

THE 24/7 CARBON-FREE ENERGY (CFE) “BUYERS” FORUM



PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Learn about evolving approaches being pursued by large electricity customers to acquire 24/7 carbon free energy.
- Engage directly with large C&I and government electricity buyers to understand their procurement goals and how to best meet them.
- Gain insight into the technical challenges and possible solutions of developing 24/7 CFE power supply agreements and tariffs.
- Interact with peer electric companies to understand how interest in 24/7 CFE is shaping new electric company program offerings.

Background, Objectives, and New Learnings

This new EPRI supplemental project builds on work completed in 2023 by the 24/7 Carbon Free Energy Interest Group and is designed to bring together EPRI members with large commercial and industrial (C&I) and government electricity consumers interested in procuring 24/7 Carbon Free Energy (24/7 CFE). This project is designed to help EPRI members to identify and engage with large electricity buyers focused on procuring 24/7 CFE resources and related services and to develop power supply agreements and tariffs designed to execute on these opportunities.

Deep decarbonization of the energy sector is a key strategic priority for many power companies and their customers and stakeholders. Many organizations in the United States and internationally have procured renewable electricity (e.g., wind and solar) to meet voluntary sustainability goals, including reducing their reported “scope 2” greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with purchasing and using electricity.

Recently, several large electricity customers, including C&I, cities and municipalities, and the U.S. federal government have turned to procuring CFE that more closely matches their actual hourly electricity load (i.e., “load-matched” or “24/7” CFE). This shift from procuring 100% renewable energy annually to procuring 24/7 CFE on an hourly basis marks an important evolution of corporate and public efforts to procure clean energy and increase deployment of a broad range of CFE resources.

Power companies have started to develop and supply 24/7 CFE to meet this emerging demand and to collaborate with their customers to reduce carbon emissions; however, the technical capability to match a customer’s hourly load to CFE resources is evolving quickly. This project is designed to help participants identify and engage with large electricity buyers focused on procuring 24/7 CFE resources and related services and to develop power supply agreements and tariffs designed to execute on these opportunities.

Benefits

Project participants will gain a deeper understanding of the specific needs of C&I and government electricity customer goals related to procuring 24/7 CFE.

Participants also will learn about the technical and contractual challenges and potential solutions of developing 24/7 CFE commercial power supply agreements and regulated utility tariffs.

Project Approach and Summary

This project will leverage the power of collaboration to bring together large C&I and government electricity customers with project participants. Coupled with EPRI's expertise, participants will seek to understand and develop solutions to technical, commercial, contractual, and other challenges to electric companies providing 24/7 CFE products and services to these customers. Expected activities:

Kick-off Webcast: Project launch and overview of 24/7 CFE and key challenges associated with developing 24/7 CFE power supply agreements and tariffs.

Cohorts: Participants will be grouped into cohorts based on buyer types (e.g., large data centers). For each cohort, EPRI will run a parallel set of workshops and webcasts designed to help utility and external participants solve key issues necessary to execute 24/7 power supply agreements and to develop potential utility company tariffs. Each cohort will begin with an in-person workshop where prospective buyers can explain their goals and describe the elements of a 24/7 power supply agreement or tariff that they would like to obtain. Following each initial workshop, participants will meet for a series of up to three to five workshops and/or webcasts to identify, explore, and discuss potential solutions that may be used to develop 24/7 CFE supply agreements and tariffs. In between each workshop, EPRI staff will prepare technical materials and briefing papers designed to help the project participants and electricity buyers solve key technical, commercial, and regulatory challenges.

Deliverables

- **Workshops:** A series of in-person and web-based workshops where EPRI members will interact with potential buyers of 24/7 CFE.
- **Technical Briefs:** Documentation of specific technical, regulatory, or commercial challenges

identified during the project workshops, along with possible solutions.

- **Collaborative Forum:** Facilitated discussions between project participants and electricity buyers to identify, explore, and develop programs and solutions to industry challenges related to deploying 24/7 CFE.
- **Technical Update:** Final report or slide presentation summarizing the project, key challenges and solutions and key insights from this project.

The non-proprietary results of this work will be incorporated into EPRI's Energy, Environmental, and Climate Policy Analysis R&D program and made available to the public for purchase, or otherwise.

Price of Project

The price to participate is \$25,000 for companies with less than 7,000 MW total generation capacity and \$45,000 for companies with more than 7,000 MW total generation capacity. The price for ISOs/RTOs is \$25,000. The cost for companies without generation is \$50,000. Funding can be split across two consecutive years.

This supplemental project qualifies for Self-Directed Funds (SDF). This project has a minimum funding requirement of \$300,000 to commence.

Project Status and Schedule

The project is expected to start in April 2024 and continue for approximately 9 to 12 months.

Who Should Join

Staff from electric power companies and combined utilities interested in developing customer programs, tariffs, and power supply agreements to deliver 24/7 carbon free energy.

Contact Information

For more information, contact the EPRI Customer Assistance Center at 800.313.3774 (askepri@epri.com).

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