Colorado Springs Utilities
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Utilities Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC)
Wednesday, December 2, 2026
8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Blue River Board Room
121 S. Tejon Plaza of the Rockies or Microsoft Teams
Join the meeting now
Dial in by phone
+1 719-733-3651,,409644196#

8:00 a.m.	**1.**	**Call to Order**	
8:02 a.m.	**2.**	**Approval of UPAC Meeting Minutes** ○ UPAC Regular Meeting Minutes: November 4, 2026	Decision
8:05 a.m.	**3.**	**Holy Cross Energy**	Discussion
9:30 a.m.	**4.**	**Platte River Power Authority**	Discussion
10: 20 a.m.	**5.**	**Selection of UPAC Officers for 2027**	Decision
10:30 a.m.	**6.**	**Customer Comment** Customers can provide comments in person, by joining the meeting from a computer or by phone using the link above. If you would like to speak during the customer comment period, please sign up to speak through BoardSubmissions@csu.org prior to the meeting.	Discussion
10:45 a.m.	**7.**	**Committee Member General Discussion**	Discussion
11:00 a.m.	**8.**	**Adjournment**	

Next meeting: January 13, 2027

Note: UPAC Bylaws, Rule 6: Customer and Public Comment: (b) At the discretion of the Chair, or the majority of the Committee Members present, customers and members of the public will be allowed to comment or ask questions concerning items discussed at regular meetings or concerning matters discussed at special meetings. Comments or questions by individuals will be limited to five minutes each, and all customer or public comments will not exceed twenty minutes on any agenda item unless time is extended by the Chair or majority of the Committee Members present.

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Utilities Policy Advisory Committee (UPAC) Minutes
Wednesday, November 4, 2026

Blue River Board Room
121 S. Tejon Plaza of the Rockies or Microsoft Teams

1. **Call to Order**
   Chair Kate Danner called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

   Present – Committee Chair Kate Danner, Committee Vice Chair Micheal Bordon, Committee Member Chris Meyer, Committee Member Scott Smith (online), Committee Member David Watson, Alternate Committee Member Albert Badeau and Alternate Committee Member Tom Carter

2. **Approval of UPAC Meeting Minutes**
   Committee Vice Chair Borden made the motion to approve the January 14, 2026, Regular UPAC meeting minutes. Committee Member Smith seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. **Distributed Energy Strategies Assignment Introduction and Draft Timeline**
   Board Chair Danner provided a brief overview of the assignment and the timeline. This presentation included the objective and purpose of the assignment, four specific questions to evaluate, requested deliverables, scope boundaries, next steps, and the timeline for the assignment.

4. **Colorado Springs Utilities: Distributed Energy Programs and Strategy**
   Ms. Brittany Harrison, Supervisor of Demand Side Management and Distributed Energy Strategies, and Ms. Abigail Ortega, General Manager of Infrastructure and Resource Planning, presented the Committee with the Distributed Energy Programs and Strategy presentation. This overview included the purpose and mission of Distributed Energy Strategy (DES), support of long-term resource planning, priorities and partnership, customer programs as utility resources, in-depth details about the current 2027 DES portfolio, programs and current customers today, and finally the future energy ecosystem and how these programs work in sync.

   Committee Member Meyer asked Ms. Ortega to outline how the information provided through this assignment would be used in practice once the assignment is complete. Ms. Ortega responded that this would help to create policies and framework that are clear for DES, similar to the net metering program. Committee Member Meyer followed this question up by asking if this assignment was driven by population growth in the region. Ms.

Ortega answered that the world of energy is constantly evolving with population growth, but this was driven by a need to create the framework as the current portfolio evolves with it.

Committee Member Watson stated that this assignment was both technical and political in nature. He asked how the Committee should handle the political aspect of the assignment, and why it took so long for UPAC to receive a new assignment.

Ms. Natalie Watts, Manager of Strategic Planning and Governance, responded that the Utilities Board wanted to take their time to evaluate assignments, so they were not assigning work just for work. She added that the Board also had to consider the timeline the assignment needs to be completed in, which is by March 2027. Ms. Ortega added that the scope of the assignment addresses the political aspects. She agreed that the timeline is short, so if deliverables need to be abbreviated or the scope modified, that could be done.

Mr. Dave Donelson, Chair of the Utilities Board, thanked UPAC for their work on the previous assignment, and clarified that the Board wanted this assignment to really focus on battery use, and how customers and Colorado Springs Utilities can interact with a battery program.

Alternate Member Badeau asked Ms. Harrison to explain the annual rebate for users in the Peak Energy Rewards Program. Ms. Harrison responded that there is a $50 credit for the first year and a $25 credit each year following.

Alternate Member Carter asked how DER capacity values are credited for in relation to the Regional Transmission Organization, and if they differ by resource type. Ms. Harrison answered that they do differ by resource type. Solar is credited between 20% and 27% percent, and batteries are credited at 98%.

Alternate Member Badeau asked if current battery users are allowed to discharge their batteries onto the grid. Ms. Harrison confirmed this. Committee Member Badeau said it looked like batteries were being dispatched at the same time as solar is being dispatched per the graph in the presentation. Ms. Harrison said yes, and this is something they would like to help customers understand that load could be around the zero line, and they could be pushing energy onto the grid, essentially eliminating their usage during peak hours.

Chair Danner asked, as part of the development for the battery program, if the Return On Investment was evaluated for residential customers who implement a battery and how that would be affected by the Energy Wise rate structure. Ms. Harrison responded that there are two rate structures to consider, Energy Wise and Net Metering. Net Metering customers will be grandfathered in, so energy they push to the grid now is credited one to one, which is the best benefit. In the new Net Metering options, customers could have a $700 to $1,100 in credit which is essentially cost neutral if they invest in the battery program.

Vice Chair Borden asked if this was meant to flatline use or be a backup. Ms. Harrison responded that this was intended to be a whole home back up, not for this to shift rates at the meter.

Committee Member Watson asked if the third-party owned battery dispatches back to the grid, and if so, is it recharged before or after the meter. Ms. Harrison replied that these batteries do dispatch to the grid and are recharged before the meter.

Alternate Member Carter asked what would happen if a battery underperformed or the company exited the market, and if the cost recovery would come from customers not in the battery program. Ms. Harrison explained the two agreements that have to be signed to enter the program: one for the customer and one for the battery company. She said she was unsure of the cost recovery, if it would come from the base funds for Utilities or another fund.

Committee Member Smith asked if insurance companies might see having an internal battery as a risk. Ms. Harrison answered that this would be part of the agreement with the third-party program and the customer, and staff will continue to work toward an answer to this question as the program continues to evolve.

Alternate Member Carter asked how the EV Managed Charging program is different than an EV owner going to their vehicle specific app and disallowing charging at certain times. Ms. Harrison explained that this program allows Utilities to stagger charging so there is less of a bounce back outside of Energy Wise hours.

Vice Chair Borden asked if BASE power is incentivizing batteries in specific areas like municipal utilities, to which Ms. Harrison answered no. She added that the marketing and outreach for this program is to customers who would consider being helpful to the utility through this type of program and the benefit to the user, but not financial incentives.

5. Customer Comment

There were no customer comments.

6. Committee Member General Discussion

Committee Member Meyer said he would like the Committee and staff to think about how they can leverage information from PG&E in California, since they are a good resource for virtual powerplants such as this.

Alternate Member Carter suggested that it would be helpful for guest speakers and staff to answer the broader question of why this policy framework is important, and if other projects have previously been impacted by not having this framework. Alternate Member Carter said he would be interested in hearing from Omaha Public Power District and the Nebraska Public Power District, as they have programs similar to this.

The next UPAC meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2026.

7. Adjournment

Chair Danner adjourned the meeting at 9:59 a.m.

Platte River Power Authority

Estes Park • Fort Collins • Longmont • Loveland

Distributed energy resources and virtual power plant at Platte River

Paul Davis, director, distributed energy resources

Colorado Springs Utilities Policy Advisory Committee

Dec. 2, 2026

Platte River and the owner communities

Owner communities—Estes Park, Fort Collins, Longmont and Loveland (OCs)

- Procure all wholesale electric supply from Platte River
- Govern Platte River
- Operate distribution utilities and provide retail service

Platte River Power Authority

- Provides reliable, financially sustainable and environmentally responsible energy and services
- Working to achieve the board-adopted Resource Diversification Policy (100% noncarbon goal)
- Delivers distributed energy resource (DER) programs to OC customers through Efficiency Works



Efficiency Works™

Using a trusted resource to connect with customers

Efficiency Works is a **regional utility collaboration** that provides guidance and resources to enable **customers** to **use energy more effectively**, work toward a noncarbon energy future and build strong, resilient communities for customers served by Platte River Power Authority and its owner communities of Estes Park, Fort Collins, Longmont and Loveland.

Distributed energy resources

Static, load-modifying resources

Non-dispatchable resources



Energy efficiency

Save energy and save money by using less energy for the given task



Electrification

Reduce greenhouse gases by replacing fossil fuel use with more efficient technology using increasingly decarbonized electricity

Dynamic resources managed in a virtual power plant (VPP)

Dispatchable resources



Demand response



Distributed energy storage

Shift energy to align electric use to renewable availability and to decarbonize the electric system in a cost-effective and reliable manner

Thermostats, electric vehicles, batteries and other demand response

Visible resources



Distributed generation

On-site noncarbon generation

Solar generation

Efficiency Works: distributed energy solutions for customers

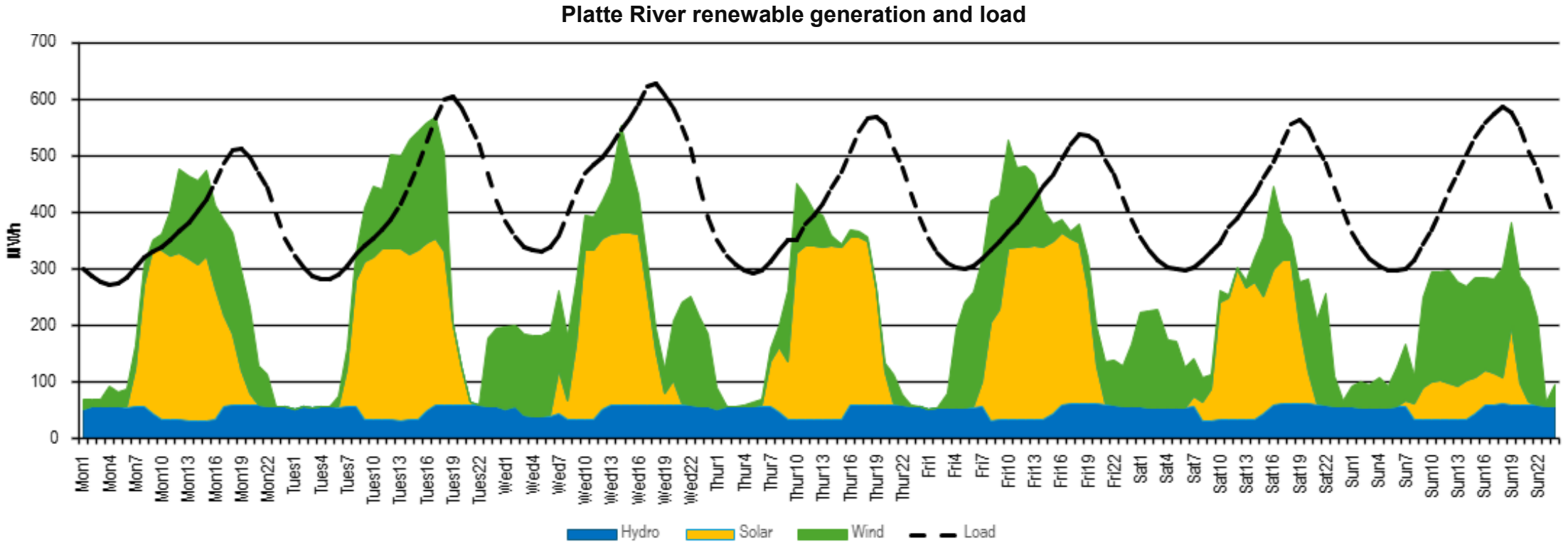
	Energy efficiency	Building Electrification	Transportation Electrification	Flex (VPP) *Under construction	Income-qualified
Residential	**Customer advising and assessments** →				
	• Retrofit rebates • Retail product rebates • Appliance recycling • School education	• Retrofit rebates • Retail product rebates	• EV shopper	• Flex Thermostat • FlexEV • Flex Battery • Flex Water Heater	• Funding for Energy Outreach Colorado's (EOC) Colorado Affordable Residential Energy (CARE) program
Commercial	**Customer advising and assessments (customer segment-specific)** →				

	• Retrofit rebates
	• Building Tune-up:
	  ○ Retrocommissioning
	  ○ Performance Plus
	  ○ Monitoring-based commissioning
	• Study incentives
	• Retail product rebates
	• Midstream cooling
	• Appliance recycling
	• Custom rebates
		• Retrofit rebates
		• Study incentives
		• Retail product rebates
		• Custom rebates
		• Midstream cooling
			• Public charger rebates
			• Study incentives
			• EV shopper
			• EV fleet planner
				• Flex Thermostat
				• FlexEV
				• Flex Battery
				• Flex Water Heater
				• Flex Business:
				  – Monitoring-based commissioning
				  – EV Fleet
				  – RTU-controls
				  – Market registered
					• Community efficiency grant incentives

Crosscutting services	• Marketing and Efficiencyworks.org web site • Program application platforms • Translation services		• Service provider program resources, tech training, website listings and development grants		

VPP as noncarbon dispatchable capacity

Dispatchable capacity can help close the gap between load and noncarbon generation



DER policies and governance

- Platte River board approves annual budget and wholesale rates
  - Includes DER programs and projects
- Intergovernmental agreement for DER programs and projects (DER IGA)
- Energy efficiency funding policy
- DER strategy
- DER technology roadmap

DER IGA

- Agreement between Platte River and the four OCs
- Updated in 2026 (first version in 2012)
- Governs Platte River “common” programs and projects
- Established a DER Advisory Committee made up of senior leaders / managers from each utility to oversee DER IGA implementation
  - DER Customer Solutions Team
  - DER Dispatch Team
  - Other teams to be developed
- Supports OC ability to provide additional funds outside of common programs and projects (“directive funding” for “directive programs”)
- Supports data sharing, protection
- Requires OC coordination for noncommon DER initiatives

Energy efficiency funding policy

- Adopted by board 2017, staff review annually
- Directs Platte River to develop and maintain planning and evaluation guidelines to document
  - How cost-effectiveness of efficiency programs is determined
  - Factors considered when setting goals and funding levels for individual programs
  - Methods used to evaluate program performance
- Documentation is contained within the DER-Energy Efficiency Funding Reference Document

Planning to develop funding policies for other DER in 2027

DER strategy (2021)

- Developed in response to 2018 Resource Diversification Policy and its identification of the need to better integrate DER into the transmission and distribution systems
- Developed with team of senior leaders of Platte River and the OCs, with facilitation by the Smart Electric Power Alliance
- The strategy provided:
  - A definition of DER
  - A vision and guiding principles
  - Direction to work across different utility functions: planning, programs and operations

2021 DER strategy

Vision and guiding principles

Vision

To integrate DERs into the electric system through collaboration and coordination between the owner communities and Platte River to provide value to all customers

Guiding principles (brief)

- Maintain system reliability, financial sustainability and environmental responsibility
- Safety to protect the public, utility employees, contractors and customers
- Maintain physical and cybersecurity of utility-owned grid assets
- Facilitate DER deployment/benefits for all
- Consistency, transparency and flexibility among Platte River and owner communities
- Common processes, best practices and innovation

DER strategy: new draft strategic initiatives

Customer engagement

Customers are the foundation of our businesses and essential for effective DER integration.

Effective customer engagement supports adoption and use of DER in a manner that supports reliability, environmental responsibility and affordability.

System benefits

Platte River and OCs coordinate to achieve electric system benefits from DER investments to support affordable electricity for all customers.

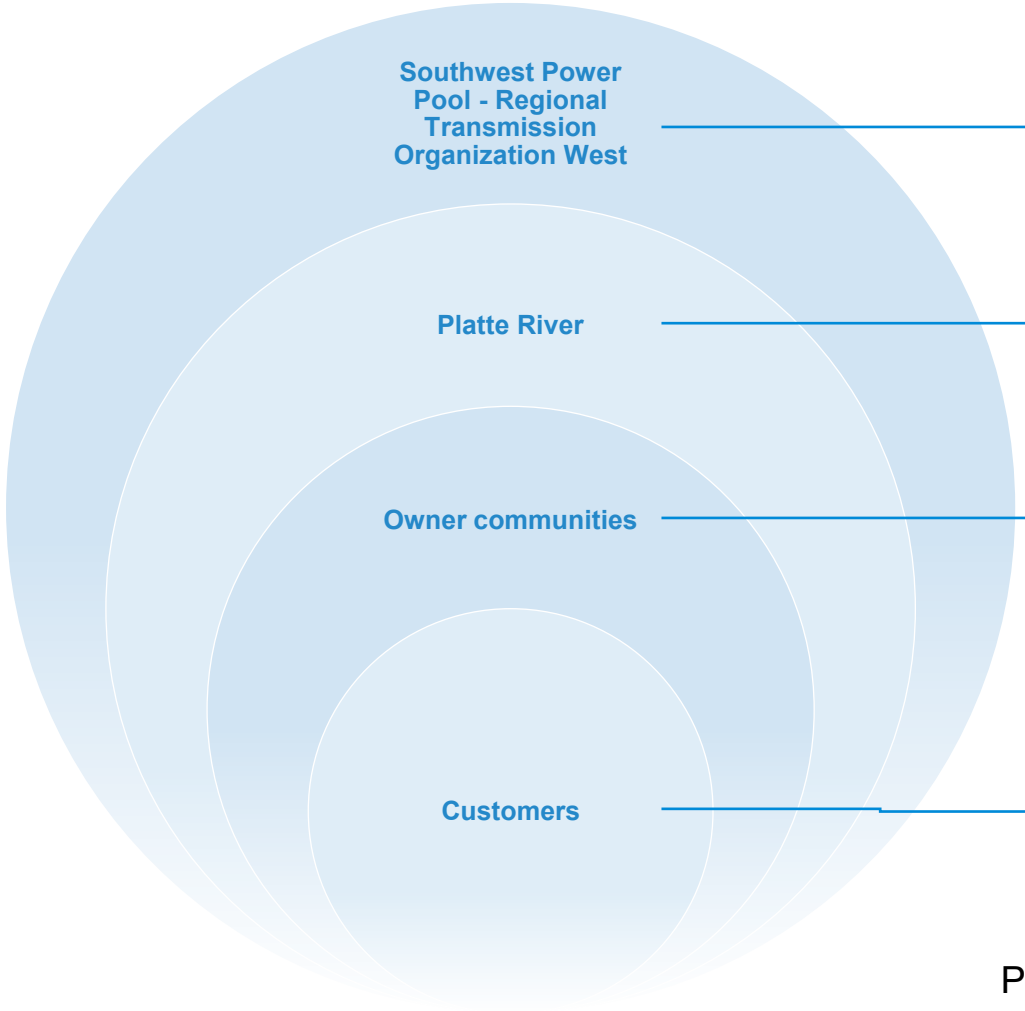
- Wholesale (generation and transmission) system
- Distribution system

Integration

Platte River and OCs business processes and systems are coordinated and streamlined.

- Programs and rates
- Communications and marketing
- System planning
- System operations
- Information and operations technology

Integrating a VPP across the electric system



- Ensures reliable supplies of power, adequate transmission and competitive wholesale electricity prices on behalf of its members
- Develops and maintains participation requirements and a structured market for its participants
- Provides the opportunity and framework for a VPP to participate

- Invests in resources – renewables and dispatchable capacity, like a VPP – to serve the owner communities
- Operates resources – including the VPP – in the markety

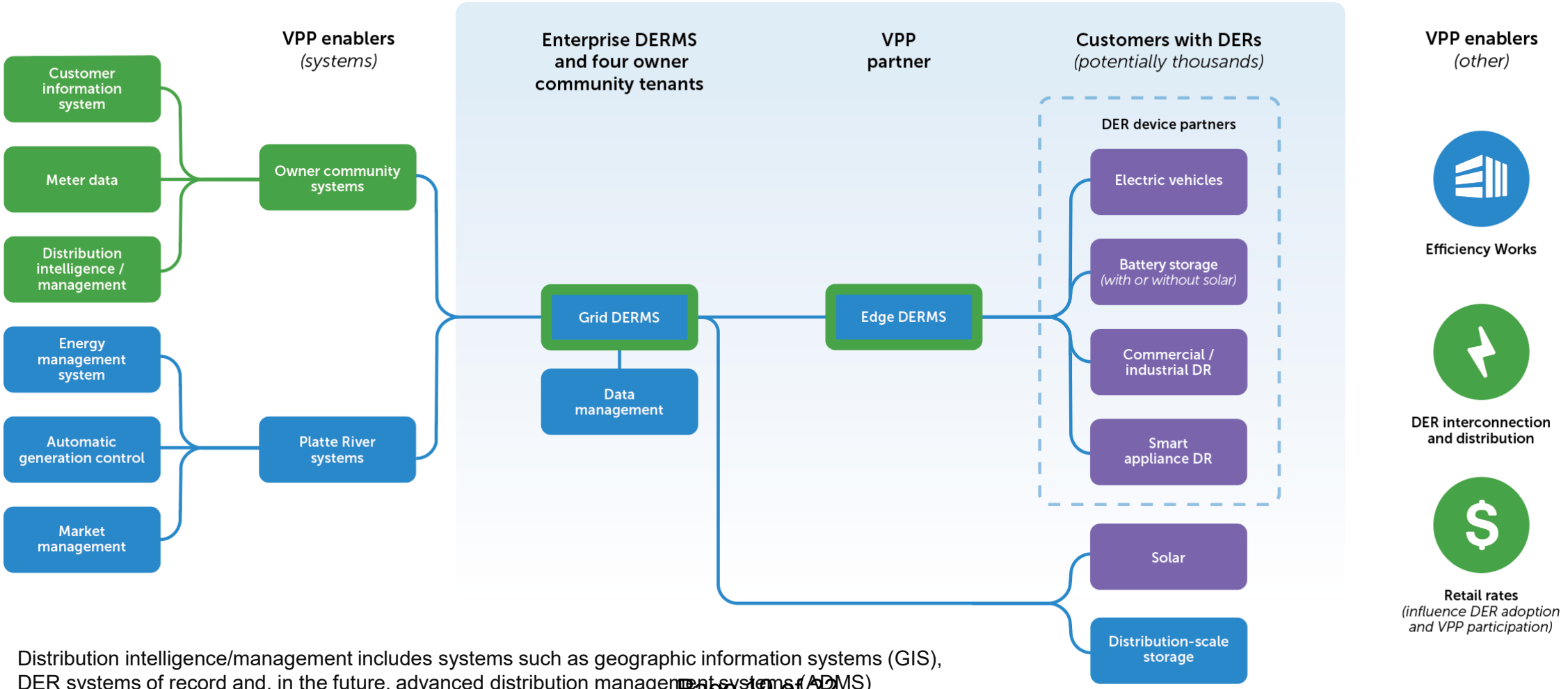
- Invest in distribution to serve customers and their DERs
- Participate in the development and operation of the VPP

- Adopt DERs and enroll them in the VPP

DER roadmap: what the future looks like

Platte River (with owner community participation)
Owner communities (with Platte River support)
Customers (with Efficiency Works support)

VPP key elements and enablers



Distribution intelligence/management includes systems such as geographic information systems (GIS), DER systems of record and, in the future, advanced distribution management systems (ADMS)

UPAC Officer Selection for 2027



UPAC Officer Eligibility and Selection



According to UPAC Bylaws, the Committee shall elect the Chair and Vice Chair for the next calendar year at the Committee's December meeting.



The Chair shall be elected by a majority vote of the Committee members following nomination(s) by a member or members of the Committee, which nomination(s) must be seconded. The Vice Chair shall be elected in the same manner as the Chair. If a nominee fails to get elected, nominations shall be reopened.



The Chair and Vice Chair shall have a voice and shall vote in the selection of the officers of the Committee.



Committee members shall not serve more than two consecutive years as Chair and not more than two consecutive years as Vice Chair.

UPAC Officer Eligibility

UPAC Chair

Michael Borden

Chris Meyer

Scott Smith

David Watson

UPAC Vice Chair

Kate Danner

Chris Meyer

Scott Smith

David Watson