2025 Mid-Year Review

Beneficial Electrification League

Proceeding on the Path Forward

President's Note: *The energy policy transition from the Biden to Trump Administration began decisively on January 20, 2025, with sweeping Executive Orders, funding pauses, and programmatic shifts that carry wide-reaching implications for nearly all of our stakeholders.*

At this time last year, our mid-year review noted that we were in the "middle of a marathon." Today, a year later, we believe we're still in that marathon—but now with more clarity on the path ahead than at any point since the 2024 election. And as with any marathon, the key to success is steady, determined progress to the finish line.

The passage of the Big, Beautiful Bill represents a new chapter for many of the projects we've been supporting. We're beginning to see which priorities will move forward in the coming years, and with that insight, we're preparing accordingly.

BEL has navigated over a decade of political transitions in Washington, and we're prepared for decades more. This long view has allowed us to focus on durable solutions—initiatives that are grounded in broad, bipartisan support. Beneficial electrification, which improves quality of life, reduces consumer costs, improves environmental performance, and strengthens the electric grid, has been a cornerstone of American progress for over a century.

Today we are supporting more than $40 billion in electric infrastructure projects, and efforts we have championed for the past three years are finally advancing with momentum. From grid resilience and economic development in Appalachia and rural communities to electrification of homes and industry, we remain fully committed to pushing forward this critical national agenda.

Q1/Q2 2025 Major Activities

Early Jan. - Preparation for the Admininstation Change

Early 2025 provided both change and a sense of emerging policy direction, where we began to know how some of the new Administration's priorities would take shape. BEL's focus was to execute our transition strategy, including communicating what changes we anticipated to see in funding. We helped our stakeholders to focus on solidifying and finalizing obligations for infrastructure grants that would likely be supported by the new Administration and helped them to let go of programs that were likely to lose support. We hired a new staff member (Sarah Plutnicki) and leveraged the energy that comes with having hard deadlines to achieve Administration-end goals.

January 20 - First 100 days of Administration

The Trump Administration started off with a clear and unambiguous signal of a change in energy policy, including the signing of significant executive orders. One of our first orders of business was to educate our stakeholders on the Unleashing American Energy Executive Order, which froze all Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding pending a review for alignment with Trump policy. We sprang into work to help stakeholders position projects to continue after the pause, respond to agency data requests, and work with Congressional delegations to flag non-controversial projects that align with core tenets of the Unleash American Energy agenda. These projects advance reliable, affordable energy and grid technologies that rapidly expand electric generation capacity while ensuring energy availability in all areas of the country. In this time period, we engaged hundreds of stakeholders in webinars with expert speakers.

April - 100 Days into Administration

At the 100-day mark, we held a public briefing with stakeholders amidst a series of subgroup and advisory meetings that we hold on an ongoing basis with stakeholder interests. We began to see movement on DOE and USDA grants that moved forward with requests for information, indicating that the executive order freezes were possibly thawing. We ramped up support to help grants go forward while avoiding political traps and pitfalls, began to meet more with key DOE stakeholders and Administration staff, and reached out to Congressional delegations and trade groups. We focused on tending to projects that will likely continue, including infrastructure and grant work, while moving forward with messaging on the benefits of electrification.

May - Ramp up Engagement on Reconciliation

The House of Representatives and Senate begin to ramp up the pressure to get a reconciliation bill completed by July 4. The amount of spending cuts needed to offset permanent tax cuts put a lot of pressure on tax credits, and we worked hard with stakeholders to craft messages and coordinate across coalitions that are not always publicly working together. We were able to provide quick responses and analysis that supported efforts to avoid disruption to billions in clean energy projects.

June - Final Push on Reconciliation

While the final bill was not perfect, much of the IIJA/BIL and obligated IRA funding survived, as well as direct pay tax credits. We believe that our efforts improved the final bill.

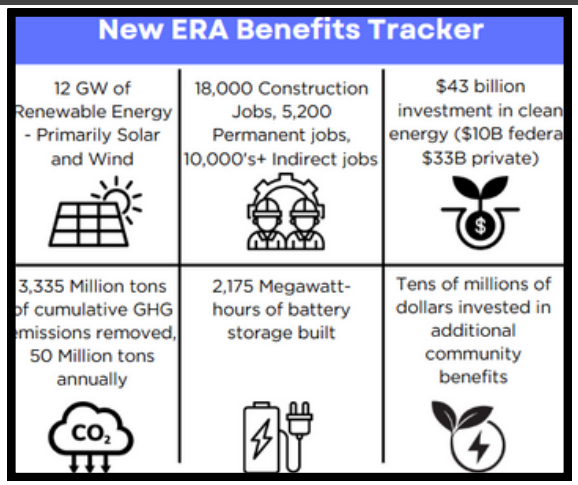
BEL Infrastructure Investment Support

USDA Rural Development

PACE / New ERA

✓ Direct Pay
Can Be Stacked

BEL continues extensive support to a cohort of electric cooperatives and municipal utilities that have been awarded funding under two major USDA programs. The total value of the projects exceeds $40B, and our expertise continues to provide value to these projects by helping the work move forward. From new tax credit and NEPA rules to pending tight deadlines, these programs benefit from our expertise. **See more here.**



GDO GRID DEPLOYMENT OFFICE

GRIP and Section 40101(d) Grid Resilience Grants

GRIP and 40101d are two programs that deliver federal dollars through states to help communities invest in grid upgrades that boost reliability and resilience through critical electric grid infrastructure upgrades, especially in high-risk and underserved areas. BEL is involved in over $500M of projects that are in some stage of moving forward, and we are laser-focused on making these programs successful as the Administration changes. These programs are noncontroversial and provide economic and resilience benefits that are widely supported by public and private sector stakeholders.

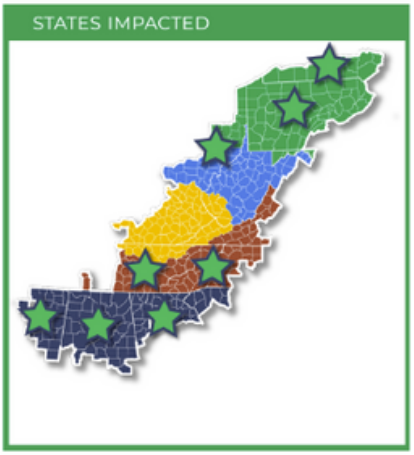
ARC Appalachian Regional Commission

Appalachian Regional Commission

✓ Direct Pay
Can Be Stacked

ARISE Appalachian Regional Initiative for Stronger Economies
Appalachian Region Community-Owned Grid Resilient Infrastructure Project (ARCO-GRIP)

BEL has continued to grow our efforts to expand beneficial electrification through our ARC program, providing regional support with a focus on grant writing and management, technical assistance and information sharing. BEL is supporting dozens of cooperatives and municipalities in NY, OH, PA, TN, NC, GA, MS, and AL to submit ARC Area Development and state-level infrastructure projects. We also continue to deliver technical support and capacity to projects that have already begun but need to get over the finish line.



ENERGY TAX CREDITS

BEL has provided extensive support to stakeholders on the use of tax credits to fund electric infrastructure. With new changes to the tax law from the Big, Beautiful Bill, our support now turns to a focus on timing, administrative requirements, risk management and implementation.