THE MODERN GRID WORKING GROUP explores energy sector strategies for transitioning to an intelligent, competitive, and clean power grid.

The United States’ energy system is facing considerable structural changes and industry disruptions. The proliferation of renewable energy on the grid has prompted a need to rethink the current grid system and utility business models. During 2014, participants workshoped ideas that piloted smart grid technologies, addressed financial barriers to solar energy, and created new models for renewable energy development in rural and tribal communities.

Previous subtopics include:

**SCALING SOLAR ENERGY**
Solar energy is becoming a mainstream energy source. Participants analyzed the role that solar energy plays in the electricity sector, with a focus on new financial innovation.

**ENERGY DEVELOPMENT FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES**
Rural communities present a unique opportunity to deploy renewable energy. Participants determined strategies to improve access to affordable, clean energy in rural communities, with a focus on Native American reservations.

**SMART GRID AND EFFICIENCY INVESTMENT**
It is estimated that the U.S. energy grid will need $2.5 trillion in new investment by 2035. Participants explored public-private demonstration programs, network security, and strategies to share data.

**CORPORATE INVESTMENT IN RENEWABLE ENERGY**
Many options are available for corporations interested in investing in solar or wind energy. Participants including first-mover corporations and financiers discussed and shared best practices for investing in renewable energy.

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**CGI America 2015**
On June 8–10, President Clinton, Secretary Clinton, and Chelsea Clinton will host CGI America 2015, a working meeting that brings together cross-sector leaders to develop solutions for economic recovery in the United States.

**2015 Working Groups**
The core of CGI America is the Working Group model, consisting of ten topic-specific groups that each convene multiple times over the two days of the meeting. Working Groups provide a collaborative forum for attendees to generate ideas and Commitments to Action around a particular area of focus. Commitments—the cornerstone of the CGI experience—are new, specific, and measurable plans for addressing significant challenges.

- Community Investing
- Early Childhood Education
- Entrepreneurship
- Financial Opportunity
- Infrastructure for Cities and States
- The Modern Grid
- Reconnecting Youth
- STEM Education
- Sustainable Buildings
- Workforce Development
Joint Wind Power Development Project on Tribal Lands
In 2013, six Sioux tribes and their partners committed to the formation of the Oceti Sakowin Power Authority, a multi-tribal power authority to finance, develop, and operate a 1,000 MW+ utility-scale wind power and transmission system across the South Dakota Sioux Reservations.

Commitment by: Cheyenne River Sioux; Crow Creek Sioux; Yankton Sioux; Rosebud Sioux; Oglala Sioux; Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Sioux Tribes
Partner: Arent Fox LLP; Herron Consulting LLC; Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors; Liati Group LLC; Northwest Area Foundation; Bush Foundation

Solar Faith and Empowerment Initiative
In 2014, The Solar Foundation partnered with The Rainbow PUSH Coalition and committed to create an outreach initiative to accelerate adoption of solar energy technology by America’s houses of worship. The initiative will reach three houses of worship in year one and 10 the following year, in hopes of inspiring further action. Anticipated benefits include job creation, lower electricity costs for participating houses of worship, and long-term emissions reductions.

Commitment by: The Solar Foundation
Partner: The Rainbow PUSH Coalition

Building a Predictive Grid in the Motor City
In 2014, Tollgrade Communications and its partner committed to build a Predictive Grid around the Detroit metropolitan area. Tollgrade will use their smart grid sensors and predictive grid analytics software to preemptively identify and address power problems. Tollgrade will analyze the data to assess the economic and environmental benefits of avoiding power outages, publish its findings to highlight best practices, and educate industry players and policy makers.

Commitment by: Tollgrade Communications
Partner: DTE Energy

Launching the Market for Electric School Buses
In 2013, National Strategies, PJM Interconnection, Ernst & Young, and their partners committed to design and execute two school district pilot projects that will demonstrate the economic viability of transitioning to battery-electric school buses without increasing the cost of pupil transportation. The partners targeted the procurement of eight vehicle-to-grid (V2G) capable electric school buses. The commitment has secured $2.2 million from entities in California to fund six school buses in three school districts within the state.

Commitment by: National Strategies; PJM Interconnection; Ernst & Young
Partner: County Of Los Angeles; Drive Oregon; NRG Energy, Inc.; EV Grid