

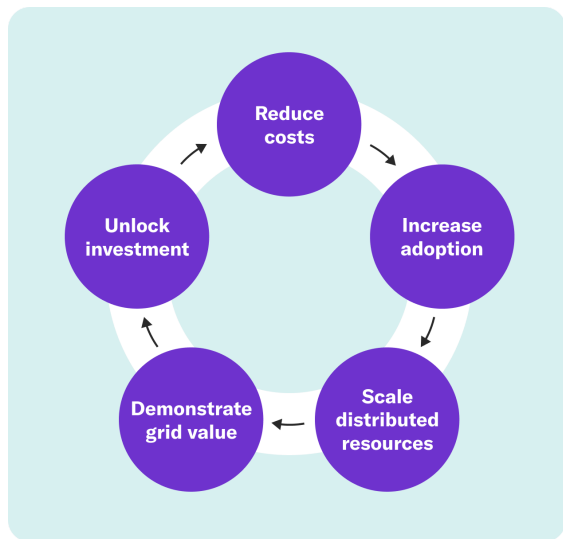
Unlocking energy affordability in South Dakota

By treating households as energy infrastructure, South Dakota can make whole-home electrification, rooftop solar, and battery storage affordable for **127,900 additional households** — unlocking **\$17,200 in average lifetime savings** per household and **\$2.2 billion statewide**.¹ This means a more efficient, resilient energy system that can meet growing demand without driving up costs.

Why this matters now

South Dakota is facing a growing energy affordability challenge. As electricity demand grows and the grid ages, utilities are ramping up spending on new generation and transmission — costs that will ultimately be passed on to ratepayers.

Yet even as spending accelerates, the system is underinvesting in the lowest-cost ways to reduce bills and meet energy needs: efficient electric appliances, rooftop solar, and battery storage.



In *Homegrown Energy: A policy blueprint for energy affordability*, we outline a set of interlocking policies that correct this imbalance by directing a meaningful share of energy system investment toward homes. Together, these policies create a self-reinforcing cycle that drives down costs and scales adoption over time.

The result is a more affordable, flexible, and resilient energy system — one that delivers immediate benefits to families while reducing long-term costs for all ratepayers.

¹ Affordability is defined as a household's ability to adopt home energy upgrades at the same or lower total cost — accounting for both upfront and operating costs — than replacing existing equipment with new like-for-like systems. Lifetime savings reflect average household savings over 15 years.

How South Dakota unlocks energy affordability

Today's baseline:

Only **4,800** households in South Dakota can afford home energy upgrades under current market conditions²

Policy interventions

Reduce soft costs:

+ 16,700 more households could afford home energy upgrades
Cut red tape to lower project costs and increase the impact of every other policy

Align system incentives and investment:³

Data centers pay	Non-pipeline alternatives	Inclusive utility investment	Electrification-friendly rate design
<i>Require AI data centers to invest in distributed energy resources and household upgrades</i>	<i>Redirect gas infrastructure spending toward electrification, avoiding costly pipeline investments</i>	<i>Enable utilities to fund the upfront cost of upgrades and recover those costs through energy bill savings</i>	<i>Align electricity pricing with system costs to lower operating costs for electrified homes</i>
+ 33,800 households	+ 760 households	+ 22,500 households	+ 14,400 households

Ensure households are paid for the value they provide:

Households where home energy upgrades are affordable can join **virtual power plants**, becoming grid assets and earning compensation

If South Dakota invests in households as an energy solution:

132,700

Households could afford home energy upgrades — lowering system costs while building a more flexible and resilient grid⁴

² "Home energy upgrades" includes whole-home electrification, solar, and storage.
³ Values shown reflect the additional number of households for which home energy upgrades become affordable under each policy, assuming soft cost reductions have already been applied.
⁴ The total impact is not the sum of individual policy impacts, as these policies interact and their effects partially overlap.