



The development prospects of microgrids in the United States

Does the US have a role in developing remote microgrids?

The United States Agency for International Development has also taken advantage of DOE-developed expertise in their remote microgrid work in Africa¹, Haiti², and other rural and remote communities, which has provided valuable insight on technical, regulatory, and procedural rollout of microgrids in the United States.

How does government support microgrids?

Support for microgrids comes from research and development (R&D) programs at federal and state levels, software and tools, grants and funding support to incentivize demonstration projects, and tax and financial incentives for the installation of distributed energy , , , .

Are microgrids a path to a more distributed future?

The United States electricity sector is moving to a more distributed future. Microgrids offer a pathway to this future by providing opportunities to reduce costs and emissions while bolstering the resilience of the nation's electricity system.

What drives microgrid development?

The driving forces in microgrid development at the state and local levels include renewable energy requirements as reflected in renewable portfolio standards (RPS) in 29 states and Washington, DC; renewable portfolio goals in eight states; and increasing concerns regarding power system resilience due to growing extreme climate events [38,39,40].

Where does microgrid development take place?

While the federal programs described above were the main engine of early U.S. microgrid research and development, there has always been significant activity at the state and local levels--often arising from self-generation projects, typically at large commercial, campus, medical, or industrial sites.

Which federal investment has facilitated microgrid development in the United States?

Select U.S. Federal microgrid assessment and demonstration projects. Source: OE. Another major federal investment that has facilitated microgrid development in the United States is the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

Continuously increasing demand of microgrids with high penetration of distributed energy generators, mainly renewable energy sources, is modifying the traditional structure of the electric distribution grid. Major power consumer countries are ...

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