



AABE Smart Grid Principles

The American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) recognizes the need for increased participation in the discussion on Smart Grid policy by historically underserved communities. To that end, AABE supports the following Smart Grid principles.¹

- AABE believes that Smart Grid technologies are generally seen as improvements for the modernization of the electric grid, which can potentially provide benefits to underserved communities.
- AABE believes that support for Smart Grid technologies through tax credits and other incentives (e.g., loan guarantees and research programs) is desirable to the extent that these tools will help provide options that can potentially reduce consumer costs and enhance electric system reliability.
- AABE believes that Smart Grid technologies training and deployment can potentially spur economic growth and job creation in underserved communities. Where practical, procurement of Smart Grid products and services from minority business enterprises is encouraged.
- AABE believes that adoption of Smart Grid technologies is not without risks, as these new technologies may be more susceptible to cybersecurity attacks and intrusions. Providers of Smart Grid systems should seek to evaluate and protect the grid from all legitimate cybersecurity threats.
- AABE believes that Smart Grid technologies can provide greater flexibility for underserved communities to help control and potentially reduce energy costs. Greater awareness is needed for underserved communities to understand the costs of deploying Smart Grid technologies and the expected benefits.
- AABE believes that Smart Grid technologies are generally seen as lower-risk technologies which enhance the performance of existing generation, transmission, and distribution facilities. Much of the Smart Grid would be deployed on distribution-level systems, enhancing existing services and enabling new consumer services.
- AABE believes that Smart grid technologies can potentially enable consumers to better control their consumption of electricity in order to facilitate consumer-friendly participation in conservation and load management.
- AABE believes that Smart grid technology operators should protect the privacy of customer data by integrating privacy requirements and customer consent into Smart Grid planning and design from an early stage. Details of an individual customer's energy usage should remain private.

¹ Approved by the AABE Board of Directors (November 2012)



- AABE believes that the benefits of Smart Grid technologies could be enhanced through the use of voluntary pricing approaches made available to the customer, and through expected improvements in a utility's ability to maximize system performance.
- AABE believes that the safe and cost-effective adoption of Smart Grid technologies can help improve the nation's electric power infrastructure making the system more efficient and reliable, thus reducing power outages. Smart Grid technologies can also play a key role in reducing the cost of energy by deferring the addition of new power generation facilities through improved demand response programs, and strategic voltage reduction.