

GridFWD 2026 Innovation Pavilion Application Form



Thank you for applying to join the Innovation Pavilion at GridFWD 2026. **Complete this form and email it to events@gridforward.org as a live document by April 24, 2026.**

First name:

Last name:

Title:

Company:

Email address:

(1) Problem Statement. Select up to three problem statements that align with your solution. See next page for details.

Total cost

Highest total value

No-regret investments

Investment prioritization

Low-cost upgrades

Communicating value

High-risk events

(2) Solution Statement. Please provide a clear, concise, synthesized statement of your Solution, including what it is and how it addresses the selected Problem Statement. An example or two of how the Solution is currently deployed to meet the Problem is helpful in making the Solution clear and concrete. (150 words max)

(3) Value Statement. Please provide a qualitative description of the value your Solution offers so it is easy for someone new to the idea to understand why your Solution is worth implementing. Also provide a quantification of the value, including a description of the general methodology used to arrive at the value quantified. (150 words max)

(4) Minimum Requirements. Please provide a listing of minimum requirements or readiness factors for successful deployment of your Solution. Said another way, what are key criteria that your organization or your customer must have in place to apply and secure value from your Solution? (100 words max)

(5) Will you be able to share a deployed use case at GridFWD 2026? Yes No

If you are a solution vendor, will you be able to bring a customer to help present at GridFWD 2026? Yes No

Have you provided a summary of the use case you will present as an attachment to this Application? Yes No

Are you attaching additional information (max 3 pages including use case)? Yes No

Optional: Add Additional Information

We have purposefully made this application concise, but you may attach up to three additional pages of information that further detail user experience, concrete value, or real-life use cases to bring the summary application to life. Please help us evaluate your application by making your Solution and Value description clear, concise, and specifically tailored to your selected Problem Statement(s).

Innovation Pavilion Problem Statements

Choose the one, two or three problem statement(s) that most closely describe the challenge your technology or solution is focused on. Note them on question one in the form.

1. Total Cost: The total cost of energy is rapidly increasing and creating friction to maintaining and upgrading the existing grid and modernizing in pace with society's expectations. The cost of energy delivery and maintaining adequate system resources is a growing share of a consumer's total bill and lowering the cost of electricity is not a complete solution. **How can market-ready solutions materially reduce a utility customer's total bill, including through better rate design and customer agency, reduced system congestion, management of demand peaks, co-optimization of energy sources and types, and improved rate design?**

2. Investment Prioritization: The electrical grid needs investment even during times of capital constraint—reliable service and the ability to power modern consumer products and economies demand it. Failure to smartly and timely maintain and upgrade energy infrastructure can make it economically more challenging to make future improvements. **What tools exist that help operators and regulators prioritize valuable investments during periods of capital constraint, ensuring strong return on investment and building data-backed business cases that deliver grid readiness and mitigate overbuilding?**

3. High-Risk Events: Well planned grids not only account for blue-sky days but also high-risk black swan events. A strong resilience plan is increasingly essential as historically uncommon weather, environmental, and bad-actor events become more routine. **Where can modern systems be deployed most cost effectively to mitigate high-cost risk events and how is that value measured when success results in avoided cost?**

4. Highest Total Value: Between data center growth and consumer electrification, utilities are being asked to do more at a quicker pace and with stretched resources. Affordability does not simply mean lowest cost and can mean selecting the best value action for the consumer or system. **How do ready-to-deploy solutions help utilities visualize, quantify, and select investments and technological solutions of the highest total value to consumers?**

5. Low-Cost Upgrades: Innovative grid hardware and software solutions introduce both promise and complexity to planning and upgrading the electricity grid. Add in the diverse approaches that vendors can take in developing, deploying, and integrating each solution and selection of a standardizable approach can seem impossible. **What solutions or systems exist to help utilities assess, select, or deploy reliable and low-cost grid network upgrades in response to planning or interconnection capacity needs assessments?**

6. No-Regret Investments: Many electricity grid investments take years to build business traction, secure funds, procure, and deploy—they are also generally high-cost investments. Yet our current political and geopolitical cycles complicate longer term investments and introduce enough uncertainty such that shorter term investments can be more attractive. **What innovative solutions or commercial approaches exist that mitigate or are flexible to these system risks, enabling investment viability, timelines, and economics in changing times?**

7. Communicating Value: There is an inherent tension between prioritizing affordability and ensuring utility economic health under the U.S. cost-of-service regulatory model. Some innovative utilities have found opportunities to use short-term capital deferrals to introduce flexibility into overall budget plans and allow for prioritization of immediately high-value investments. **What innovative tools or rate design approaches exist to help identify, quantify, and communicate these total investment value approaches and what novel regulatory approaches have proven useful and can be scaled in support?**

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GridFWD 2026
Reprioritizing Affordability in modernizing the grid
September 29-30, 2026
Utah