Alberta's Electricity Future

energyfutureslab

Maximizing Momentum

Results and Paths Forward (2023-2026)

September 4, 2026

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DISCLAIMER
While the Alberta's Electricity Future Leadership Council, working group members and coalition members played a crucial role in shaping the outputs of the initiative's 3-year arc, this narrative does not necessarily reflect, in part or in whole, the views of any individual or organization represented. The opinions expressed in this narrative do not necessarily reflect those of the Energy Futures Lab Board of Directors, donors or advisors to the Lab. The Lab relies on the support of donors and corporate supporters who recognize the importance of leaning in to collaboratively explore, understand and solve systemic challenges in creating the Canadian energy system the future demands of us.

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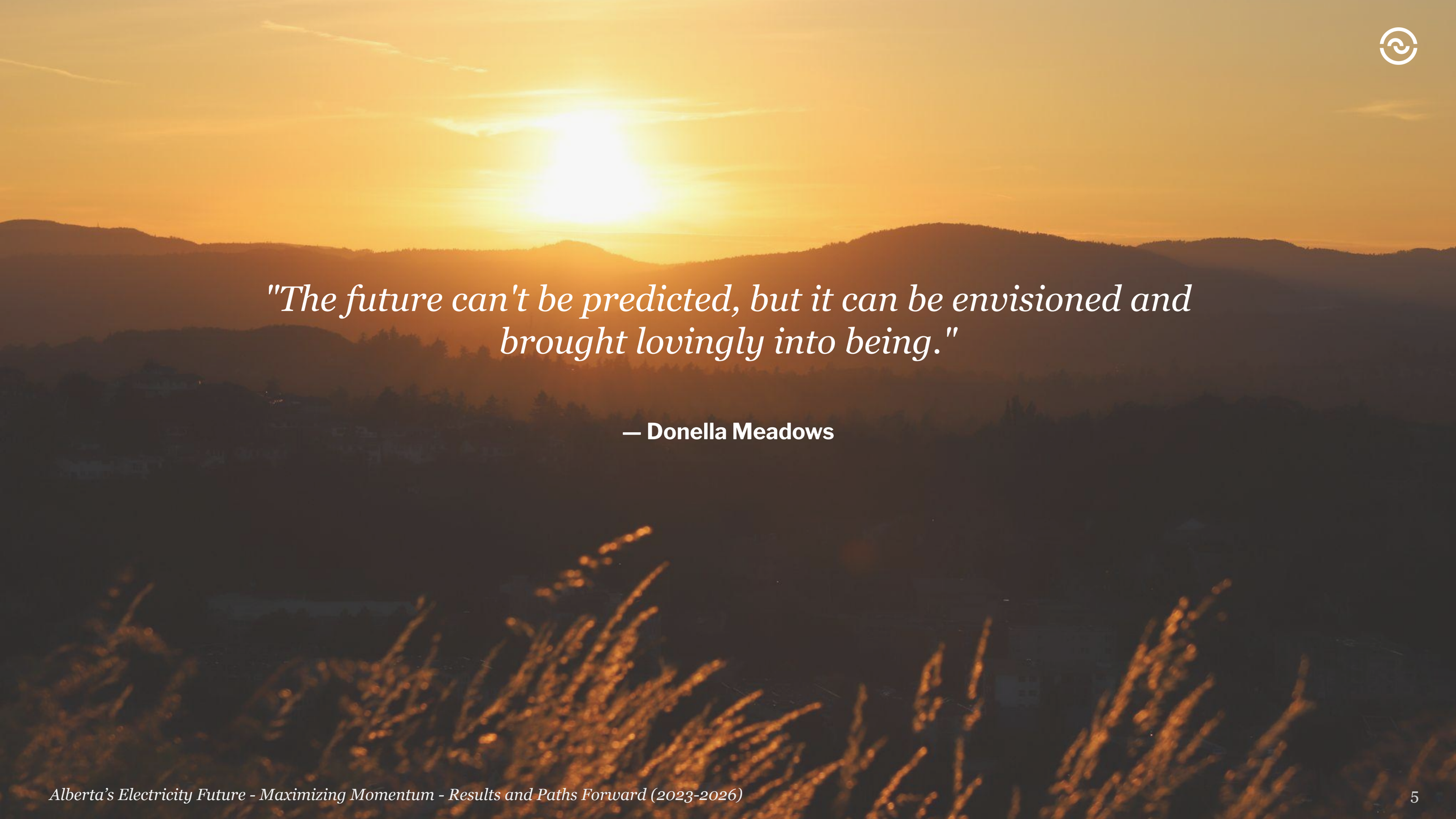
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This report documents the evolution of Alberta's Electricity Future over its first three years. More than a summary of activities, it explains how the coalition built alignment around a shared direction, translated that alignment into a portfolio of strategic solutions and is now working to move those solutions toward implementation. In doing so, it captures not only the outcomes of the initiative, but the thinking, decisions, and lessons that shaped its evolution. We hope it serves not only as a record of the initiative, but as a practical resource for others working to advance change in complex systems.

For further information, please contact Project Coordinator Julie Bunker at jbunker@energyfutureslab.com

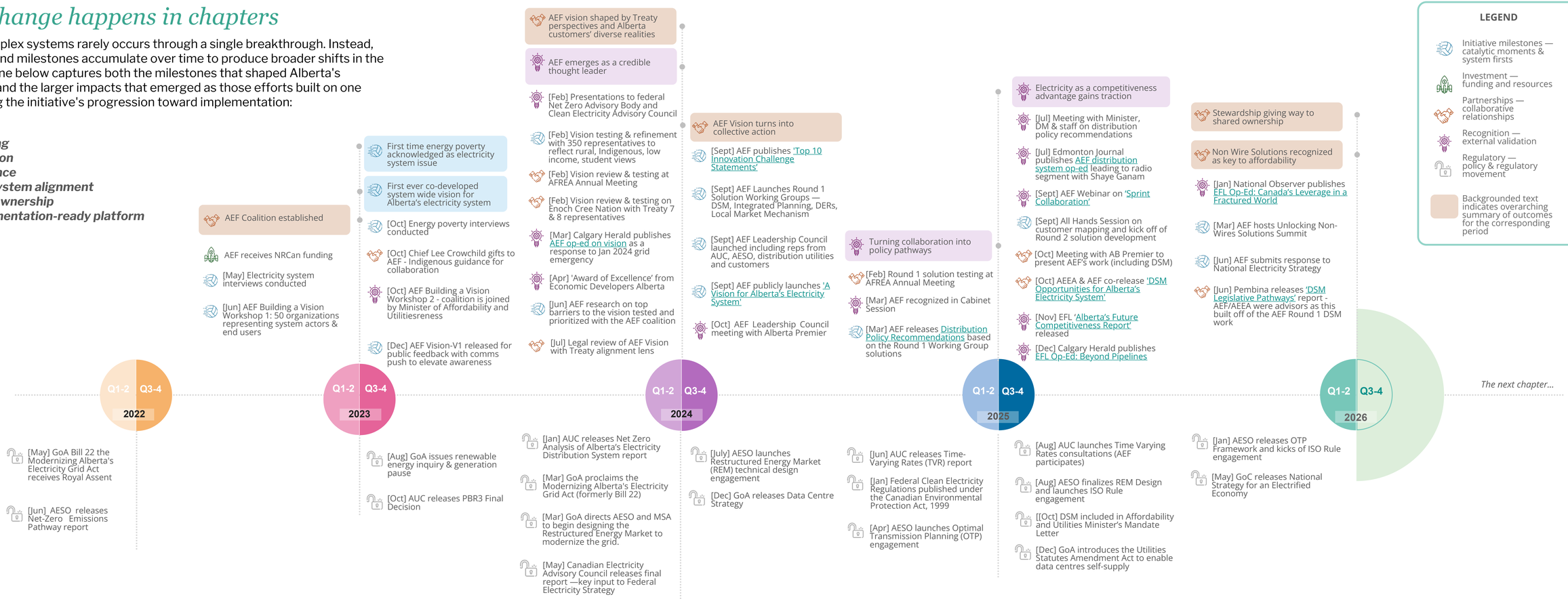

"The future can't be predicted, but it can be envisioned and brought lovingly into being."
— Donella Meadows

Alberta's Electricity Future: Impact Mapping

Systems change happens in chapters

Transforming complex systems rarely occurs through a single breakthrough. Instead, individual events and milestones accumulate over time to produce broader shifts in the system. The timeline below captures both the milestones that shaped Alberta's Electricity Future and the larger impacts that emerged as those efforts built on one another—revealing the initiative's progression toward implementation:

vision
↳coalition-building
↳collective action
↳policy influence
↳ broader system alignment
↳ shared ownership
↳ implementation-ready platform



Beginning with the End in Mind

"The best way to predict the future is to create it."

— Peter Drucker

About the Energy Futures Lab

An award-winning, multi-stakeholder social innovation lab focused on energy transition

The Energy Futures Lab (the Lab) is an Alberta-based coalition of innovators and leading organizations from across the energy system. It was created to address a growing sense of polarization in Canada and to tackle the most intractable, system-level challenges in the energy transition.

Since its inception in 2015, the Lab has brought together a diverse, cross-sector group of stakeholders, Rights- and Title-holders to collaboratively develop solutions for a carbon-neutral energy future, drawing on diverse perspectives to address complex challenges that require the involvement and coordination of the full system.

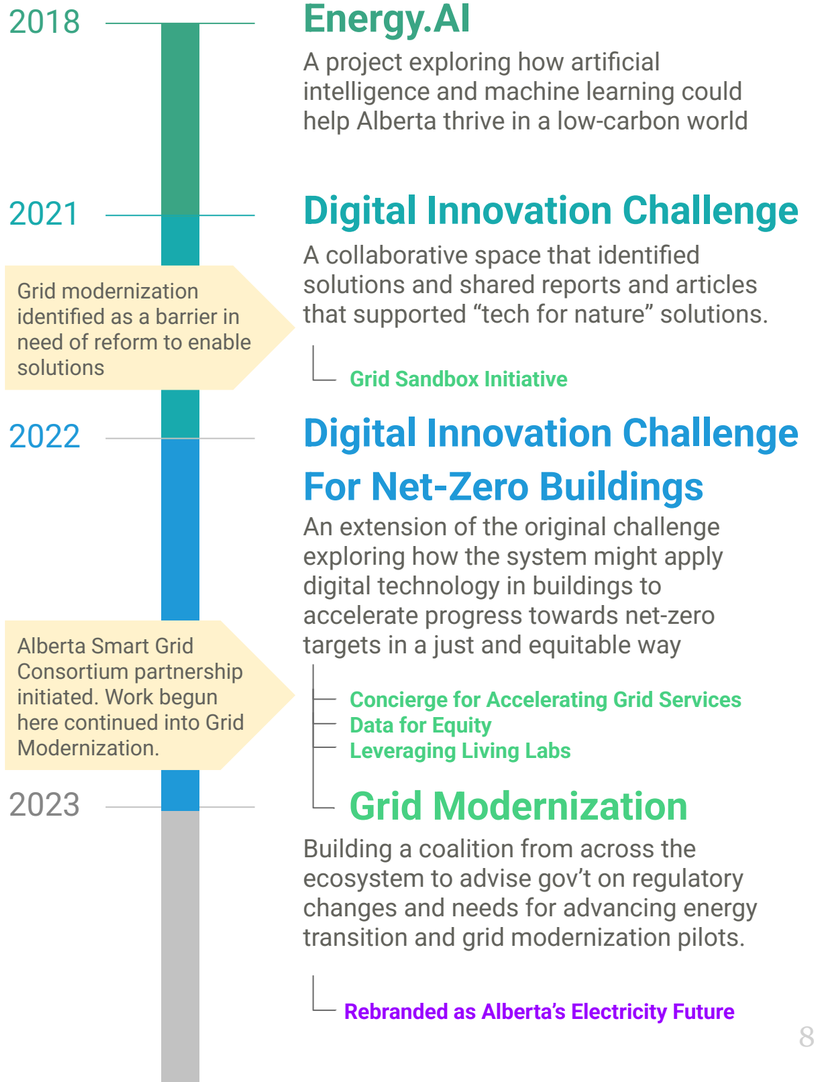
Together we must uncover the solutions that will power Alberta's competitive future

Applying the Lab's unique social innovation lens to Alberta's electricity challenge helps accelerate the adoption of innovative ideas and builds capacity to navigate and overcome barriers. The challenge of ensuring Alberta's grid can meet our future needs affordably, reliably, and sustainably requires evaluating the system as a whole, not piece by piece, and implementing well-considered changes with urgency. It also requires cross-sectoral and cross-cultural collaboration.

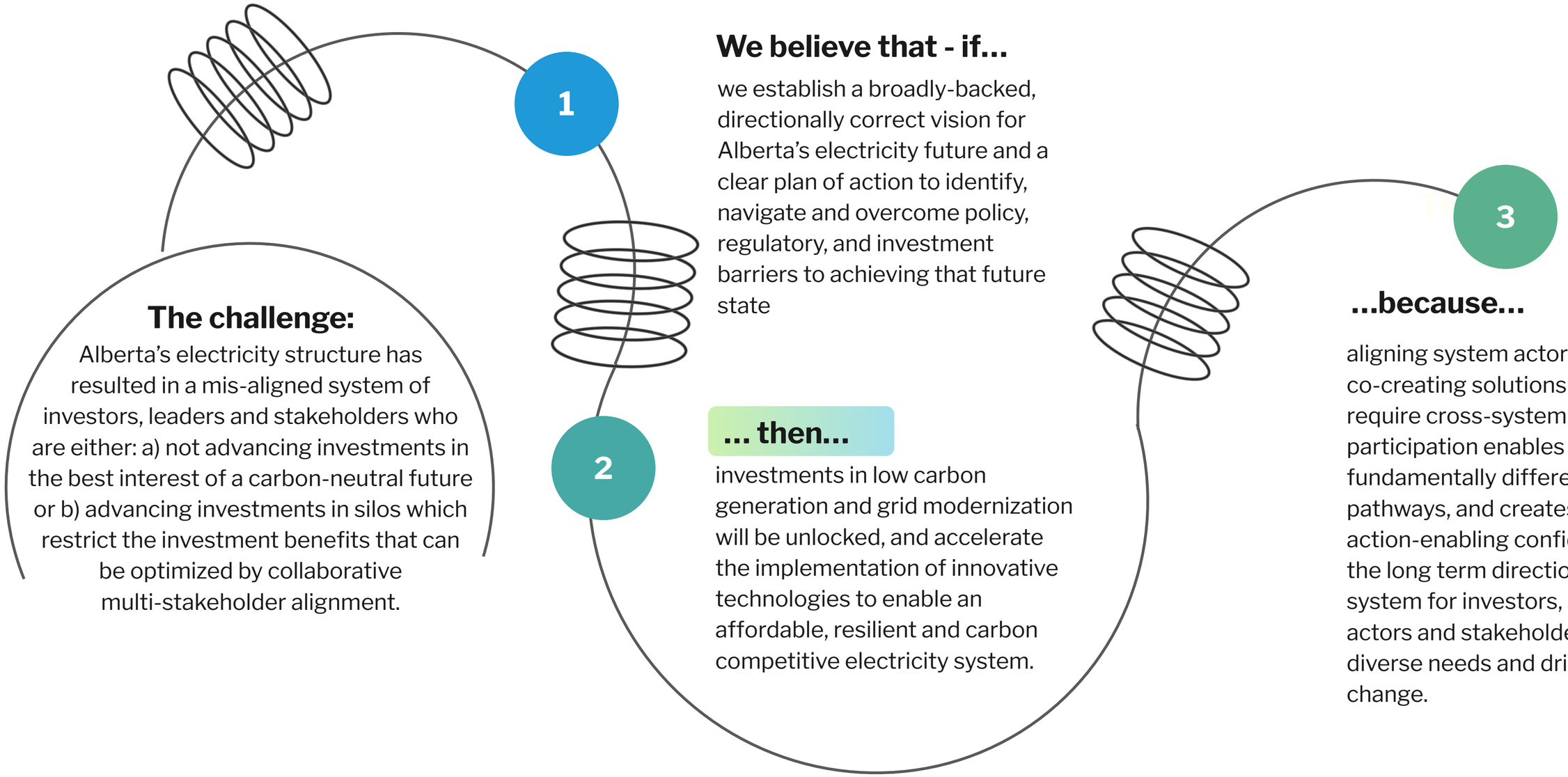
No organization in Alberta is better equipped to lead collaborative grid innovation, and currently no other organization in Alberta is taking the systems-level approach required.

There are strong signals the Energy Futures Lab's approach to this challenge is both timely and necessary.

Our path to Alberta's Electricity Future



Our Theory of Change: Towards Solution Development



The challenge:

Alberta's electricity structure has resulted in a mis-aligned system of investors, leaders and stakeholders who are either: a) not advancing investments in the best interest of a carbon-neutral future or b) advancing investments in silos which restrict the investment benefits that can be optimized by collaborative multi-stakeholder alignment.

We believe that - if...

we establish a broadly-backed, directionally correct vision for Alberta's electricity future and a clear plan of action to identify, navigate and overcome policy, regulatory, and investment barriers to achieving that future state

... then...

investments in low carbon generation and grid modernization will be unlocked, and accelerate the implementation of innovative technologies to enable an affordable, resilient and carbon competitive electricity system.

...because...

aligning system actors and co-creating solutions that require cross-system participation enables fundamentally different pathways, and creates action-enabling confidence in the long term direction of the system for investors, system actors and stakeholders with diverse needs and drivers for change.

A Good Way Forward: Guidance and Reminders from our Elders

Placing customers and people across Alberta at the centre of a future electricity system is critical. Former Tsuut'ina Nation Xakiji (Chief) Lee Crowchild shared his guidance on why this must remain at the heart of our efforts — even as the road shifts and new challenges arise.

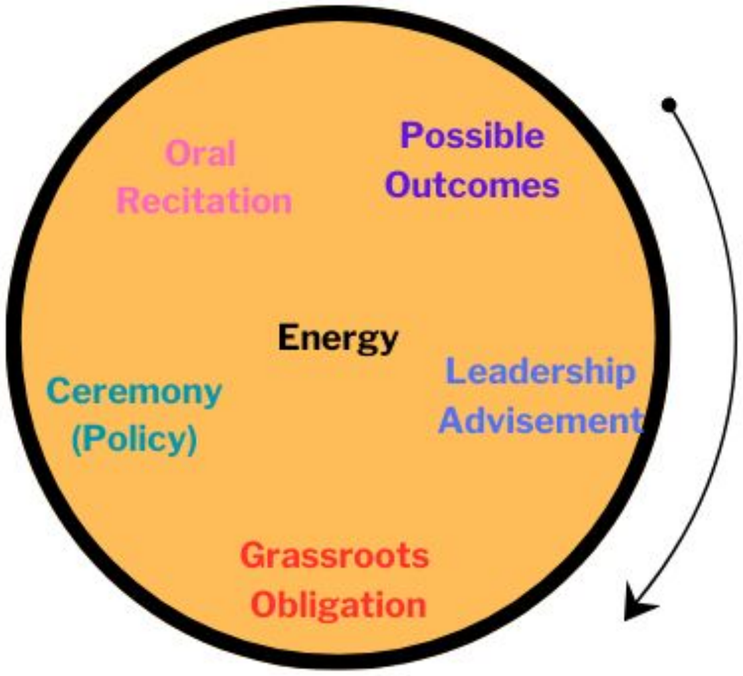
There is only one earth and one people — systems can only be changed if we hold to a vision of unity, dignity, and respect that sees all living beings (people of all nations, cultures, plants and animals) and systems (lands, waters, air) as equal and essential.

We must meet one another in good faith — we can only understand what needs to be changed and nurtured by listening across perspectives, and working through our differences with humility.

Honesty and dialogue are the foundations for growing shared purpose – this spirit must be protected, especially when external pressures and distractions make it easy to turn away.

Our strength lies in relationship — in seeing our futures as interconnected and our responsibilities as shared, we maximize our impact because we are pulling in the same direction and toward a common outcome.

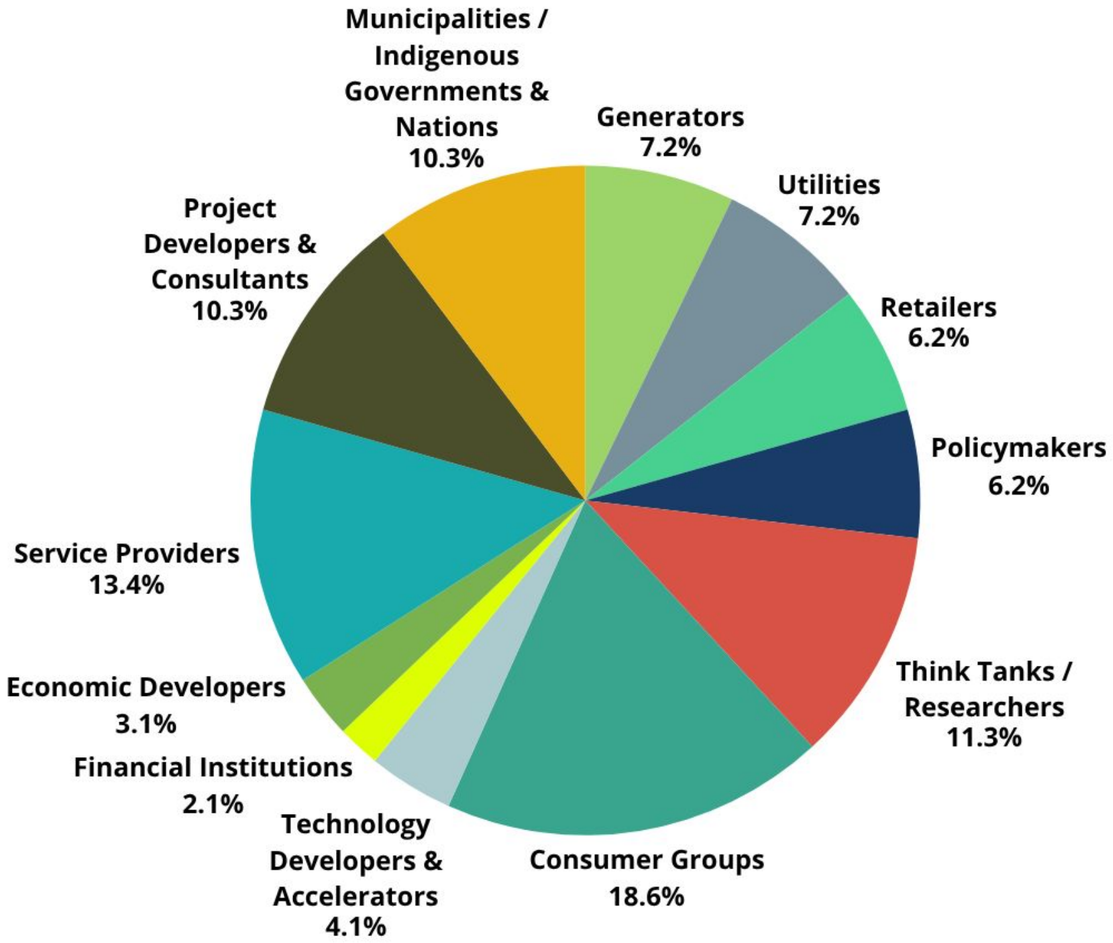
Our first steps forward begin with understanding – a choice each of us faces. True progress, he reminded us, begins when we choose connection over division and recognize that we all belong to the same story.

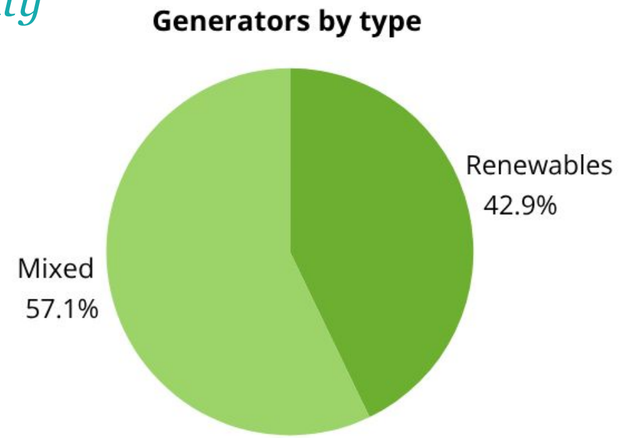


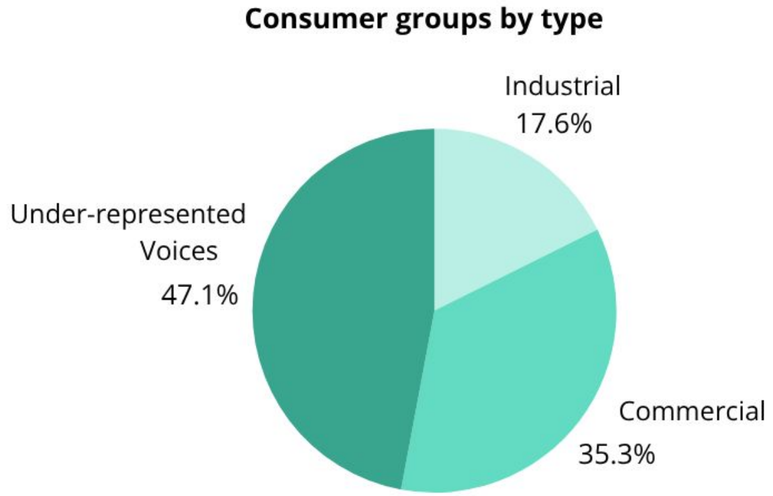
Indigenous Approach

Project Participants

In addition to system incumbents — such as the generators, regulators and utilities — this project included participants that are rarely directly represented at decision-making tables. This deliberate effort drew in the expertise and lived experience of electricity end-users in a way that consultations about the system to-date have not.







The Phases of Alberta's Electricity Future (AEF)

"A growing and carbon-neutral electricity system that enables greater customer choice and flexibility while maintaining safety, reliability and affordability."

This statement is shorthand for AEF's co-created vision — our 'North Star' — the ultimate future state we're trying to make possible through all of the coalition's work.

Established in early 2023, Alberta's Electricity Future is a multi-year initiative of the Energy Futures Lab. It brings together electricity leaders and users along with innovators and changemakers to identify and converge on the practical next steps needed to enable greater customer choice and flexibility while maintaining the safety and reliability of the electricity system as it grows and expands to meet the needs of a prosperous, affordable economy for Alberta.

The initiative has established a first-of-its-kind coalition, where traditional electricity voices — generators, regulators, and utilities — work alongside historically underrepresented groups, including Indigenous Rights- and Title-holders as well as vulnerable groups and communities, to put customers' needs and interests at the centre of how the system should evolve.

Now, three years in, three chapters of work stand complete:

Phase 1 was characterized by co-developing a long-term vision for Alberta's electricity system with 50+ organizations — tested with an additional 350 representatives across the system — and identifying ten systemic barriers (i.e. looking at root causes, not symptoms) standing in the way of achieving the vision.

Phase 2 turned that vision into solutions, starting with a proposal for **optimizing what already exists** as the foundation. Three solution areas — **demand-side management**, **local grid market mechanisms**, and **distributed energy resources** — culminated in distribution policy recommendations positioned to inform the provincial government's priorities for the distribution system.

Phase 3 advanced **reliability and affordability as central lenses** — co-developing **energy poverty programs** directly with distribution companies and nonprofits, continuing to **build alignment on localized markets**, and convening **a summit on Non-Wires Solutions**. Each had the same underlying goal: helping stabilize and reduce the cost of delivered electricity.

This report shares the work we have completed, the impact we have had and where AEF is going next.

Alberta's Electricity Future Vision

The vision outlines the desired, long-term future we aspire to, helping diverse actors navigate uncertainty while aligning decisions and actions toward a shared future.

HOW TO READ THIS

The vision is organized in four layers:

1. **The North Star** defines the future that Alberta's electricity system is moving toward
2. **Customer Lenses** place customers at the centre of the electricity system by considering the distinct needs of different users types
3. **Guiding Principles** describe the characteristics of solutions that advance toward the North Star
4. **Vision Outcomes** characteristics of a future system that solutions must drive toward to deliver what Alberta needs

OUR NORTH STAR

By 2050—or sooner—Alberta has a growing and carbon-neutral electricity system that enables great customer choice and flexibility while maintaining safety, reliability and affordability

CUSTOMERS AT THE CENTRE

The vision is intentionally designed through four customer lenses to ensure solutions respond to the diverse needs of Albertans.

RESIDENTIAL
Homes & families

COMMERCIAL
Businesses & institutions

INDUSTRIAL
Industries and large energy users

RURAL
Communities beyond Alberta's urban centres

Indigenous perspectives are a foundational and integrated part of the vision woven through every customer lens and guiding principle

WHAT GOOD SOLUTIONS LOOK LIKE

SAFETY & RELIABILITY
Protect system performance

OPTIMIZE FIRST
Use existing assets before building new ones

DIVERSIFY SOLUTIONS
Enable multiple pathways to meet needs

FACILITATE EQUITY
Ensure fair access, participation & outcomes

EMBRACE ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY
Support long-term sustainability & stewardship

ADAPT TO CHANGE
Stay flexible as needs and conditions evolve

DELIVERING FOR ALBERTA

AFFORDABLE
Predictable, equitable costs

RELIABLE & RESILIENT
Increased interconnection and expanded optionality

INVESTMENT-READY
Assured investment and jobs

COMPETITIVE
Expanded goods and services

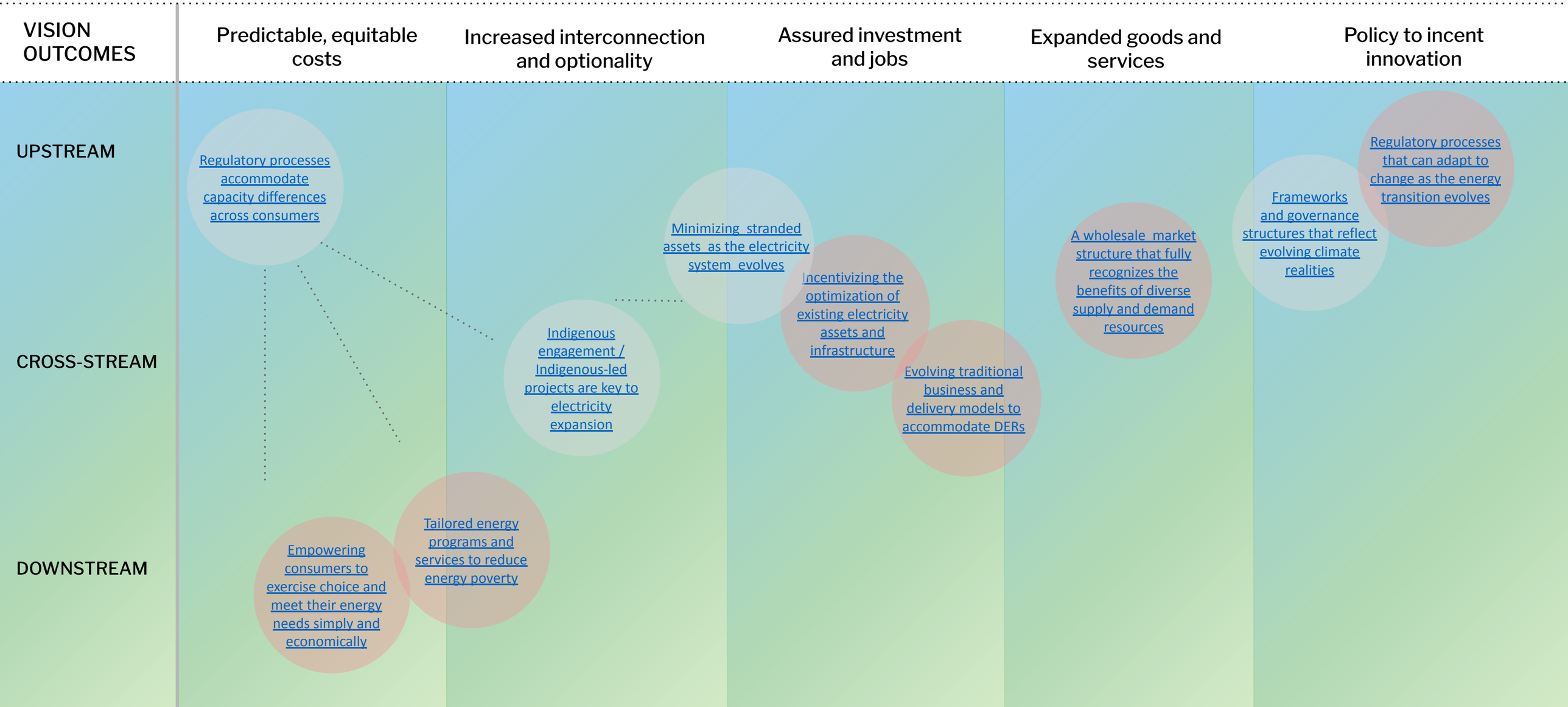
RESPONSIVE
Clear, transparent, timely policy to incent innovation

From Small Moves to Systemic Change

How do we unlock what holds us in place? First we have to know what is blocking movement. AEF conducted a review of **over 60 studies**, reports and system modernization plans spanning **5 countries** to uncover both regional and universal barriers to electricity systems change. The barriers were then assessed from an Alberta lens to unearth the **top ten systemic barriers** to advancing grid modernization in Alberta. **Ten solutions** were developed to address the barriers and related issues on which AEF members had capacity to make impact.

Identifying Barriers to Change

Systemic barriers create reinforcing patterns that make change difficult. AEF identified ten core barriers limiting progress toward its vision, initially prioritizing those—highlighted in pink below—where AEF could make the greatest contribution to system-wide change.



Establishing Near-Term Solution Success Parameters

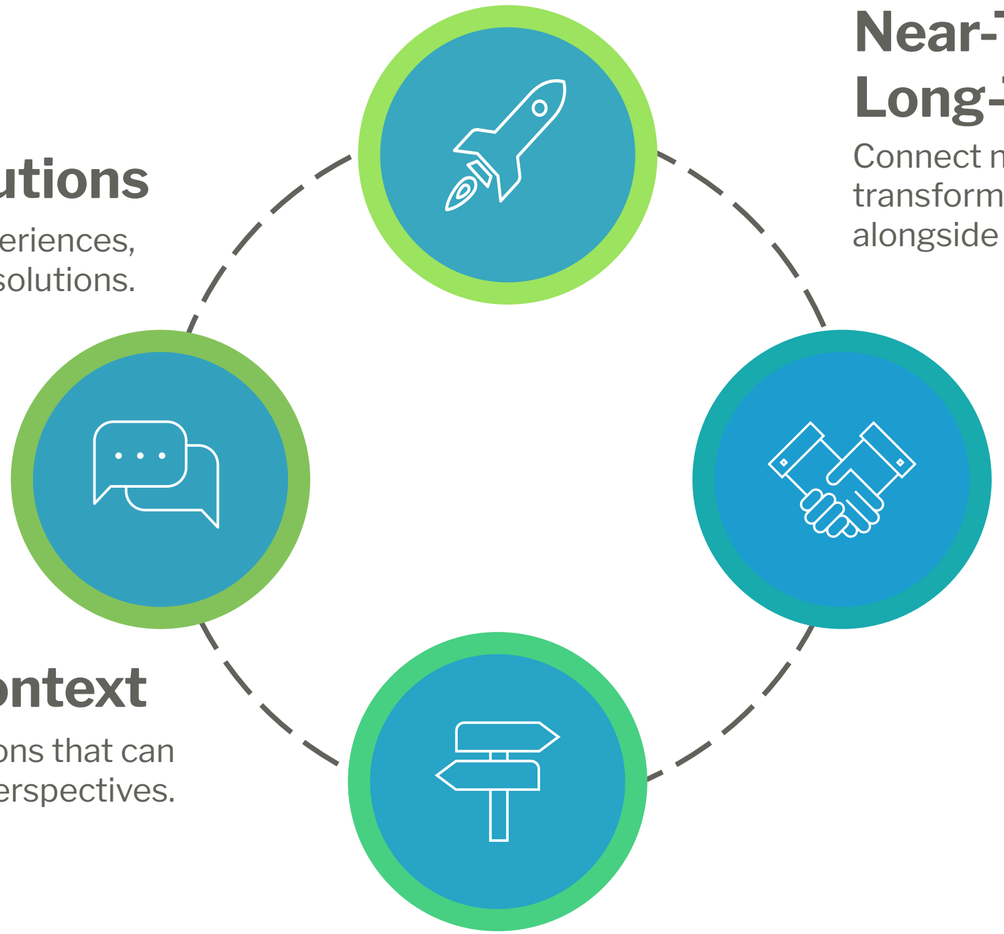
To effectively address the barriers, we considered the current context in Alberta and identified the following 4 conditions — in addition to the vision's guiding principles. We think of these as the boundaries of the "playing field" that solutions must navigate to succeed - and a way of measuring their interim viability.

Customer-Centred Solutions

Prioritize customer needs, experiences, and outcomes across all solutions.

Near-Term Action vs. Long-Term Transformation

Connect near-term implementation with long-term transformation to grow awareness of the issues alongside expanding what's considered possible.



A Polarized Policy Context

Advance "radical middle" solutions that can navigate polarized political and public perspectives.

A Collaborative Purpose

No one actor can advance this scale of change alone — so solutions must engage the full diversity of the system to advocate and take action aligned with a transformative vision.

AEF Co-Created Solutions

2024-2025: STRATEGIC CONCEPTS

Distributed Energy Resources
1

DER policy framework — including the role of data

Demand-Side Management
2

Policy Briefing and Research Summary on regulatory options

Local Market Mechanism
3

Structural outline for localized market

Integrated Planning
4

Framework for long-term system planning to enhance distribution

5 AEF Distribution Policy

Bringing strategic concepts into a coherent direction for Alberta's distribution system

2025-2026: IMPLEMENTATION PORTFOLIO

Local Flexibility Pilot
6

Framework to test distributed, customer-based resources along with flexibility market parameters

Low Income On-Bill Discount Program
7

Discount line item on energy bills of most vulnerable customers

Low Income Retrofit Program
8

Province-wide, fully funded home retrofits for vulnerable households

Non-Wires Solutions (NWS) Submission Guidelines
9

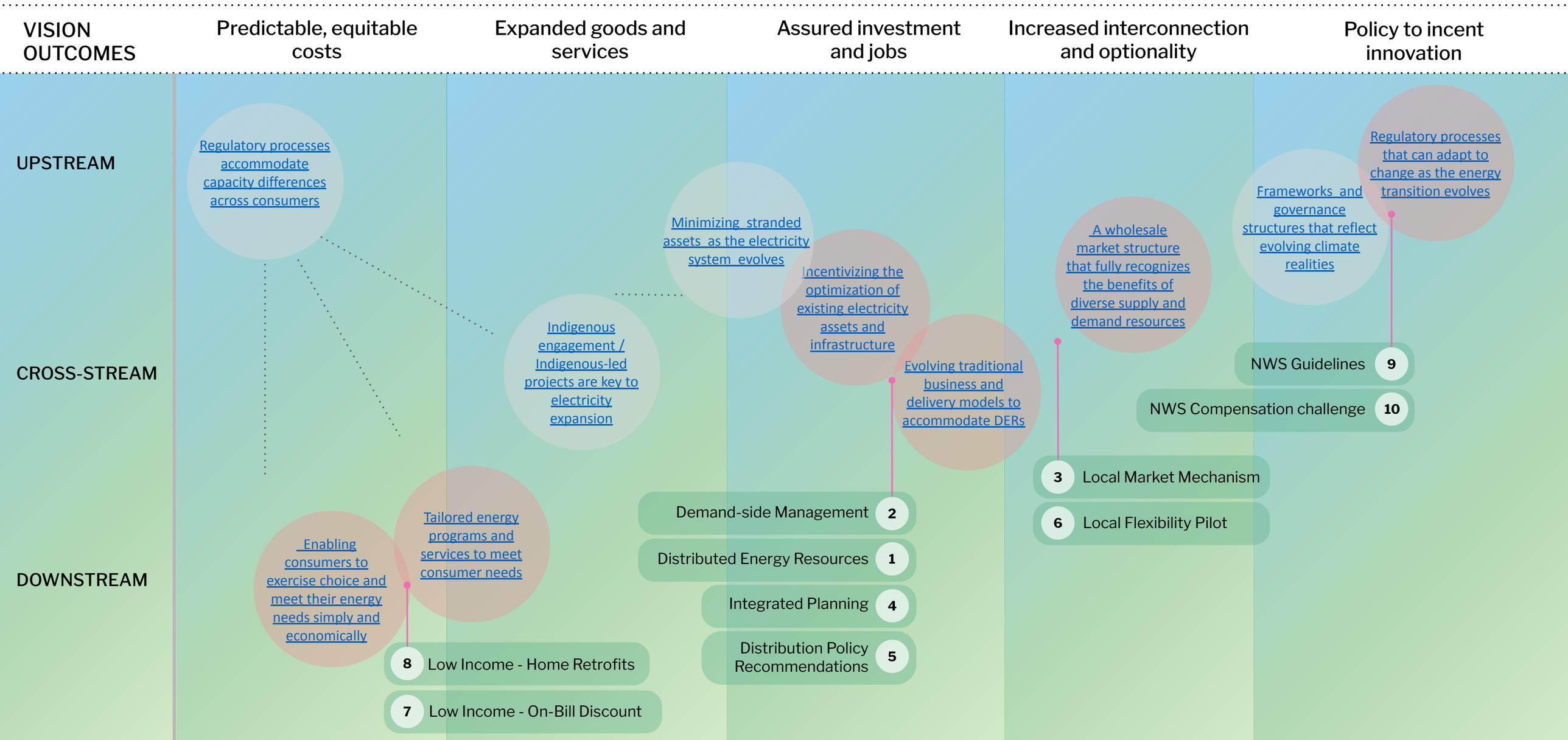
Regulatory guidelines to advance NWS pilots within current regulatory cycle

NWS Compensation Challenge
10

Forum to identify how to value and compensate NWS across all system actors (e.g. ratepayers, NWS providers and utilities)

Situating The Solutions

Each solution is a strategic intervention against one or more systemic barrier(s). Together, they represent the AEF members' collective effort to shift the system.



The System Is Responding - Initial Project Outcomes

AEF's approach to system change has influenced key behaviours, relationships, receptivity to solutions and aligned decisions that are critical to overcoming the barriers that inhibit progress. Below we highlight key outcomes that enable work to move forward, despite resistance. Slides 22 - 33 describe early-stage evidence of the key outcomes, their significance and AEF's contribution.



Project Outcome 1: Leadership & System Actor Collaboration

A first-of-its-kind coalition. Partners are increasingly co-designing and advocating for solutions together.



Project Outcome 2: Opening Windows to Policy Influence

Growing interest in distribution. Policy work has opened a window at decision-making levels.



Project Outcome 3: Mindset & Accountability Shifts

The portfolio of work is foregrounding customers needs. Energy poverty has been acknowledged and advanced as a critical part of the system's response.



Project Outcome 4: AEF is Seen as a Trusted Partner

AEF is increasingly valued as a space to convene on what's needed to unlock Non-Wires Solutions as a bridge between today's constraints and tomorrow's grid.

Outcome 1:

Leadership & System Actor Collaboration

Outcome 1: Leadership and System Actor Collaboration

ALBERTA'S ELECTRICITY FUTURE VISION

What is the outcome?

The AEF coalition co-developed and publicly signed on to the first stakeholder-driven, long-term vision for Alberta's electricity system — *Leading the Charge,* published in September 2024. The vision was refined through direct engagement and testing with 350+ representatives across the system, including customer perspectives historically underrepresented in this work. The vision was further assessed through a formal Indigenous Treaty legal review, to ensure that the vision prioritizes and respects the covenants of Treaty and establishes a good way forward with the Indigenous nations and peoples it concerns. The final vision laid the foundation for the AEF to identify and explore ten systemic challenges, supported by coalition members, as the barriers standing between the current state and the future state set out in the vision.

Why is this significant?

Alberta's electrification question has long been treated as a supply-side one — how much generation to build, and what mix. *Leading the Charge* instead put 4 distinct customers groups' (residential, commercial, industrial and rural) diverse needs from the electricity system at the centre, acknowledging their changing expectations, roles, and agency, and bringing historically marginalized voices into a conversation that had rarely included them. It also arrived amid ongoing federal-provincial negotiation over emissions policy. With that uncertainty, the vision illustrates the system's view that affordable, abundant, carbon-neutral electricity is critical to helping Alberta sharpen its competitive edge.

What are AEF's contributions?

The Lab's leadership made this shared vision possible by doing what no single actor in the system could do alone: bridging real tensions between actors who don't typically sit at the same table, and synthesizing cross-system perspectives into shared guidance for the system. Furthermore, AEF's Leadership Council effectively elevated the initiative's insights at decision-making tables — resulting in priorities the vision names appearing in Premier Smith's October 2025 mandate letter to the Minister of Affordability and Utilities.

> *"Successful change requires a shared vision that aligns grid modernization, markets, regulation, and technology, and working together we can pave the way for the future of our electricity system."*
>
> – **Robert Baker,** Alberta Innovates

System-Wide Electricity Vision



AEF Vision: Leading The Charge

Download the vision



You Shared, We Listened

"I like the changes made to the spirit and intent of treaty and the free, prior and informed consent and to Indigenous Science and Knowledge. It shows that you were listening."

- Xakiji (Chief) Lee Crowchild, Tsuut'ina Nation

Outcome 2:

Opening Windows to Policy & Regulatory Influence

Outcome 2: Opening Windows to Policy & Regulatory Influence

DISTRIBUTION POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

What is the outcome?

AEF's Distribution Policy Recommendations (DPR) and Demand-Side Management (DSM) Policy Brief are directly informing the shape of Alberta's distribution policy. The Government of Alberta requested both during an active policy window, and has indicated the recommendations will inform its planned distribution policy consultation. DSM, a key component of the DPR, was subsequently named an explicit priority in Premier Smith's October 2025 mandate letter to the Minister of Affordability and Utilities.

Why is this significant?

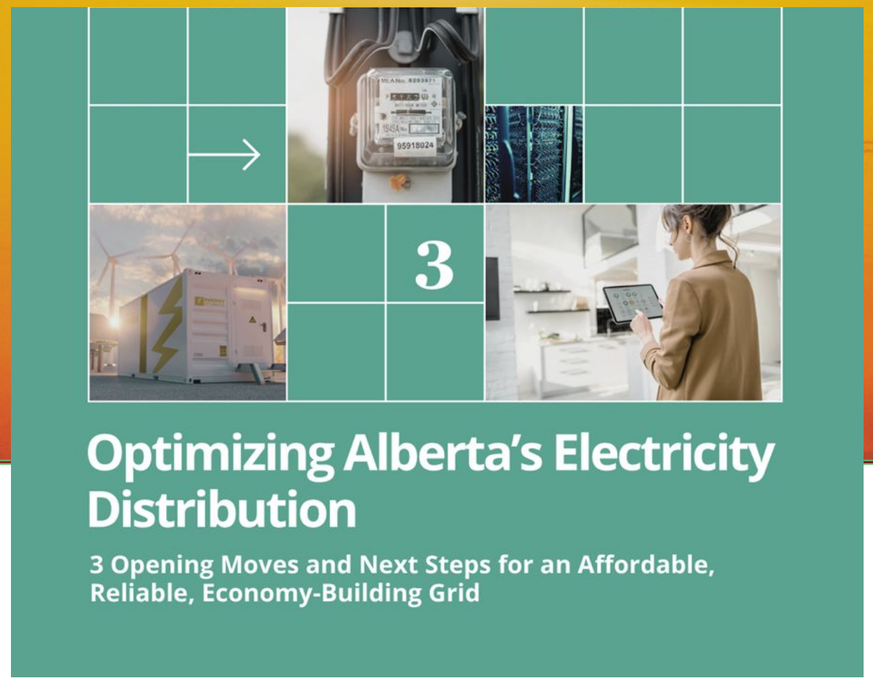
Advancing distribution policy carries real challenges, including structural issues like the "capital bias" identified in the Alberta Utilities Commission's own inquiry — wherein utilities earn more from building new infrastructure than from adopting non-wires solutions. AEF's co-development process works through challenges like this directly with utilities, regulators and customers before advice ever reaches government. The result: recommendations are pre-vetted with groups they affect to better understand consequences — creating policy government can move on quickly, and with greater confidence.

What are AEF's contributions?

AEF is the platform that made these recommendations possible, convening the Working Groups that co-developed them, and creating openings for political discussion that don't typically exist around distribution policy. AEF also elevated the opportunity publicly, including publishing an op-ed in the Edmonton Journal on Alberta's electricity distribution challenge (January 2025) which resulted in follow-up coverage of the issue, helping move distribution from a technical regulatory issue into public and policy conversations.

> *"AEF's leadership in bringing together representation from across the system and collaboratively developing thoughtful policy recommendations in a compelling way has been very helpful to the efforts of AEEA and others working in this space."*
>
> – **Jesse Row,** Alberta Energy Efficiency Alliance

Distribution Policy Recommendations





AEF Distribution Policy Recommendations

Download the recommendations

If you build it, they will come

"You've influenced me. You have influenced some of our legislation and I hope that continues, especially in the distribution space."

- **Hon. Nathan Neudorf,** Former Minister of Affordability and Utilities

Outcome 3:

Mindset & Accountability Shifts

Outcome 3: Mindset & Accountability Shifts

ENERGY POVERTY PARTNERSHIPS

What is the outcome?

AEF's Working Group co-developed two energy poverty programs directly with distribution companies and non-profit organizations, reflecting a significant mindset shift in system actors that have traditionally treated energy poverty as a matter of individual income support and social policy. The first solution is an Electricity Discount Program offering a $70/month on-bill discount for vulnerable customers, projected to reduce annual system-wide arrears costs by roughly $22-32 million; and the second is a province-wide Home Retrofit Program, targeting 5,000 vulnerable households over five years and projected to save each household approximately $836/year in energy costs.

Why is this significant?

At a time when affordability is top of mind for many Albertans and rising energy costs are drawing increasing attention, participating system actors recognize that *how* the electricity system is designed directly connects to Alberta's affordability challenge. Beyond acknowledgement, AEF cultivated genuine willingness to act: creating an openness to sharing data and to helping design solutions in ways that hadn't existed before. These solutions offer needed pathways forward.

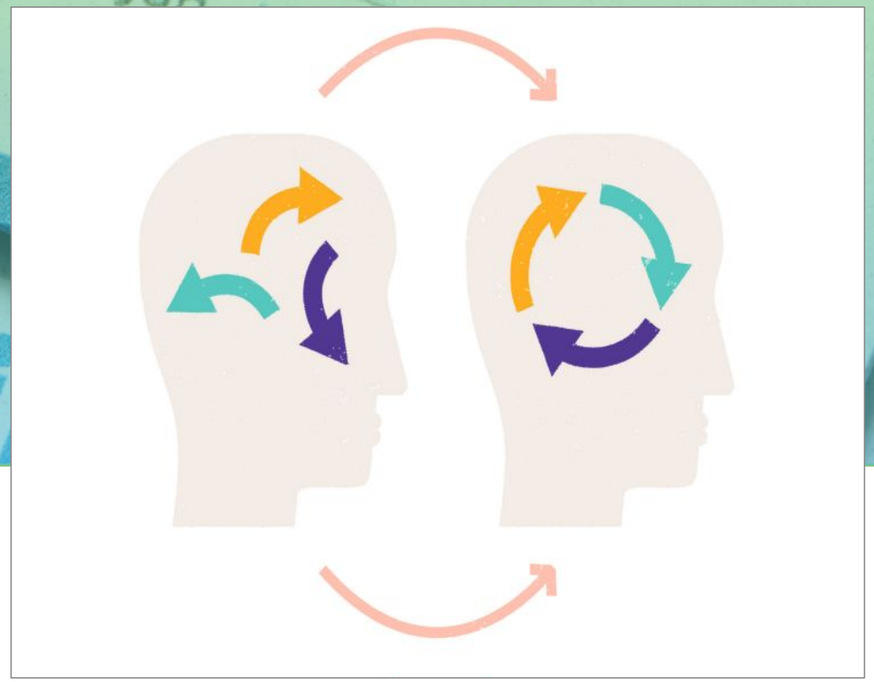
What are AEF's contributions?

AEF convened distribution companies along with municipalities, non-profit and social enterprise partners, including Cities of Calgary and Edmonton, Alberta Ecotrust Foundation and Kambo Energy Group, to design these programs together rather than in parallel. AEF also brought lived-experience perspectives directly into that process, through engagement with the Canadian Poverty Institute's Energy Poverty Roundtable and Poverty Talks! Steering Committee — grounding both programs in the perspectives of the people they're meant to serve.

> *As rising demands for electricity strain the system, the time is right for grid modernization efforts to address energy affordability for our society's most vulnerable - a compounding, persistent struggle in Alberta. AEF has been instrumental in starting to shift mindsets around the part corporations have to play a role in addressing the issue directly.*
>
> **– AEF utility participant**

Energy Poverty Partnerships





Energy Poverty Solutions

Visit the solutions page

Changing minds, changing futures

"There is a growing recognition that many of Alberta's electricity challenges, whether related to reliability, affordability, grid modernization, or flexibility, require coordinated solutions that cut across traditional organizational boundaries."

- **Luke Killam,** GreenKey Energy

Outcome 4:

AEF Seen as a Trusted Partner

Outcome 4 : AEF Seen as a Trusted Partner

NON-WIRES SOLUTIONS SUMMIT

What is the outcome?

The trust built through three years of cross-system collaboration resulted in the AEF hosting the first Non-Wires Solutions Summit in Alberta. This was a pivotal moment that built alignment across distribution companies, retailers, regulators, and government — narrowing years of divided, actor-by-actor concerns and building alignment on five system bottlenecks that need to be prioritized and unlocked to advance non-wires solutions in Alberta: data visibility, long-term value recognition, credibility and reliability standards, regulatory pathways, and compensation.

Why is this significant?

Non-wires solutions have long been discussed in Alberta, but never from a full, cross-system view — this summit was the first time that happened. Almost universally, the session affirmed that non-wires solutions need to be seen as a necessary part of the toolkit for Alberta's electricity system as a way to keep pace with rising demand while helping stabilize the cost of delivered electricity. For AEF, the summit also signalled deepening trust — among system actors themselves, and in AEF as a trusted space to work through increasingly difficult and consequential issues together.

What are AEF's contributions?

AEF designed and convened the summit, grounding it in pre-summit stakeholder interviews and synthesizing where perspectives aligned and diverged across the system. More significantly, the trust built through AEF is now carrying beyond convening and into implementation: AEF is advancing two initiatives that emerged directly from the summit — regulatory guidelines to support NWS pilot approvals and a dedicated forum to resolve how NWS should be valued and compensated across the system.

> *I think AEF's greatest value is bringing diverse and sometimes contradictory perspectives together on solution building. There is incredible value in EFL's facilitation process that holds space for the tensions between these perspectives to be surfaced and mined for the valuable insights they point to.*
>
> – **AEF municipality participant**

Non-Wires Solutions Summit





Non-Wires Solutions Summit

Visit the solutions page

Unique processes = unique outputs

"The Lab's approach front ends consultation and buy-in for legislative, regulatory and policy change — extremely advantageous to the work of electricity system modernization."

- **Steven Young, Alberta Federation of Rural Electrification Associations (AFREA)**

What Slowed Us Down & Sped Us Up

"Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try."

— John F. Kennedy

Lessons In Collaboration And Systems Change… At This Scale

Collaborating at the scale of an entire electricity system brings a unique set of challenges and opportunities. The journey from shared vision to practical solutions revealed important lessons about sustaining collaboration as the work became increasingly detailed—and increasingly consequential.

1

Collaboration isn't about achieving consensus—it's about creating a process people trust.

Bringing together organizations with different mandates and perspectives required more than finding common ground. Creative facilitation and transparent decision-making allowed participants to trust the process, even when they did not fully agree with every detail of the outcomes. **Over time, diversity shifted from a source of friction to one of the initiative's greatest strengths.**

2

Influence depends as much on timing as it does on good ideas.

The quality of recommendations matters, but so does their timing. **Maintaining flexibility allowed the AEF members' work to be sequenced around evolving government and regulatory priorities,** as well as stakeholder capacity. This positioned the initiative to respond when policy windows emerged— with a key moment involving being invited to develop the Distribution Policy Recommendations.

3

Neutrality isn't passive—it creates the space to challenge established thinking.

Maintaining a neutral convening role required discipline, particularly while engaging in policy discussions. **AEF used this position to challenge assumptions, introduce new possibilities and provoke different ways of thinking.** Over time, this combination of neutrality and constructive challenge strengthened trust across sectors and positioned AEF as a trusted intermediary.

4

Inclusion doesn't happen by invitation alone.

Building relationships with underrepresented groups required deliberate investment in trust and tailored engagement. **While more time and resource-intensive, these perspectives ultimately reshaped the AEF members' thinking more than any others**, strengthening both the recommendations and the solutions that emerged.

5

System-level collaborations must adapt to the system they are trying to influence.

AEF did not operate in isolation. Parallel initiatives led by the AESO, AUC and others affected stakeholder capacity and policy timing throughout the initiative. **Rather than competing for attention, work was re-sequenced to reflect the broader landscape,** helping ensure engagement remained relevant and opportunities for influence were not missed.

Off The Page And Into The World

"A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for."

— John A. Shedd

This report marks a turning point for AEF—not the end of the work. The next chapter is already underway — looking to turn the relationships, partnerships and implementation pathways developed through AEF into real-world action through decisions, investments, pilots and policy across Alberta's electricity system.

Upcoming Work

WE ARE HERE

2023

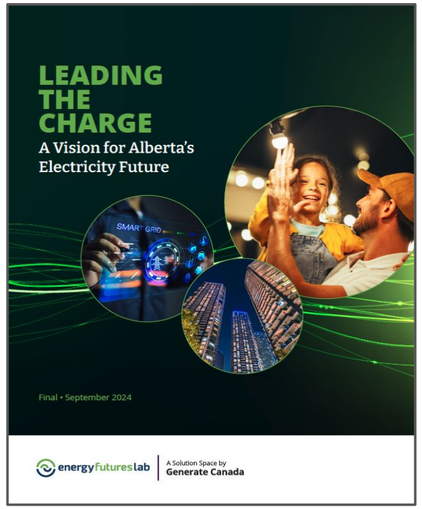
2023 - 2024

2024 - 2025

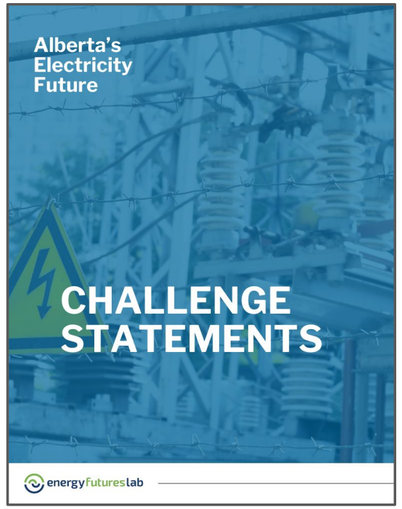
2025 - 2026

2026 - 2028

Coalition Building & Vision Development

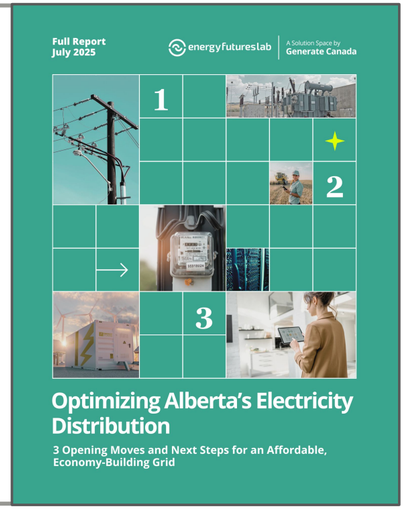


Identifying Systemic Barriers



Co-Developing Solutions: Round 1

- Demand-side Management
- Local Grid Market Mechanism
- Distributed Energy Resources



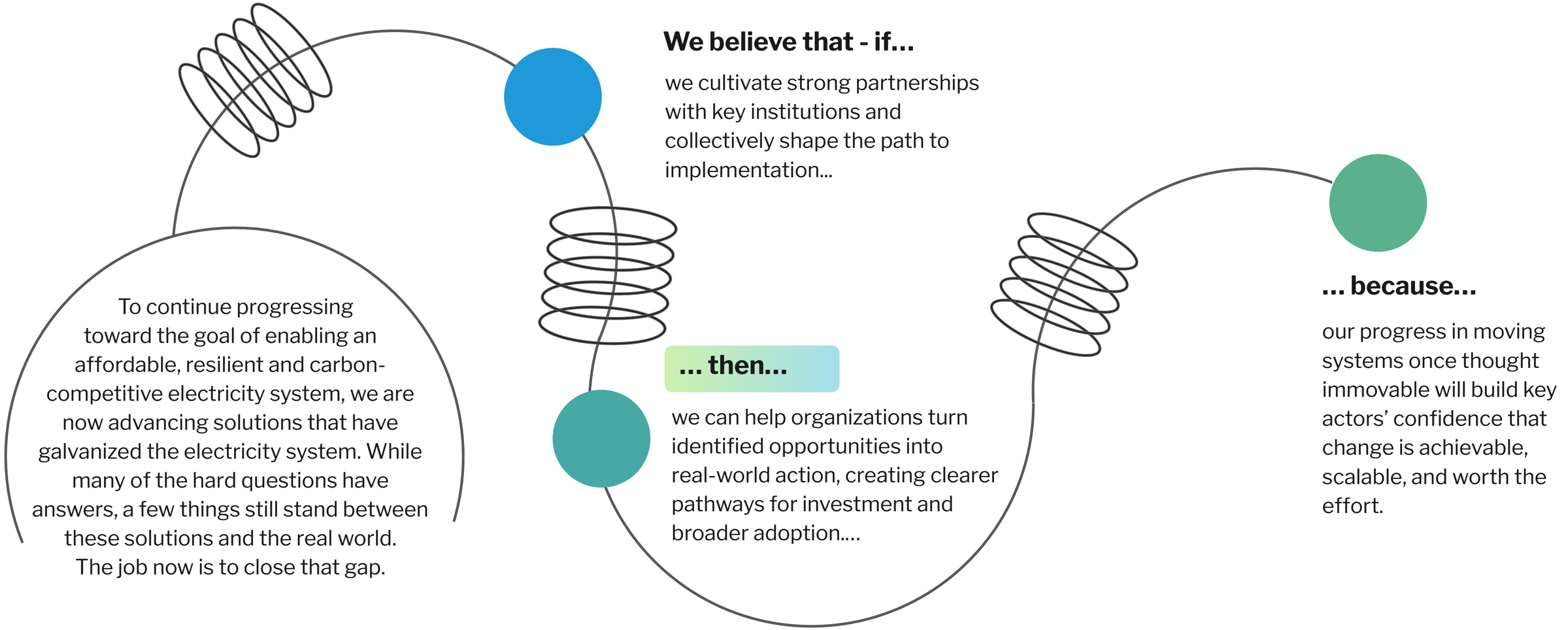
Co-Developing Solutions: Round 2

- Low Income Home Retrofit Program
- Low Income Discount Program
- Local Flexibility Pilot

Towards Implementation Readiness

- Aligning to Act
- Convening Forums
- Consumer Platform
- Plug & Play Proving Ground

Our Theory Of Change - Towards Implementation Readiness



Our Implementation Portfolio: The 5 Solutions Moving Forward

Precursor	Solution	Description	Projected Impact	Unlocking potential for…
Round 1 Solutions (DERs, DSM, Integrated Planning, Local Market)	**AEF Distribution Policy**			
	Local Flexibility Pilot	Pilot framework to test market flexibility parameters with existing technology pilots to enable distributed, customer-based resources to support local peak demand reduction	Incentivize commercial, industrial & residential consumers to monetize flexible loads	Technology pilots to have a framework with a defined revenue stream for utilities and flexibility providers to support broader adoption
	Low Income Discount Program	Program framework for a discount line item on electricity bills for the most vulnerable customers in Alberta	Reduced energy bills, more bills paid on time, reduced annual system arrears costs	Near-term affordability win - estimated at $70/mth discount for most vulnerable customers
	Low Income Home Retrofit Program	Program framework for a province-wide, fully funded home retrofits for vulnerable households	Reduced energy bills & home operating costs while improving safety, thermal comfort and air quality - savings of ~$836/house/yr	Long-term affordability win - reduce energy expenses permanently, creating long-term savings for households and the system
	Non-Wires Solutions (NWS) Submission Guidelines	Regulatory guidelines for NWS pilots to get approved within the current regulatory term	Enhanced project development certainty	Collectively supported by AUC, utilities and policy makers at NWS summit
	NWS Compensation Challenge	A forum to identify how to value and compensate NWS across all system actors	Resolve the single biggest cross-cutting barrier for deploying NWS at scale	Collectively supported by AUC, utilities and policy makers at NWS summit

The Road Ahead

AEF has established a successful model for cross-system collaboration, and demonstrated its potential amid polarization

Alberta's Electricity Future has ventured successfully from vision to solution development working exclusively with volunteer labour from coalition and working group members. A key to this success was embedding deep technical and sector knowledge alongside social innovation and facilitation expertise in the project team.

Although we have not yet achieved our ultimate system goals of increased investment and an affordable, resilient and carbon-competitive electricity system, **we have achieved key outcomes that enabled meaningful shifts** within the system and give us confidence that we are on the right path and moving reliably forward.

We have learned a lot about what it takes to lead and direct this work over the past 3 years, and will be applying those learnings in service of **strengthening how we approach systems change**, not just in this project, but across the Lab's full portfolio, and through Canada's social innovation ecosystem as well.

The momentum we have built over the last three years has given us the confidence to advance to our next chapter — moving solutions from strategic concepts toward real-world interventions that bring us one step closer to achieving our intended impact. Beginning in September 2026 and continuing through March 2028, this next chapter will focus on advancing implementation readiness across the AEF portfolio.

By the time this chapter is complete, **we will have demonstrated the significant potential of the AEF approach:** beginning with a vision, uncovering structural barriers and then developing, testing and implementing solutions in service of removing or reducing those barriers.

But this portfolio represents only one application of that approach. **Beyond March 2028, we see value in repeating the cycle** — recruiting new actors, recalibrating the vision, revisiting systemic barriers and developing new solutions as conditions evolve.

Already, pressures are emerging around which we want to continue to convene the coalition and bring its unique value to bear, including:

- AI data centres significantly increasing electricity demand and potentially system costs;
- urban densification and housing growth putting pressure on infrastructure upgrades and connection times; and
- severe weather events, such as wildfires and floods, disrupting communities' access to centralized electricity delivery.

We are proud of the groundwork laid by AEF and our partners and excited by how far the initiative has come. We welcome the opportunity for continued partnership and investment to carry this work forward.