

About the authors

Cici Vu, Dr. Morgan Putnam, and Khadija Holder served as the co-facilitators and lead authors of this report, bringing their expertise and strategic vision to shaping its consensus-based process, insights and recommendations.

Cici Vu leads DNV's Energy and Climate Equity practice. She brings a wealth of experience in convening, mediating, evaluating, and facilitating equitable, inclusive, and consensus-driven processes for policy focused and data-driven complex environmental, social, and collaborative programs, infrastructure projects, and policies. As the impacts on communities in this realm are large in scale, Cici's work ensures that equity, fairness and human dimensions are integrated with the technical complexities so as to determine commensurate benefits.

Dr. Morgan Putnam is an HVDC Principal Consultant in DNV's FlexGrid HV team and an advisor to the NextGen Highways initiative, which he founded. Previously, he held roles as VP of Solar Products at RESurety, Co-Lead of the Minnesota Solar Pathways project, Director of Business Development at Clean Power Research, and VP of Cell Fabrication at Caelux. Throughout his career, Morgan has consistently worked to develop products and policies at the forefront of the energy transition, specializing in high-voltage direct current (HVDC) transmission and grid modernization.

Khadija Holder is a Strategy Consultant at DNV with over a decade of experience in market research, data analysis, and strategy. She blends a background in sustainability with national and international experience supporting energy studies. She specializes in stakeholder engagement and conducting qualitative and quantitative research to inform regulatory and market studies. Khadija has a strong focus on equitable energy solutions.

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About DNV

DNV is an independent quality assurance and risk management provider, operating in more than 100 countries, with the purpose of safeguarding life, property, and the environment. DNV's expertise and work enable its customers and their stakeholders to manage technological and regulatory complexity with confidence.

About ACEG

Americans for a Clean Energy Grid (ACEG) is a non-profit broad-based public interest advocacy coalition focused on the need to expand, integrate, and modernize the North American high-voltage grid. It brings together diverse support for an expanded and modernized grid from business, labor, consumer and environmental groups, and other transmission supporters to educate policymakers and key opinion leaders to support policy which recognizes the benefits of a robust transmission grid.