

ENERGY PROGRESS

JOBS. PROSPERITY. SECURITY.



What is HART?

The Heartland Alliance for Regional Transmission (HART) is a program of the Climate + Energy Project (CEP).

Based in Hutchinson, Kansas, HART seeks to provide information and a forum that give local decision-makers the tools to help guide the transmission and energy decisions affecting them and their communities.

A diverse group of stakeholders – farmers, ranchers, mayors, county commissioners, landowners, private businesses, chambers of commerce, economic development organizations and environmental groups from the eight states that make up the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) – serves as a connecting point for the organization. Stakeholders share information about transmission and energy issues with their colleagues in communities across the region.

The SPP, based in Little Rock, manages the power grid and transmission planning in:

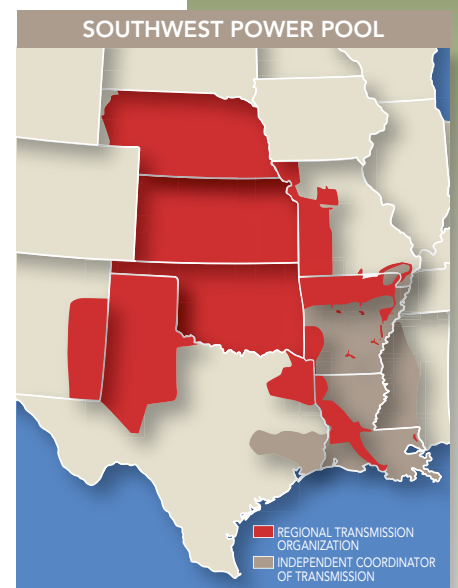
Nebraska	Oklahoma	Texas	Arkansas
Kansas	Missouri	New Mexico	Louisiana

HART is a natural outgrowth of the nonprofit Climate + Energy Project, which seeks to dramatically reduce emissions in the Heartland through greater energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy. CEP collaborates with diverse partners to find practical solutions for a clean energy future that provides jobs, prosperity and security to our region.

Why is HART Important?

The transmission system – made up of towers, lines, substations and more – that delivers electricity to our communities is aging, inefficient and sometimes outmatched by demand. For the first time in decades, major transmission upgrades and additions are being planned in the Heartland and rest of the country.

With those upgrades come decisions that pose tremendous opportunities, as well as significant challenges.



Traditionally, utilities, power cooperatives and others in the energy business made these decisions without much input from those affected, and the decision-making took place far from the homes and businesses at the ends of the power lines.

HART seeks to change that by increasing awareness about transmission and energy issues and engaging those who will be affected.

HART: A Network Linking Us Together

It's important to realize we're all in this together when it comes to energy issues. The electric grid links utility-to-utility, town-to-town and state-to-state, providing backup in outages and an effective method of sharing resources and minimizing power costs.

The states in the Southwest Power Pool – and their residents – have a common stake in power generation and transmission decisions. That's true whether it's a wind farm in Texas or a coal plant in western Oklahoma. The decision to replace a high-voltage line in southern Kansas could influence whether wind generators rise there, elsewhere or at all.

Important, too, are the values all the stakeholders – whether a Nebraska rancher or a utility executive – bring to the table. Is a perspective based on environmental values that favor wind or on economic ones that justify coal as fuel? Does the number of jobs seal the deal? Or does a person consider all those factors?

The prosperity and health of our communities and the environment depend on the decisions ahead, and HART seeks to ensure we have the knowledge to ask the right questions and the opportunity to make the best decisions.

How Does HART Work?

Valuing a collaborative approach, HART's goal is to build relationships and widen the range of perspectives at the planning table.

Everyone has a stake in transmission planning and delivery. From how much energy we use and how much it costs – both in dollars as well as impact on the environment – to the potential for attracting new businesses and the jobs that come with them, the way these plans come together are complex and critical.

HART stakeholders participate in monthly conference calls, coordinated by CEP staff, and take part in quarterly webinars to increase their own awareness and understanding of these not-so-simple issues. They attend SPP meetings and regulatory hearings to share their own perspective with SPP members and staff. Once per year, stakeholders meet in person to determine how they will help their peers to have a voice in transmission and energy decisions.

At HART, we are interested in energy progress. The conversation is about jobs, prosperity and security for our communities, states, region and the nation. We invite you to join us in the conversation.

HART is a program of the Climate + Energy Project, a nonprofit and nonpartisan 501(c)(3) organization. HART's work is supported by the New York Community Trust, the Kresge Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy. To learn more about HART and CEP, visit www.climateandenergy.org.