Working Team established maturity levels for each of the capabilities within the CPM to help LPCs measure their progress toward maturity in each capability and ensure alignment with their utility peers in TVA's service area. While there are five levels of maturity through which LPCs can progress, the following two have been identified as benchmarks for the region:

VS

Valley Standard

The VS establishes a minimum recommended threshold for each LPC capability.

VTL

Valley Transformational Level

The VTL details activities and objectives that optimize a capability, enabling stakeholders to benefit more from the value it offers.

EVERY LPC IS DIFFERENT

Each LPC is at a different starting point for every RGT capability, varying by service territory population and number of meters serviced, geography and terrain, infrastructure, financial constraints and customer needs. To transform the regional grid, all LPCs must move toward greater grid resiliency, efficiency and flexibility by first achieving the VS before striving for the VTL.

Achieving grid modernization at a regional level will take several of the largest LPCs making concerted efforts to modernize and achieve VTL status and beyond. By achieving the VTL, LPCs and stakeholders will see enhanced benefits for their business and customers.

The VTL is not the finish line; roadmaps will continue to evolve to reflect regional learnings, ensuring the most effective and efficient path to a resilient and flexible grid for the region.

Progress Starts Here

Self-assessment empowers LPCs to identify best practices, pinpoint areas for growth and strategically chart our course toward a more resilient future. Defining and prioritizing areas for action ensures that resources are allocated efficiently, and efforts are focused on the most impactful activities.



Begin your journey to grid modernization by exploring the full [Capability Progression Model](#) to identify your organization's status and potential upgrades for the eighteen indicated capabilities.

Where is *your* organization on the path to grid modernization?



Network of TVA Initiatives

TVA is committed to supporting and facilitating a comprehensive approach to grid modernization that addresses the evolving needs of our communities and the energy landscape. The RGT initiative is making huge strides, and it's just one pathway TVA is exploring to progress toward a more resilient future. The other TVA Innovation and Research initiatives below support RGT at the crossroads of the transmission and distribution systems to ensure a seamless regional experience.

This holistic approach ensures that every aspect of grid modernization is addressed, from infrastructure upgrades to community engagement, ultimately delivering lasting benefits for all stakeholders.



Connected Communities

OBJECTIVE

Help communities embrace technology and data solutions to tackle local challenges and prepare to be a part of the energy system of the future.

[LEARN MORE](#)


Electric Vehicles (EVs)

OBJECTIVE

Prepare for and enable adoption of EVs across the TVA region in a way that creates benefits for communities and the grid.

[LEARN MORE](#)


Energy Storage

OBJECTIVE

Implement a long-term strategy to integrate energy storage for system flexibility and maximizing renewables.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Looking Ahead

Looking Ahead

The Working Team identified the goals, priorities and capabilities that will modernize the energy system; next, they will focus on the actionable steps LPCs and TVA can take to make it a reality.

Through the exploration of collaborative investments and strategic technical assistance, RGT seeks to maximize cost-savings and stakeholder benefits across the region.

By working closely with LPCs, TVA can help streamline efforts and increase efficiency to ensure collective progress toward shared goals.



RGT will continue to pursue regional advancement of grid modernization through the following activities:

1 Provide Funding Assistance

Infrastructure and technology investments can be expensive, and the federal funding landscape may be difficult to navigate. However, resources are available to help you along the way. TVA developed the Federal Funding Project Management Office (FFPMO) in April 2023 to help TVA and its LPCs secure federal funding in alignment with TVA's strategic priorities to bring more resources to the TVA service area.



Learn more about partnering with TVA on funding opportunities by [contacting the FFPMO team](#).

2 Continue Capability Exploration

The path to regional grid modernization has just begun, and only the first nine capabilities have been explored. To ensure LPCs have detailed guidance and actionable recommendations, the Working Team will continue to explore the remaining capabilities to identify steps forward and refine resources accordingly.

3 Scale Case Studies

Transforming the regional grid will take intentional collaboration and the sharing of experiences. LPC partners across the region are already making progress in building a smart, automated, self-healing system. The capabilities, technologies and actions outlined by RGT enable LPCs to reduce disturbances and decrease maintenance costs, ensuring sustainability of not just the grid, but their businesses, as well. TVA is actively working to develop more case studies highlighting projects and initiatives that align with RGT technologies and capabilities.

4 Expand Integrated Planning

As we strive to make Valley Vision a reality, coordinating planning efforts across the region exposes stakeholders to new information about updated technologies, operational practices and load growth. The next integrated planning pilot project—beginning in 2024—will investigate processes and data sharing between TVA and LPCs to explore potential opportunities to optimize shared investments that result in meaningful change for the region.

A Beneficial Future

Valley Vision gave the region scenarios to consider, and RGT will help make them a reality. The region stands at the beginning of the journey to grid modernization, and TVA remains committed to partnering with LPCs and regional stakeholders every step of the way.

Once improvements and upgrades are successfully implemented to transform the grid, substantial benefits are realized at all levels. While there is an initial investment and associated costs, the advantages far exceed the original expense.

A beneficial future is on the horizon for the region, but to realize it, we must act now.

Get Involved!

There is a place for every community alongside the RGT initiative. With your help, we will build a modern and sustainable infrastructure that powers our future.

Help Define the Energy Future of our Region

If you, your LPC or your community are undertaking a project that aligns with an RGT technology or capability, contact your TVA customer relations manager or the RGT contacts below. There is opportunity for everyone and added benefits we can derive together as we prepare our communities for the future.

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REGIONAL GRID TRANSFORMATION

Initiative Progress Report



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