



A Direct Line to 80% Clean Energy

Transmission is a critical part of a renewable energy future



Online Learning for Clean Energy Advocates

Watch RE-AMP's video "A Day in the Life of the Grid" at bit.ly/lifeofthegrid

Wind + Solar + Energy Efficiency

Rocky Mountain Institute's marquee study, Reinventing Fire, modeled different ways to get to 80 percent renewable energy by 2050. RMI's work showed that even with maximized solar and energy efficiency, more than 250,000 megawatts (MW) of large-scale wind is needed.¹

The Midwest's transmission system is nearly maxed-out on wind power

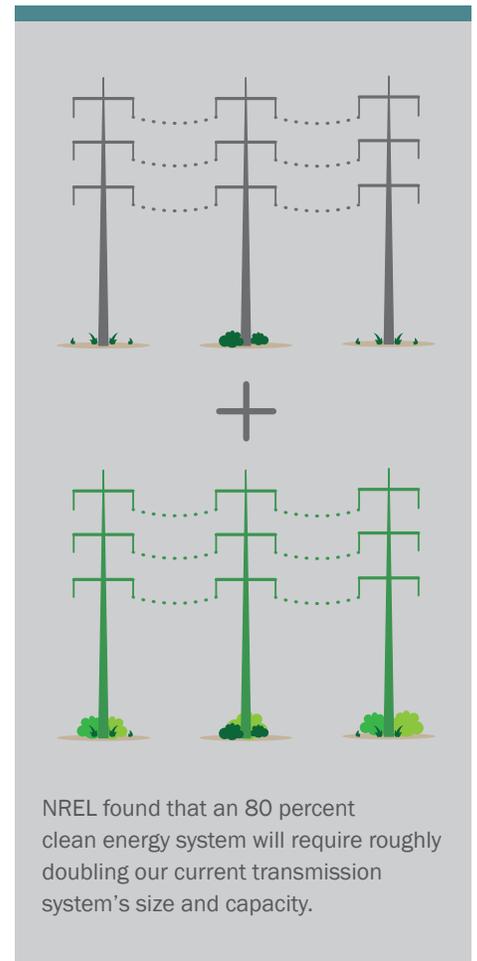
Clean energy experts agree that 80 percent renewable energy by 2050 is only attainable with additional transmission capacity. NREL's Renewable Electricity Futures study found that an additional 150-200 million MW miles — approximately doubling the size and capacity of our existing transmission system — are needed² and RMI's study showed need for at least an additional 60 million MW miles.

Transmission is Needed to Maximize Use of Distributed Generation

When we share resources regionally, it is almost certain that the sun is shining and the wind is blowing somewhere in the Midwest. An interconnected, flexible, regional grid with transmission providing the regional links allows us to access the sun and wind where it is and deliver it where electricity is needed. For example, in a future where most electricity comes from clean energy, when it's cloudy in Madison, the city can still run on solar from La Crosse and wind from Iowa.

Recent clean energy projects enabled by transmission include:

- Proposals for 300 MW of community-owned wind in South Dakota
- Proposals for 600 new wind turbines in Michigan
- 1,000 MW of additional wind power in Iowa



1. Amory Lovins and Rocky Mountain Institute, Reinventing Fire: Bold Business Solutions for the New Energy Era, 2011.

2. U.S. Department of Energy, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Renewable Electricity Futures Study, 2012.