

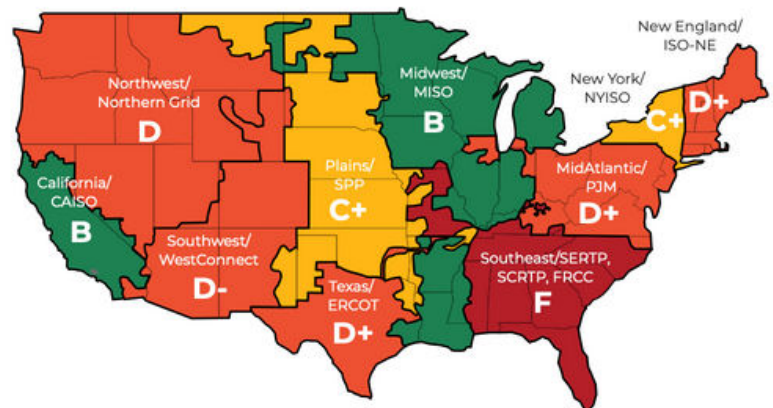
TRANSMISSION PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT REGIONAL REPORT CARD

Americans for a Clean Energy Grid evaluated transmission planning and development efforts across the country. While no region earned an A – and many have a long way to go – there is growing recognition of the need to proactively and holistically plan new transmission that will facilitate America’s energy transition, safeguard the grid against extreme weather, and lower electricity costs for consumers.

Building transmission incrementally is inefficient and expensive. By contrast, an analysis within the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) found its long-term, comprehensive transmission plan would result in benefits more than twice as large as costs.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is now considering a rule that would improve regional transmission planning, but it has been pending since April 2022. All regions—and the transmission owners and operators within them—can act immediately to improve their planning methods. In fact, every region in this report has adopted innovative practices in at least one category that others can replicate to make progress.

REGIONAL GRADES



METHODOLOGY

65% Use of best practices for proactive transmission planning

- Proactively plan for future generation and load.
- Use a holistic Multi-Value Planning process.
- Address high-stress grid conditions through Scenario-Based Planning.
- Assess projects as a portfolio, not line-by-line.
- Jointly plan interregional transmission across neighboring systems.
- Conduct robust stakeholder engagement.
- Consider all transmission business models.
- Allow for balanced governance of the regional planning process.

20% Miles of transmission built and planned

7.5% Transmission capacity available for new resources

7.5% Congestion



SCORE DETAILS: NEW ENGLAND

OVERALL SCORE : 68.0%

RANKING : 6 / 10

Who plans transmission in New England? The Independent System Operator in New England (ISO-NE), as well as states and utilities, plan and develop transmission.

PLANNING METHODS

GRADE: D+

- New England has some additional capacity on its transmission system, thanks to significant development in the early 2000s, but there is not enough capacity for new generation resources in remote areas like Maine.
- New England does very minimal proactive and holistic planning, instead largely focusing on reactive reliability transmission upgrades.
- New England has done little to coordinate on interregional planning with New York, despite shared interest in connecting offshore wind resources.

MILES BUILT & PLANNED

GRADE: D

- New England has built very few new high-capacity transmission lines in recent years.
- There is little proactive planning in New England, though some independent lines, such as the New England Clean Energy Connect and Longroad Wind/LS Power Maine, are in development. In addition, four New England States submitted an offshore wind transmission concept paper to the Department of Energy, seeking funding to support a competitive solicitation process for offshore transmission solutions.

CAPACITY AVAILABLE FOR NEW RESOURCES

GRADE: F

- New England had the second highest capacity-weighted project completion rate, with 22% of projects reaching commercial operation in the year ACEG evaluated. However, there are limited places to build utility-scale renewable projects in New England, so developers may have been more judicious in selecting locations with available transmission.

CONGESTION

GRADE: A

- New England earned the highest grade for system congestion, likely due to the residual effects of its significant transmission buildout in the early 2000s.