THE SUSTAINABILITY REPORT | Oct. 9th, 2025

Keeping corporate leaders up to date on how policy decisions in DC are impacting sustainability efforts across the country.

Department of Energy cuts over $7 billion in clean energy projects

Early in the shutdown, the Department of Energy cut $7.56 billion of federal funding for climate projects (renewables, carbon removal, transmission, hydrogen, etc.) from mostly blue states. Overall, DOE is pulling funding for nearly 300 projects. Recipients have 30 days from Wednesday, October 1, to challenge these recissions, and some have already started that process.

Meanwhile, a list is floating around DC that DOE is considering another round of cuts for clean energy and electric vehicles.

Washington, DC Update

The federal government is closed, which is having major implications for climate and environmental federal programs. President Trump has threatened mass firings, cuts to "Democrat agencies," and further funding rescissions if Democrats do not acquiesce, turning the funding impasse into a tool of political leverage. Many relevant programs are either deemed nonessential or limited, with federal agency officials furloughed or working without pay until the government reopens.

Want to Learn More?

- The New York Times writes more about the impacts of these cuts here.
- Semafor writes about potential future cuts here.

Engagement Opportunities

- The Department of Energy issued an RFP to companies "to build and power AI data centers at DOE's Oak Ridge Reservation." This is one of the four sites identified for data center construction earlier this year.
- DOE is seeking big energy users to provide feedback on an RFI last month. DOE is calling it a new "speed to power initiative." DOE is seeking input on investment opportunities, project readiness, demand growth, and grid constraints to ensure the U.S. can meet rising power demands, especially for AI, data centers, and reindustrialization.
- DOE's Office of Electricity launched the $100,000 Feeder of the Future Prize to spur innovative feeder and circuit designs that address evolving power delivery needs such as dynamic loads, distributed generation, and cybersecurity. The single-phase competition, with tracks for rural, suburban, and urban systems, seeks cost-effective solutions that improve reliability, maintainability, and integration of new technologies.