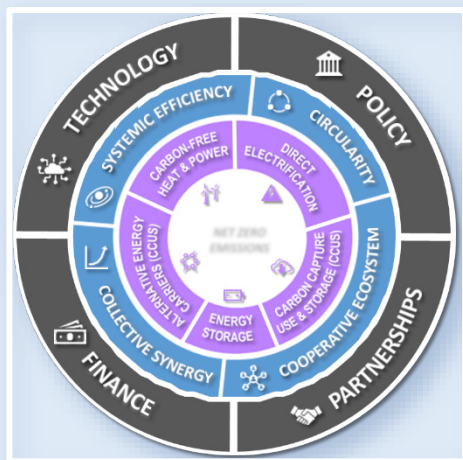


# U.S. CENTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DECARBONIZATION AND ENERGY TRANSITION



Affiliated with the World Economic Forum's global Fourth Industrial Revolution network, the **U.S. Center for Industrial Decarbonization and Energy Transition** is uniquely positioned to accelerate transformation across energy systems and value chains by bridging the gap between industry and government. The Center will aim to:

- **Inform deployment:** Accelerate infrastructure and technology by equipping domestic industries and the U.S. DOE with leading-edge data and analyses
- **Showcase success:** Demonstrate the feasibility of policy, permitting, technology deployment and partnership solutions by spotlighting where successful advancements have been made through case studies from the Center's global networks
- **Inform policy:** Target the insights developed within the Center so they can be utilized to credibly inform regional and national priorities
- **Leverage Forum partnerships:** Draw on the Forum's global insights to remove roadblocks to decarbonization and drive new opportunities for action

## Background and Objectives

Rapidly increasing the pace and scale of industrial decarbonization is central to realizing ambitious economy-wide emission reduction goals. Propelling industry toward its decarbonization targets requires doubling down on collaborative innovation, rethinking technology deployment, and prioritizing effective stakeholder engagement.

A U.S. Center for Industrial Decarbonization and Energy Transition can amplify decarbonization efforts by providing a platform in which public and private stakeholders can share data, exchange best practices, and develop insights that support both the design and implementation of an equitable energy transition.

For practitioners, policymakers, and community members across the energy value chain, the Center aims to provide innovative concepts and approaches to address greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction commitments, improve community engagement to foster public acceptance and trust, and collaborate across industries that can accelerate decarbonization journeys.

## Benefits

The establishment of a U.S. Center for Industrial Decarbonization and the Energy Transition would provide a unique, non-advocacy-based, public-private platform focused on identifying and helping to overcome barriers to decarbonization technology deployment and accelerating transformation across increasingly complex value chains. With ambitious pledges arising in recent years from both public and private sectors to decarbonize the economy, the Center provides a think-and-do platform to test, pilot, and scale solutions and collaboration models to help meet decarbonization goals.

The September 2023 *Pathways to Commercial Liftoff: Industrial Decarbonization* [report](#) found that catalyzing rapid and coordinated action across industries and the full technology value chain is key to enabling the commercial liftoff for critical clean energy technologies across industries. Building off Liftoff Report findings, the Center plans to address decarbonization goals through local and global partnerships, including industry, community members, and experts.

Through the Center, founding partners will gain access to shared technology insights that address affordable and reliable deployment. Founding partners will also inform the agenda for shared technical workshops and guidance documents produced by the Center. Focus areas can be co-developed among funders, including facilitated benchmarking site visits, technology-specific workshops, or public-private dialogue series held across regions in the U.S.

Focus is key to delivering meaningful and concrete impact. The Center plans to target, develop, and share key learnings that are industry specific. The initial plan is for the Center's learnings and best practices to start with one industry and be expanded to others over time.

An essential component to the Center's work will be its engagement with communities in proximity to industrial zones, as well as workers directly implicated by the journey to net-zero. The Center will work closely with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), EPRI's regional offices, and community-based organizations to ensure that the Center's solutions and implementation pathways are designed to target and meaningfully address the needs, concerns, and priorities of local communities.

## Project Approach and Summary

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The Center has identified four priority Pillars for action:

- I. Driving Community Engagement
- II. Informing Policy
- III. Accelerating Technology Adoption
- IV. Addressing Business Model Gaps

Engagement platforms are expected to include:

- Public-private roundtables to provide a platform for knowledge exchange on best practices, drawing from international examples.
- Facilitated data collection and analyses to inform the technology development pipeline and to develop evidence-based decision-making capabilities.
- Participatory design with communities and companies to consider the potential implications for communities and the workforce.
- Stakeholder education processes to expand awareness of the energy transition, develop demand for low-carbon alternatives, and create linkages across the value chain and different regions.

- Communication materials to develop convey the value of the energy transition to the public.
- Case studies and data analytics to share best practices and develop new viable business models.

## Proposed Annual Deliverables

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- Executive Committee meeting with founders
- Develop, publish and update strategic plans:
  - Stakeholder engagement matrix (macro-level)
  - Technology and business model assessments with industry-specific focus
  - Communications strategy
- Facilitated roundtables between public and private participants (national and regional).
- White papers, infographics, and global case studies
- Annual stakeholder meetings

## Partnering Institutions and Forum Engagement

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Hosted by EPRI, the Center will bridge expertise and technical support from EPRI's broader research portfolio to individual participants.

The Center will be embedded in the World Economic Forum's [Fourth Industrial Network](#) (C4IR Network) and will engage with the World Economic Forum's [Centre for Energy and Materials](#) (CENMAT), unlocking access to a global community of industry experts, policymakers, and practitioners.

## Founding Partners

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The Forum and EPRI invite the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), NREL, and four to six leading companies representing key aspects of the decarbonization value chain (production, distribution, infrastructure, and end-use) to join the Center as founding partners.

## Operating Model

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All founding partners will be represented on the Executive Committee providing strategic direction to the Center. At least one executive from each sponsoring entity (including DOE) would join the Committee. In addition, founding partners would have the opportunity to deploy at least one subject matter expert to join relevant workstream(s) in the Center. The Center will continue to engage additional stakeholders from both the public and private sectors in each workstream.

Additional companies that wish to become founding partners would have an opportunity to join the Executive Committee as funding partners upon the Center's renewal after the initial 3-year cycle.

As the Center's host, EPRI would provide full-time staff to lead its work and house the organization at EPRI's Washington, D.C. office.

## Center Funding Model

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The Center would launch with a three-year funding cycle with funding from U.S. DOE, EPRI, and founding partners.

The proposed cash funding contribution request for the DOE is \$2M over the three-year initial funding cycle, to be matched with a cash contribution by EPRI. For prospective corporate entities, the cash funding contribution for the Center as a founding partner is \$225,000 annually for three years. All funds would be directed to EPRI as the Center host.

## Project Status and Schedule

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The launch of the Center is planned for Q2 2024 and would be operational for at least three years.

## Next Steps

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The World Economic Forum and EPRI will be reaching out to prospective founding partners for bilateral meetings to discuss the details of becoming a founding partner and the next steps in launching the Center.

Further stakeholder mapping and scoping workshops will be conducted in Q2 2024 to build the Center's three-year roadmap and project plans.

## Center Contact Information

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For more information on how to participate in the Center, please contact:

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## World Economic Forum C4IR Network and CENMAT

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The C4IR Network helps businesses, governments, and society make sense of emerging technologies and lead the responsible transformation of industries, economies, and societies. The C4IR Network's 16 Centers convene stakeholders, conduct and disseminate research, operate sandbox environments, oversee pilot projects and more. They act as a neutral, trusted space to address complex challenges through tested insights and collaboration.

By partnering with CENMAT, the Center can leverage the Forum's global network, initiatives, and international efforts, including CENMAT initiatives such as:

- The [Transitioning Industrial Ecosystems Initiative](#)
- The [Accelerating Clean Hydrogen](#) initiative
- The [Clean Power, Grids and Electrification](#) program
- The [Energy Transition Index](#)
- The [Net Zero Industry Tracker](#)

For more information on the Forum collaboration, the C4IR network, and CENMET please contact:

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