

Building the Battery Belt in Appalachia

PROJECT SNAPSHOT



GRANTEE

Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC)



STATES IMPACTED

Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina



ARC FUNDING

\$10,000,000



PARTNERS

North Georgia Electric Membership Corporation (NGEMC), and Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation (BRMEMC), Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development, Georgia Department of Community Affairs, North Carolina Department of Commerce, Southeast Tennessee Development District, Northwest Georgia Regional Commission, and Southwestern Commission



ANNOUNCEMENT DATE

October 2024

STATES IMPACTED

PROJECT SUMMARY

Volunteer Energy Cooperative, North Georgia Electric Membership Corporation, and Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Corporation will use ARISE funds to collectively deploy up to 5 MW and 20 MWh of utility-scale batteries, growing the "Battery Belt" in Appalachia by building the demand and supply of non-lithium batteries throughout the Region. Partners will also work with Tennessee Tech University and its ARISE-funded HILLTOP grid modeling project partners to virtually model different non-lithium battery technologies to determine which best meets its strategic objectives.

VEC and partners bring a combined \$8,000,000 in matching funds to this project. Over the course of the 5-year performance period, VEC and partners will serve 18,101 households, 3,369 businesses, generate \$25.9 million in cost savings, leverage \$20 million in private investment, and create 20 new jobs.