



May 13, 2021- Update

Our Vision

STRATEGIC GOALS –

- To have **ELECTRIC POWER** adopted as the principal motive power of domestic and North American railroad (freight and/or passengers) transportation
- To encourage **RAILROADS** to be an enabler of electric grid integration and innovation

What the REC Offers

- **A BRIDGE** between critical but disparate sectors of the economy
- **A FORUM** for addressing the economic and environmental interests of the transportation and energy sectors
- **A distinctive VOICE** for the public's interest in a clean energy economy, critical infrastructure investment, and collaborative decision making
- **A PATHWAY** for forward-looking railroad operators, electric manufacturers, new technologies, renewable energy companies, and market participants looking for holistic solutions

REC Year One

- **Conducted (3) open meetings with a variety of guest speakers**
- **Published its first whitepaper on the Value of Rail Electrification**
- **Provided comments to FERC on its Transmission Incentives NOPR, promoting utilization of Brownfields Rights-of-Way (ROW), including for railroads**
- **Provided contributions to the Nevada State DOT on its Rail Electrification Plan**
- **Launched a new website: [Rail Electrification Council](#)**

REC Year Two

- **Formed (3) committees that address fundamental areas of rail electrification**
- **Wayside**
- **Power Sources**
- **Motive Power**

Wayside Committee

Scope

- **Trackside infrastructure electrification**
- **Integration of trackside renewables**
- **Cellular/Fiber communication technologies**

Initial Activity

- **Research study on existing locations**
 - **How is it used**
 - **How are renewables integrated**
 - **How it addresses efficiency, resiliency**
 - **How it affects the environment**
 - **Lessons learned**

Power Sources Committee

Scope

- **Railroad rights-of-way (ROW) to build out the grid**
- **Addressing safety and operational challenges**
- **Encourage railroads to monetize their access**

Initial Activities

- **Guidance from the US DOT (like the highway ROW document)**
 - https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/real_estate/right-of-way/corridor_management/alternative_uses_guidance.cfm
- **Input on infrastructure legislation**
- **FERC rulemakings related to transmission incentives**
- **Implications with the existing railroad merger**
- **Looking at the State of Texas (not under FERC's jurisdiction)**

Motive Power Committee

Scope

- Transformation of rolling stock fueling power to clean energy alternatives
- Address technical obstacles and alternatives for electrification

Initial Activities

- Roadmap for transformation
 - Hybrids/diesel electric/battery/hydrogen fuel cells
- Leverage examples from the vehicle industry
- Education and guidance on specific areas

REC Newsletter



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Welcome to the first issue of the NEMA Rail Electrification Council (REC) newsletter! The REC promotes the adoption of electricity as the main motive power of domestic railroad for freight and passenger transportation and use of railroad rights-of-way as pathways to electric grid integration and innovation. Since its launch, the REC has been quite active. [Read more about its activities to date.](#)

Biden Administration Puts Rail Electrification on Track

President Biden's "American Jobs Plan" represents a historic shift in transportation spending. The \$2 trillion infrastructure plan, unveiled at the end of March, signifies an ambitious effort to change mobility strategies in America. [Learn more](#) about what this means for the industry.

Railroads Can Help Unlock the Energy Future

The imperative to integrate and modernize our national electricity grid to accommodate competitive wind and solar plants, battery storage, microgrids and resilience measures, millions of new customers, and resurgent electric manufacturing is becoming clear. Will we do it? [Read more.](#)

Rail Electrification - Has This Train Left the Station?

The REC offers to be a forum within which its natural constituents (railroads, manufacturers, and power companies) can come to terms with how to adapt, strategically and pragmatically, to the changed circumstances being driven by economics, public policy, and advancing technology. [Learn more.](#)

Amtrak's 50th Anniversary

The REC congratulates Amtrak on its recent 50th anniversary!

The next REC open meeting is this Thursday, May 13 at 1 pm Eastern. If you are interested in attending please contact [Steve Griffith](#) directly.

For More Information Please Contact:

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