

# 2025 STATE OF REGIONAL & INTERREGIONAL TRANSMISSION PLANNING

Every two years, Americans for a Clean Energy Grid issues its regional transmission planning report card, ranking the 10 U.S. regions on the strength of their transmission planning and development efforts.

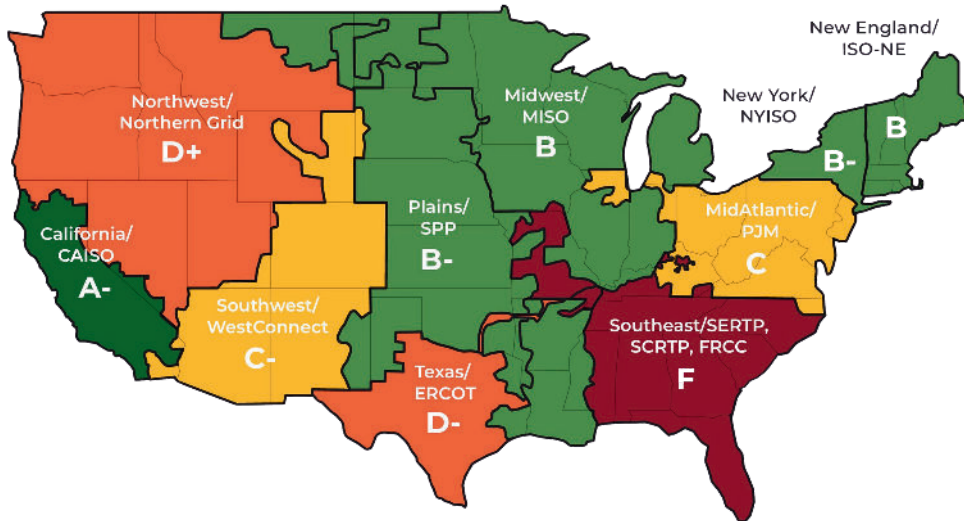
While 2025 showed some progress, advancement remains uneven and, in many regions, falls short of what is needed to keep pace with rapidly accelerating energy demand driven by AI and data centers. While incremental improvements are valuable, without sustained policy momentum and faster implementation, they will not be enough to meet our current demands.

The Report Card makes clear that energy customers benefit and transmission planning works when it is proactive, interregionally coordinated, and long-term. Previous ACEG reports show that customers benefit \$5 for every \$1 invested in well-planned regional transmission. The challenge ahead is scaling successes across and between regions fast enough to meet the demands of a rapidly electrifying economy, ensuring energy is affordable and reliable for everyday people and businesses.

**READ THE FULL REPORT CARD HERE:**



## SUMMARY OF GRADES BY REGION



## KEY TAKEAWAYS

1

### LOAD GROWTH ADDS NEW URGENCY

The pace of demand growth requires faster, more coordinated action. Increased demand is putting new urgency on the need for more transmission.

2

### DELAY INCREASINGLY HURTS EVERYDAY AMERICANS

Inaction raises bills, risks reliability, and threatens economic competitiveness.

3

### PROGRESS FOLLOWS POLICY CLARITY

Regions responding early to FERC Order No. 1920 show improvement that will result in increased reliability and lower costs for energy customers.

4

### INTERREGIONAL TRANSMISSION FALLS FAR SHORT OF NEEDS

Ad-hoc interregional capacity isn't enough. Grading interregional planning nationally, the average score is approximately a D+.

## 2023 VS 2025

REGION	'23	'25	
CALIFORNIA	B	A-	↑
WEST	D-	D+	↑
TEXAS	D+	D-	↓
PLAINS	C+	B-	↑
MIDWEST	B	B	=
SOUTHEAST	F	F	=
MID-ATLANTIC	D+	C	↑
NEW YORK	C+	B-	↑
NEW ENGLAND	D+	B	↑

# SCORE CARDS - REGION BY REGION

## CALIFORNIA

A-

### WHAT'S WORKING:

California leads in long-term, scenario-based transmission planning and is facilitating interregional HVDC projects that provide significant benefits.

### WHERE GAPS REMAIN:

Coordination is still project-specific, not governed by a durable, formal framework, and advanced technologies aren't deployed at scale.

## NEW ENGLAND

B

### WHAT'S WORKING:

New England has made major improvements, adopting long-term, multi-value planning, competitive procurement processes, and stronger collaboration among states and neighboring regions.

### WHERE GAPS REMAIN:

Interregional transmission is still driven mainly by state initiatives rather than formal regional frameworks, and many benefits remain prospective.

## MIDWEST

B

### WHAT'S WORKING:

The Midwest benefits from portfolio-based long range transmission planning, approval of major 765 kV backbone projects with strong consumer benefits, and interregional efforts with SPP and PJM.

### WHERE GAPS REMAIN:

MISO South significantly lags, and interregional planning remains fragmented and largely incremental.

## NEW YORK

B-

### WHAT'S WORKING:

New York has exemplified strong regional planning and analytics, with recent transmission buildout and growing Northeast coordination.

### WHERE GAPS REMAIN:

Canceled public-policy processes create uncertainty, and interregional planning is still mostly informational with limited project selection.

## PLAINS

B-

### WHAT'S WORKING:

SPP has made significant improvements in long-term planning, driven historic high-voltage investments to meet load growth, and is moving toward more consolidated planning that integrates generation, load, and transmission.

### WHERE GAPS REMAIN:

Interregional coordination is still ad hoc, and cost-allocation disputes limit ambition.

## MID-ATLANTIC

C

### WHAT'S WORKING:

PJM has adopted reforms aligned with Order No. 1920, advanced significant recent and planned transmission investments tied to reliability and load growth, and begun shifting toward longer-term planning horizons.

### WHERE GAPS REMAIN:

Results lag system needs, interregional planning is reactive, and governance complexity slows progress.

## WEST

D+

### WHAT'S WORKING:

The region participates in west-wide planning efforts that show promise, alongside utility-led investments responding to load growth and reliability needs.

### WHERE GAPS REMAIN:

The West lacks durable regional planning frameworks, has few regionally selected projects, and relies on interregional planning that is largely informational, passing reliability risks onto households.

## TEXAS

D-

### WHAT'S WORKING:

Texas recognizes load growth challenges, has approved high-voltage transmission investments to address reliability, showing willingness to pursue large-scale solutions.

### WHERE GAPS REMAIN:

ERCOT has no interregional transmission planning, limited benefit-cost evaluation, and siloed planning, all of which raise costs and decrease reliability for electricity customers.

## SOUTHEAST

F

### WHAT'S WORKING:

Utilities are investing in transmission to respond to load growth, and are able to site quickly.

### WHERE GAPS REMAIN:

Lack of regional planning limits access to diverse resources in case of extreme weather or local generation outages, has no formal interregional transmission, leading to the need for more transfer capability, and continues to face limited transparency and stakeholder engagement.