CLEAN GRID ALLIANCE

FACT SHEET

What is Utility-Scale Clean Energy?

Utility-scale clean energy are large renewable facilities, such as wind and solar farms, that generate large amounts of electricity for the broader grid. These projects feed directly into the high-voltage transmission grid, supplying electricity that can be delivered to homes and businesses, and sell electricity into wholesale power markets.

What is Distributed Clean Energy?

Distributed energy resources (DERs) is an umbrella term for smaller-scale energy sources that generate power near where it will be used. These resources are generally connected to local distribution lines or directly into end-use sources.

Clean Energy Type	Typical Capacity	Location Type	Grid Connection
Distributed	Broad Umbrella Term <1MW	On-site or local	Behind-the-Meter or local distribution
Residential	1kW-20kW	Homeroof tops or yards	Behind-the-Meter
Commerical & Industrial	30kW+	Offices, factories, farms	Behind-the-Meter
Community-Scale	0.5MW-20MW	Local open land or large rooftops	Front-of-the-Meter or distribution grid
Utility-Scale	>1MW	Remote, open areas	High-voltage transmission grid

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Behind-the-Meter vs Front-of-the-Meter

Behind-the-meter (BTM) refers to energy generation or battery storage located and installed on the customer's side of the utility meter. These systems primarily power on-site electricity needs directly, reducing the amount of power a home, business, or facility draws from the grid. Excess electricity may be sent back to the grid.

The meter refers to the end-user's service meter that measures how much energy from the grid is being used by a home or business

Front-of-the-meter refers to energy resources connected on the utility side of the customer meter. These resources connect to the transmission or distribution grid and can supply electricity to the broader grid rather than serving only one customer's one-site needs

Benefits of Utility-Scale Clean Energy

- **Lower Cost of Energy:** wind and solar are the most affordable energy sources in the US
- **Higher Energy Efficiency:** 1 utility-scale project can power tens of thousands of homes
- **Local Economic Impact:** projects bring jobs, tax revenue, payments to landowners, and other economic growth opportunities

Building more utility-scale wind, solar, and battery storage is an essential part of creating a reliable, affordable, and resilient energy future