



Grid Resilience Framework

Frequently Asked Questions

October 2024



What is the background of this initiative?

Regulators and state decision makers are increasingly focused on enhancing grid resilience, in part due to the growing severity of grid disruptions and in part due to new priorities of electricity customers and communities. As a result, this initiative is a response to this growing emphasis on grid resilience among state agencies. The U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Deployment Office (GDO), in collaboration with NARUC and E9 Insight, hosted workshops in 2023 to identify key areas of interest and needs from public utility commissions pertaining to grid resilience. Following the workshops, a Technical Needs Assessment was completed to highlight the findings from the workshops. The Needs Assessment led to the formation of three NARUC-led cohorts:

1. Resilience Valuation Frameworks
2. Grid Resilience Metrics
3. Regulatory Mechanisms for Grid Resilience

The NARUC Resilience Framework Document is informed by the three cohorts and will be completed following their adjournments.

What is the purpose of the framework document?

This framework was developed in response to the increasing attention on grid resilience by state energy offices and public utility commissions. It is the result of a year-long collaboration between GDO and representatives from state energy offices and public utility commissions where key areas of concern were discussed and identified. These areas highlight the significant changes occurring in the electricity sector, which challenge traditional grid planning and operations.

This framework serves several purposes:

- **Guiding regulators:** It helps state agencies and public utility commissions identify the right questions to ask when considering grid resilience investments and planning processes.
- **Aiding broader decision-makers:** Beyond regulators, it provides insights to other state agencies and stakeholders involved in or impacted by grid resilience.
- **Supporting grid and resilience planning:** It aligns with NARUC's broader goal of providing resources that promote thoughtful decision-making in emerging areas.

Who is the target audience for the document?

The primary audience for this document includes:

- State energy offices and public utility commissions that are responsible for reviewing and approving resilience investment proposals as well as guiding grid planning.
- Other state agencies that may also be working on electricity system resilience or that depend on the grid for critical services.

What this document is NOT.

This document is not a “how-to” guide for developing a specific, actionable grid resilience plan, rule or regulation. Instead, this framework document focuses on helping state leaders, regulators and staff think comprehensively about the issues they need to address and questions that may arise as they develop and advance grid resilience initiatives within their jurisdiction and consider grid resilience and its impact on customers and communities. The framework document considers initiatives such as utility grid investment plans, customer programs, public funding initiatives and incentive programs related to grid resilience, but it does not propose specific aspects of how states and jurisdictions should include these measures into regulatory or policy decisions. Rather, the document strives to provide comprehensive guiding questions that will lead to thoughtful outcomes.

How is this framework structured?

The framework is organized into six key components and outlines the importance of addressing each of them as part of the resilience planning and implementation process. Where appropriate, the framework document includes examples that may be relevant or instructive.

1. **Goals and Objectives:** Outlining potential goals and objectives that can be identified for grid resilience initiatives.
2. **Use Cases:** Providing examples of scenarios where resilience planning occurs, requiring discussions of metrics, valuation and regulatory mechanisms.
3. **Definitions:** Highlighting that terms should be defined based on decision-makers’ situations.
4. **Process Leadership and Participation:** Identifying stakeholders and outlining their roles in resilience planning.
5. **Design Questions:** Offering key questions to consider during the planning process related to the three cohort topics: grid resilience metrics, resilience valuation frameworks, and regulatory mechanisms.
6. **Implementation:** Guidance on putting resilience strategies into action.

How should readers interpret and use this framework document?

This framework is designed to help decision-makers:

- **Organize resilience practices:** The framework can help state agencies organize and inform their practices and oversight of grid resilience investments.
- **Guide grid funding decisions:** Decision-makers can use this document to inform decisions related to requests for resilience funding, such as through utility resilience plans or in response to grant funding requests.
- **Understand broader impacts:** This document can also help state agencies understand the broader impact and role of resilience beyond their own organization. The framework encourages consideration of how grid resilience impacts other agencies, cities, counties, and customer groups, helping to inform cross-agency decision-making.

The sections of the framework can be used in any order, depending on the specific needs of the user. It does not provide definitive answers on resilience but helps agencies understand and contextualize resilience investments within the scope of their projects or needs.

How does this framework align with other existing frameworks?

This framework is separate from existing frameworks from DOE National Labs and other organizations. However, there is overlap in the topics discussed in this framework and other initiatives, including Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory's (Berkeley Lab) resilience trainings. View Berkeley Lab's resilience training [presentations](#) and [recordings](#).