

RMI Tools and Technical Assistance for Consumer Advocates

6/11/2024

RMI - Energy, Transformed

## RMI's Electricity Program

#### Topical coverage

**Markets & Grids** 

**Business Models & Regulation** 

**Grid Resources** 

Finance & Policy

**Global Electric System** 

#### **Focus areas**

- Transmission expansion
- Wholesale market reform & expansion
- Electrification planning
- Regulatory reform
- Equitable ratemaking
- Customer offerings
- System planning & reliability
- "Virtual power plant" market development
- Economic dispatch
- Federal policy reforms
- Utility transition data curation & financial modeling
- Just & equitable transition
- Coal transition financial mechanisms
- Geography-specific engagements
- Network and capacity building

# **Expert contributors to RMI's "Tools & TA"**

Not even close to an exhaustive list!



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Jacob Becker (Associate)



# **RMI Tools**

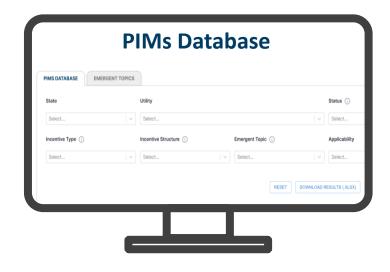
**"Utility Transition Hub"** 

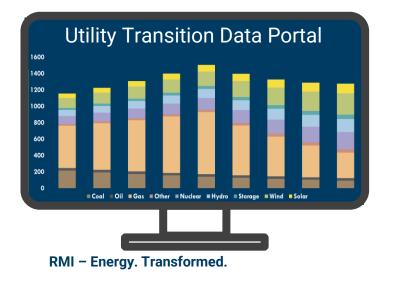


### **Overview of Proactive Engagement Tools**

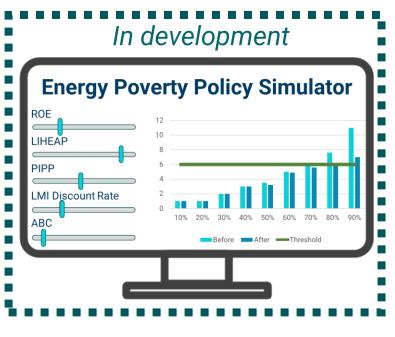












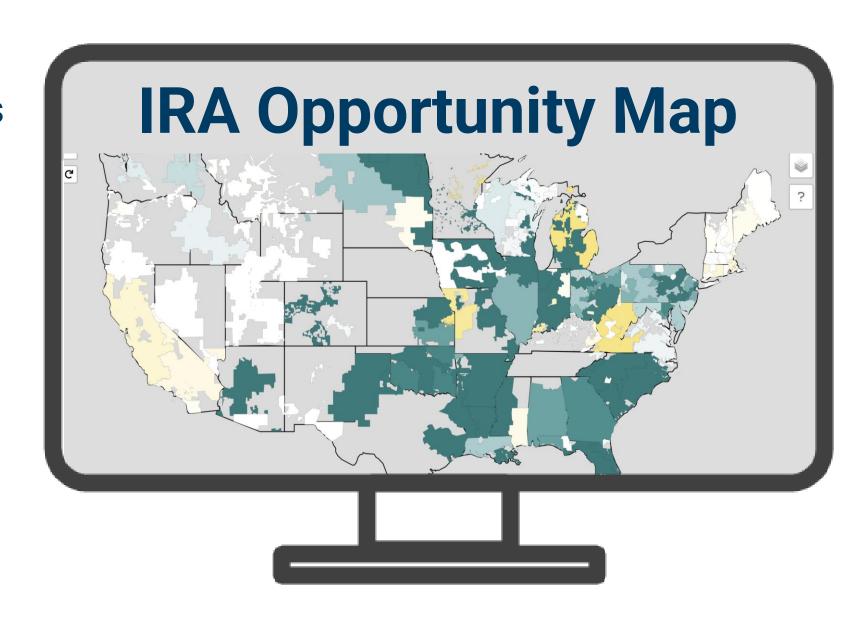
### Dispatch Dashboard: Monitoring Power Plant Operations

Empowers advocates to track (un)economic operations of coal plants and quantifies the costs associated with uneconomic operations at the regional, state, utility, and plant levels. Automatically updates every 3 months providing the latest data available. New features include residential bill impact analysis and emissions calculations.



# IRA Opportunity Map: Tracking Potential IRA Savings

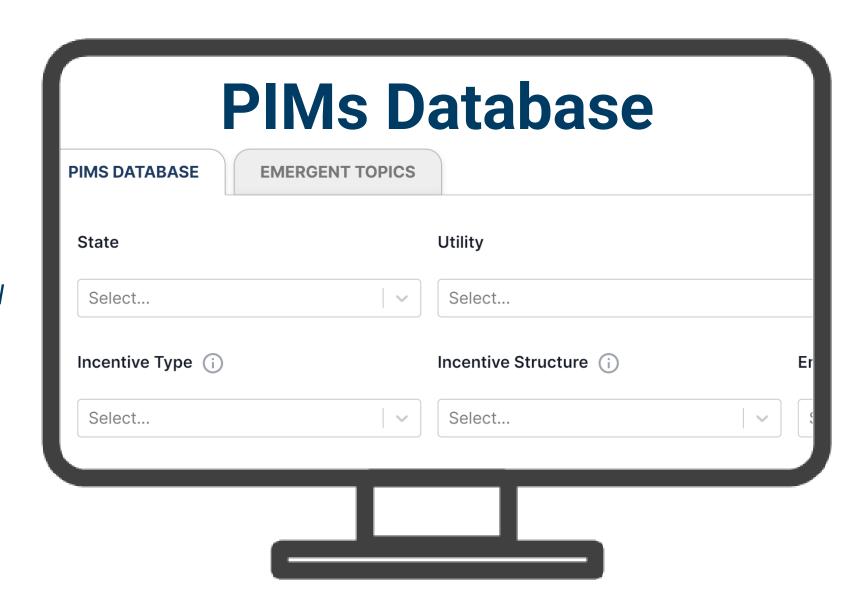
A living document that will be updated over time to support electric utilities, regulators, and advocates as they explore implementation strategies for IRA provisions, which can create billions of dollars of savings for customers by building new clean energy resources. The first IRA Opportunity Map analysis focuses on "clean repowering."



### PIMs Database:

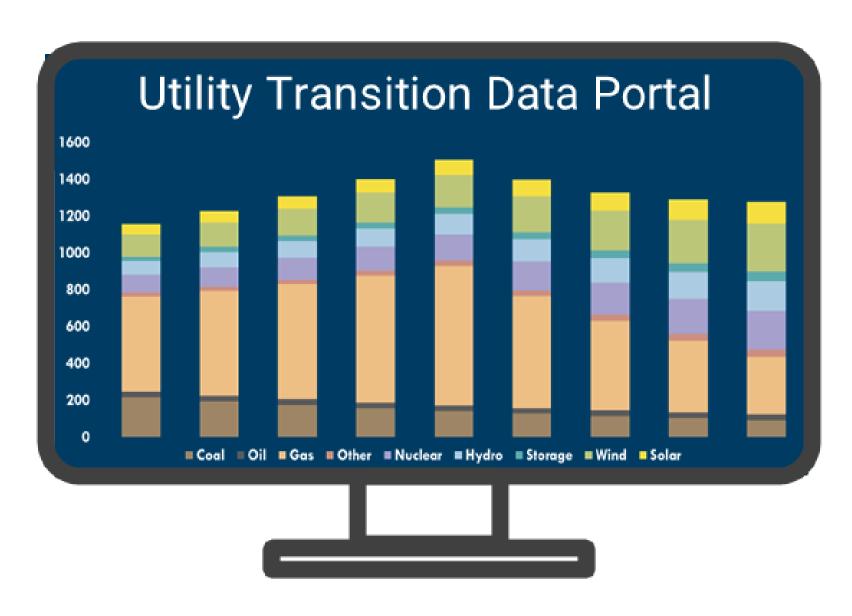
# Collecting information on Performance Incentive Metrics

A comprehensive database of emergent PIMs across the United States. The database will be updated annually and is filterable by State, Utility, Status (active or inactive), Incentive Type, Incentive Structure, and Emergent Topic area. Examples of emergent topics include equity, transport electrification, and demand flexibility.



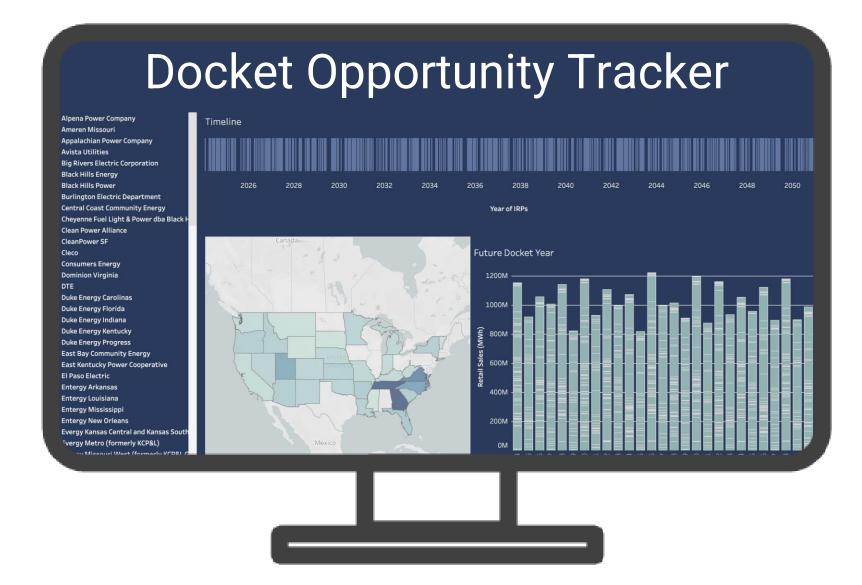
# Utility Transition Data Portal: Where data goes to live.

Populated with data from EIA, FERC, and other public sources, the Data Portal enables users to track a range of utility metrics including capital investments, energy burden, climate goals, and operations. As RMI collects new data the Data Portal provides consistently updated and organized data for easier understanding and benchmarking.



### Docket Opportunity Tracker: Projecting dates of key utility dockets.

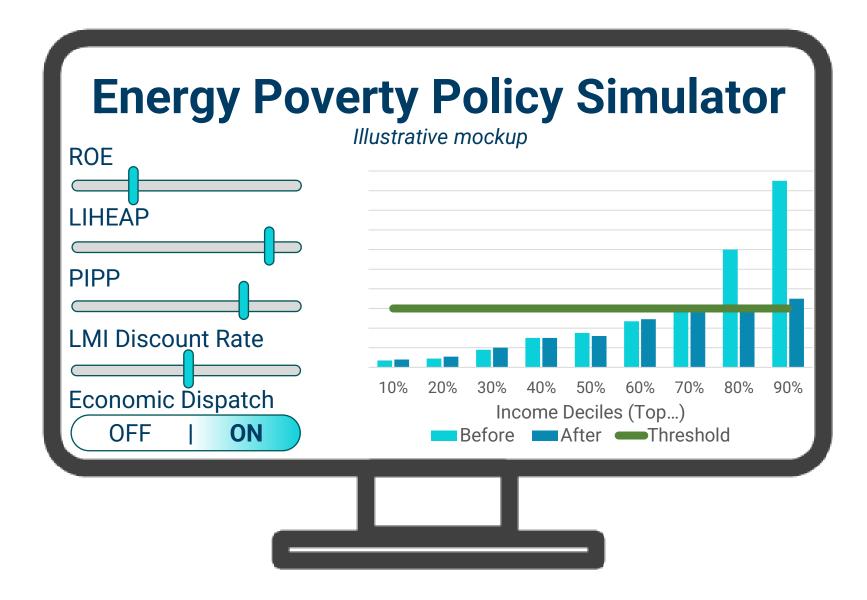
By tracking known reoccurring dockets like IRP's and fuel cost recovery dockets this tool will enable intervenors to anticipate when these proceedings will occur. Potential features of the tool will include linking to metrics, like cumulative emissions and projected capital investment, to aid those organizations with prioritization and resource allocation.



# Energy Poverty Policy Simulator: Measuring the impact of policy on addressing energy burden.

Calculates the relative impact that different policies will have on energy burden and energy poverty. The tool will include a range of policies that address affordability and measure the distributional effects of those policies under user generated assumptions including how to pay for the policy.

#### IN DEVELOPMENT





Technical Assistance Offerings



### **Proactive Work**

**Example of support RMI offers prior to dockets opening** 

Forward Looking Tools

Primers, Handbooks, And Resources Education And
Targeted
Training To
Intervenors

Training To Technical Experts Facilitate
Convenings And
Workshops

### Rapid Response Engagement

Examples of off-the-shelf resources RMI can provide

**Topics** 

**Key Resources** 

**Capture Time-bounded IRA Opportunities** 

Existing: "Planning to Harness the Inflation Reduction Act" report Forthcoming: EIR and Clean Repowering playbooks

Planning for Load Growth

Existing: "Reimagining Resource Planning" report

Existing: Grid-Enhancing Technologies (GETs) insight brief

Existing: Data center load growth blog

Existing: "Virtual Power Plant (VPP) Policy Principles" policy brief

Maintain Cost
Control and
Affordability

Existing: "Fuel Cost Sharing Primer" report

Existing: "Strategies for Encouraging Good Fuel-Cost Management" report

Forthcoming: Paper on cost allocation approaches under rapid electrification

Forthcoming: Primer on Low-income programs (e.g.PIPPs, AMPs)

Forthcoming: Disconnection policy handbook

Forthcoming: Cost Control Toolkit

Forthcoming: ROE Primer

### **Bespoke Technical Assistance**

**Examples of past engagement tailored to specific proceedings** 

Provide direct assistance to consumer advocate on shaping proposals for specific PBR mechanisms that align utility incentives with customer interests and represented consumer advocate in front of the commission

Supported consumer advocate with technical assistance to incorporate the EIR program savings potential to quantify the consumer savings in a resource planning docket

Provided research and analytical support to commission prior to opening an affordability docket

Supported commission review of stakeholder comments and participated in a stakeholder workshop to help identify and prioritize federal funding opportunities that would drive ratepayer savings for the state

Reviewed proposed recommendations to commission in an equity docket to support disconnection reform and community benefit plans

Provided technical assistance to regulatory staff on IRA-enabled solutions to meet short-term load growth at a lower cost, which informed staff's discovery and testimony in a utility resource planning docket

## RMI's Electricity Program Topic Areas

Not even an exhaustive list!

UTILITY BUSINESS REGULATORY **EQUITABLE** RESOURCE LOAD GROWTH RELIABILITY **REFORMS** MODELS RATEMAKING **PLANNING** VIRTUAL POWER **ECONOMIC FEDERAL** COST **FUEL COST UTILITY ROE PLANTS** DISPATCH **INCENTIVES ALLOCATION RECOVERY ENERGY BURDEN** LOW INCOME SHUT OFFS AND WHOLESALE TRANSMISSION **ELECTRIFICATION** AND DISCONNECTIONS **PROGRAMS MARKETS AFFORDABILITY** 



# Thank You



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