**Electric Program Investment Charge 2026–2030 (EPIC 5)**

**Research Concept Proposal Form**

The California Energy Commission (CEC) is currently soliciting research concept ideas and other input for the Electric Program Investment Charge 2026–2030 (EPIC 5) Investment Plan. For those who would like to submit an idea for consideration, please complete this form and submit it to the CEC by **August 1, 2025**. More information about EPIC 5 is available below.

To submit the form, please visit the e-commenting link: <https://efiling.energy.ca.gov/EComment/ECommentSelectProceeding.aspx> and select the Docket **25-EPIC-01**. Enter your contact information and then use the “choose file” button at the bottom of the page to upload and submit the completed form. Thank you in advance for your input.

1. Please provide the name, email, and phone number of the best person to contact should the CEC have additional questions regarding the research concept:
2. Please provide the name of the contact person’s organization or affiliation:
3. Please provide a brief description of the proposed concept that you would like the CEC to consider as part of the EPIC 5 Investment Plan. What is the purpose of the concept, and what would it seek to do? Why are EPIC funds needed to support the concept?
4. In accordance with Senate Bill 96[[1]](#endnote-2), please describe how the proposed concept will "lead to technological advancement and breakthroughs to overcome barriers that prevent the achievement of the state's statutory energy goals.” For example, what technical and/or market barriers or customer pain points would the proposed concept address that would lead to increased adoption of clean energy technology or innovation? Where possible, please provide specific cost and performance targets that need to be met for increased industry and consumer acceptance. For scientific analysis and tools, provide more information on what data and information gaps the proposed concept would help fill, and which specific parties or end users would benefit from the results, and for what purpose(s)?
5. Please describe the anticipated outcomes if this research concept is successful, either fully or partially. For example, to what extent would the research reduce technology or ratepayer costs and/or increase performance to improve the overall value proposition of the technology? What is the potential of the innovation at scale? How will the innovation lead to ratepayer benefits in alignment with EPIC’s guiding principles to improve safety,[[2]](#endnote-3) reliability,[[3]](#endnote-4) affordability,[[4]](#endnote-5) environmental sustainability,[[5]](#endnote-6) and equity?[[6]](#endnote-7)
6. Describe what quantitative or qualitative metrics or indicators would be used to evaluate the impacts of the proposed research concept.
7. Please provide references to any information provided in the form that supports the research concept’s merits. This can include references to cost targets, technical potential, market barriers, equity benefits, etc.
8. The EPIC 5 Investment Plan must support at least one of five Strategic Goals:[[7]](#endnote-8)
   1. Transportation Electrification
   2. Distributed Energy Resource Integration
   3. Building Decarbonization
   4. Achieving 100 Percent Net-Zero Carbon Emissions and the Coordinated Role of Gas
   5. Climate Adaptation

Please describe in as much detail as possible how your proposed concept would support these goals.

**About EPIC:**

The CEC is one of four EPIC administrators, funding research, development, and demonstrations of clean energy technologies and approaches that will benefit electricity ratepayers of California’s three largest investor-owned electric utilities.

EPIC is funded by California utility customers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

To learn more about EPIC, visit: <https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/programs/electric-program-investment-charge-epic-program>

EPIC 5 documents and event notices will be posted to: <https://energy.ca.gov/epic5>.

Subscribe to the EPIC mailing list to stay informed about future opportunities to inform the development of EPIC 5: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/CNRA/signup/31897>

1. See section (a) (1) of Public Resources Code 25711.5 at: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=PRC&sectionNum=25711.5>. [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
2. EPIC innovations should improve the safety of operation of California’s electric system in the face of climate change, wildfire, and emerging challenges. [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
3. EPIC innovations should increase the reliability of California’s electric system while continuing to decarbonize California’s electric power supply. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
4. EPIC innovations should fund electric sector technologies and approaches that lower California electric rates and ratepayer costs and help enable the equitable adoption of clean energy technologies. [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
5. EPIC innovations should continue to reduce greenhouse house gas emissions, criteria pollutant emissions, and the overall environmental impacts of California’s electric system, including land and water use. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)
6. EPIC innovations should increasingly support, benefit, and engage disadvantaged vulnerable California communities (DVC). (D.20-08-046, Ordering Paragraph 1.) DVCs consist of communities in the 25 percent highest scoring census tracts according to the most recent version of the California Communities Environmental Health Screening Tool (CalEnviroScreen), as well as all California tribal lands, census tracts with median household incomes less than 60 percent of state median income, and census tracts that score in the highest 5 percent of Pollution Burden within CalEnviroScreen, but do not receive an overall CalEnviroScreen score due to unreliable public health and socioeconomic data. [↑](#endnote-ref-7)
7. In 2024 the CPUC adopted five Strategic Goals to guide development of the EPIC 5 Investment Plan. A description of the goals can be seen in Appendix A of CPUC Decision 24-03-007 available at: <https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M527/K228/527228647.PDF> [↑](#endnote-ref-8)