

USE CASE: DISTRIBUTION GRID PERFORMANCE



Helps local governments identify opportunities to improve local reliability and resilience, to improve emergency planning and response, and to encourage targeted investments in distributed energy resources (DERs) for health, safety, and cost reasons.

DESCRIPTION

A request for information about local reliability and infrastructure could include asks for existing DERs installed by the utility's customers within the city's geographic boundaries, as well as information that can be used to make decisions about future DER investment. It may include the following variations, depending on the city's policy purpose:

- A temporal component, such as a request for one or more calendar years so that a city can compare progress to a baseline, or a request for monthly data so a city can weather-normalize.
- A geographic component, such as a request for data to be provided based on zip codes or zip+4, Census blocks, neighborhoods, or another attribute to allow for visualization.
- Information about the frequency and duration of outages on a circuit-by-circuit basis.
- Hosting capacity analyses that indicate if particular distribution circuits could withstand higher levels of DERs prior to requiring additional reinforcement.
- Information about the utility's projections for growth in demand within the city, and how that translates into the utility's distribution capital plan.

SUGGESTED DATA PRACTICES

Cities have identified the following practices as potentially being useful to providing this data:

- Some state agencies produce anonymized data that includes the size and location of distributed generation.
- Claims of confidentiality should be vetted carefully, based on evidence.

ROLE MODELS

While distribution grid-related information is a newer data set that local governments are interested in, certain examples may be worth following as they continue to develop:

- [DATA ON RELIABILITY AND CRITICAL FACILITIES HELPS MONTGOMERY COUNTY COLLABORATE WITH ITS UTILITIES TO PLAN FOR NATURAL DISASTERS](#)
- [MASSACHUSETTS WILL REQUIRE UTILITIES TO PRODUCE "RESILIENT HEAT MAPS"](#)