



# What is the Demand Response Partnership Program?

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DRPP is more than a funny sounding acronym. The Demand Response Partnership Program (DRPP) is a program started by USGBC and the [Environmental Defense Fund \(EDF\)](#) to bring the building and energy communities together, and to increase participation in demand response programs.

## So what is demand response?

Demand response is a way of reducing stress on the grid during times of heavy (peak) usage. Think about a late summer afternoon: what if everyone came home from work and used their air conditioner at the exact same time. Think of the electricity needed to make everyone comfortable. Supplying that much energy for that many people at the same time is no easy task from the utility's perspective. The electrical grid can only produce and deliver so much at one time.

How can a utility respond to periods of high energy demand in a smart, environmentally friendly way? One approach is to ask customers/buildings to reduce or shift some of their energy use.

## How does the DRPP program work?

DRPP efforts are divided into two categories: engagement and research.

In the engagement phase, LEED-certified or registered projects in selected areas are connected with representatives from their local utility to determine if they're good candidates for demand response. If they are, they become participants in the program and share data about their experiences before, during and after demand response events. [Learn more about how to participate »](#)

During the research phase, information gathered from LEED projects will be turned into a set of case studies that help the building and energy industries learn more about the possibilities of demand response for buildings, the environment and the electrical grid.

## Meet the team

[Southern California Edison \(SCE\)](#) is the official utility host for this program. As one of the nation's largest electric utilities, SCE delivers power to more than 14 million people. Their 50,000 square-mile area spans central, coastal and Southern California, excluding the City of Los Angeles and some other cities.

LEED registered and certified projects that are existing SCE customers are invited to join as participants. As additional utility hosts join the program, participation

will be opened to include LEED projects in more territories.

**Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab)** and **MelRok** form the research side of the program.

Berkeley Lab is a U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) national laboratory that conducts a wide variety of unclassified scientific research for DOE's Office of Science. Thirteen Nobel prizes are associated with Berkeley Lab and fifty-seven of its scientists are members of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), one of the highest honors for a scientist in the United States. MelRok is a technology provider for real time energy solutions. Based in both the US and UK, MelRok serves the energy management segments of five primary markets – utility, commercial, industrial, institutional and data centers.

Interested and want to learn more about demand response? [Contact us](#) for more information.

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