

GE and Google

Clean Energy Partnership: An Overview

GE and Google are joining forces to help develop tomorrow's power generation, transmission and distribution — known as the “smart grid” — and its interface with next generation electric transportation. Our goal is to provide consumers with improved and expanded energy choices, whether it's buying renewable power, driving a plug-in car, or reducing energy bills by managing home energy use.

We will advance these goals by launching a policy partnership in Washington, D.C., and collaborating on advanced energy technologies.

GE and Google will advocate for federal policies critical to building a 21st century U.S. electricity system. Initial policy priorities include:

- Planning, siting, and cost allocation for the transmission capacity necessary to enable large scale deployment of renewable electricity generation in the United States
- Development and deployment of a “smart” electricity grid that will empower utilities and end users to manage electricity more efficiently and with lower emissions

GE and Google will also collaborate to develop and deploy renewable energy and plug-in vehicle related technologies. Initial areas of technology collaboration include:

- Utility-scale renewable energy with an initial focus on advanced geothermal technology
- Software, controls, and services to enable utilities to integrate plug-in vehicles into the grid

Contacts:

GE

Peter O'Toole
peter.o'toole@ge.com
(203) 373-2547

Google

Niki Fenwick
nikifenwick@google.com
(202) 355-4599



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What are you announcing?

A: Cooperation between GE and Google to develop policy and technology solutions to some of our major energy challenges.

Q: Why Google and GE?

A: Both companies believe that our economic, environmental and security challenges require that we use electricity more efficiently, generate it from cleaner sources, and electrify our transportation fleet. This 21st century electricity system must combine advanced energy technology — a major GE focus — and cutting edge information technology — a major Google focus. We believe that by combining our efforts — along with other relevant businesses and industries — we can advance critical policy change in Washington and develop new technologies and services for consumers.

Policy partnership

Q: Why have you chosen to focus on advancing policy?

A: Policy is a major impediment to building a 21st century electricity system. The current regulatory and economic model is failing to drive the innovation and investment we need in today's electric grid. We will work to overcome regulatory and institutional barriers, and advocate for appropriate incentives.

Q: What policy changes are you advocating for?

A: Initially, we will work to ensure that significant new transmission capacity gets built to bring electricity from renewable sources to consumers and to build a smart electricity grid that will empower utilities and consumers to manage energy more efficiently and save money.

Q: How will you go about advancing your mission in Washington?

A: Our efforts will include analysis and development of specific policy proposals, alliance building, advocacy, information programs and public relations.

Q: What level of effort do you expect to put into this project?

A: We are working on a detailed implementation plan, but it's clear that a public policy initiative of this magnitude will require a significant effort.

Q: Are you looking for help?

A: We're not ready to start a broad-based organization to advance this agenda — but we will be looking to work with other companies and organizations focused on advancing policies critical to building a 21st century electricity system.

Technology collaboration

Q: How will you collaborate on technology?

A: GE and Google have complementary strengths and interests in technology. Initially, we will be collaborate in two areas: an advanced approach to geothermal technology called Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS) and technologies to enable the large-scale integration of plug-in vehicles into the grid.

Q: What will you do on EGS?

A: EGS is an advanced geothermal technology that could provide large-scale base-load renewable power all over the world. GE and Google are exploring EGS-related technologies such as reservoir visualization and power conversion.

Q: What will you do on plug-ins?

A: In the area of plug-in vehicles we will initially explore enabling technologies including software, controls and services that help utilities enhance grid stability and integrate plug-in vehicles and renewable energy into the grid.

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