



## Frequently Asked Questions

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### What is the National Energy Efficiency Registry (NEER)?

The NEER is a web-based platform that will help states document achievement of energy and environmental goals, disclose regulated entities' compliance activities, and drive voluntary investment in energy efficiency and energy and water conservation initiatives, by supporting the registration and tracking of energy efficiency projects and issuing tradable instruments based on resulting savings.

### Who is developing the NEER?

In 2015, Tennessee, Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, The Climate Registry (TCR) and the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), along with supporting organizations E4TheFuture and APX, were awarded competitive funding from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to develop a roadmap for the NEER.<sup>1</sup> As part of the NEER's development, this Project Team additionally recruited and engaged a broad stakeholder group of over 150 individuals representing 115 state and federal government agencies, non-profits, energy sector actors, academic institutions, consultants, and local governments.



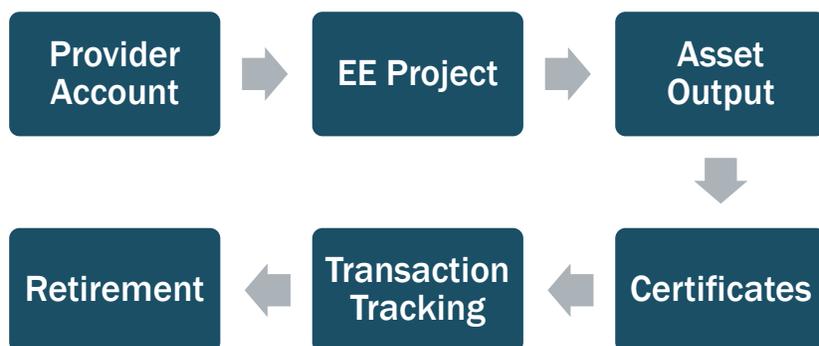
### How will the NEER work?

The NEER will provide a consistent framework for collecting and tracking information input by energy efficiency and other conservation project providers so that data will be collected and displayed in a standardized manner. When registering their projects, providers will indicate the voluntary or mandatory reporting standard with which they seek to comply. The NEER is pre-populated with two options for voluntary reporting. States (or other program designers) can also create customized modules to meet any desired parameters.

<sup>1</sup> Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), Award Number DE-EE0007219, CFDA No. 81.119.

Once projects are registered, they will undergo an eligibility evaluation in accordance with the selected reporting standard. After a project is proven to be eligible, the provider can begin to report on the project's impacts. If a project reports to a standard that supports the issuance of tradable certificates, the project's impacts (or asset output) will form the basis of those certificates. Any trading of certificates will be managed outside of the NEER and then be tracked within it. Certificate transfers to and from other platforms will also be possible. Finally, the NEER will support permanent retirement of certificates in order to substantiate voluntary or compliance claims.

## NEER Workflow:



### How can states use the NEER to drive energy efficiency investments?

The NEER will put energy efficiency on a level playing field with other strategies that states can employ to achieve energy and environmental goals by providing a consistent, robust framework for energy efficiency to be included as an “eligible resource” in federal and state programs. The NEER will demonstrate the eligibility and verification of avoided energy savings according to established standards, address potential double counting issues, and enable “apples-to-apples” comparisons of project impacts. Types of initiatives that the NEER will be able to support include energy efficiency resource standards, utility customer self-direct programs, and interstate air pollution trading programs such as U.S. EPA’s Cross-State Air Pollution Rule. More information about how the NEER can support these programs can be found in the [NEER User Scenarios](#).

### How will the NEER support voluntary energy efficiency objectives?

The NEER will make it easier for organizations to document energy efficiency initiatives as a means to improve economic competitiveness, environmental quality, and meet voluntary energy and environmental targets. The NEER’s consistent requirements for data reporting, third-party verification, and quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) procedures will provide sufficient transparency and credibility to support the issuance of certificates to supply a voluntary market and assure stakeholders that claimed savings from purchased certificates are real and not double counted.

It will also support the development of new policies for privately-funded energy efficiency by providing transparency and credibility for projects implemented by energy service companies (ESCOs) and other non-ratepayer funded programs. This will expand the policy options for States seeking innovative approaches to incentivize local energy efficiency projects and support job creation.

## How will the NEER work with existing platforms?

The NEER is being designed to be compatible with most existing environmental attribute reporting and trading platforms. Data will be able to be transferred between existing systems, thus avoiding duplication of effort or functionality.

## How will the NEER impact the cost of administering energy efficiency programs?

The NEER will lower the costs associated with administering energy efficiency programs and policies by streamlining and automating processes that might otherwise be completed manually. This will free up more resources to identify and implement new projects.

## How can the NEER inform State policies?

The NEER will bring transparency and clarity to the impacts of implemented energy efficiency programs which today are projected, estimated, reported, and audited using a wide range of approaches. This will enable broad and deep analysis of the impacts of existing energy efficiency programs, and help to identify new opportunities for energy savings. As a national platform, the NEER will encourage the sharing of best practices, enable peer-learning, and elevate collaboration within and across states.

In addition, by providing states with key insight on avoided energy savings from non-ratepayer funded energy efficiency projects and potentially consolidating these with ratepayer funded savings in a single consistent format, the NEER can help inform state energy and environmental planning efforts. Resiliency planning, electric reliability projections, and utility integrated resource planning are a few areas that stand to benefit from the NEER.

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