



NextEnergy's Year in Review

Greetings,

I hope that you are healthy, staying safe, and looking forward to the holidays! As we wind down 2021, it has been an interesting year to say the least.

2021 has been a year filled with challenges for all of us and some great opportunities for the NextEnergy team and our stakeholders in accelerating solutions that lead to cleaner, smarter, and more accessible communities and cities. I want to share some of these highlights with you.



Jim Saber
President & CEO

Technology Programs

EV Battery 2nd Use & Recycling Research Program

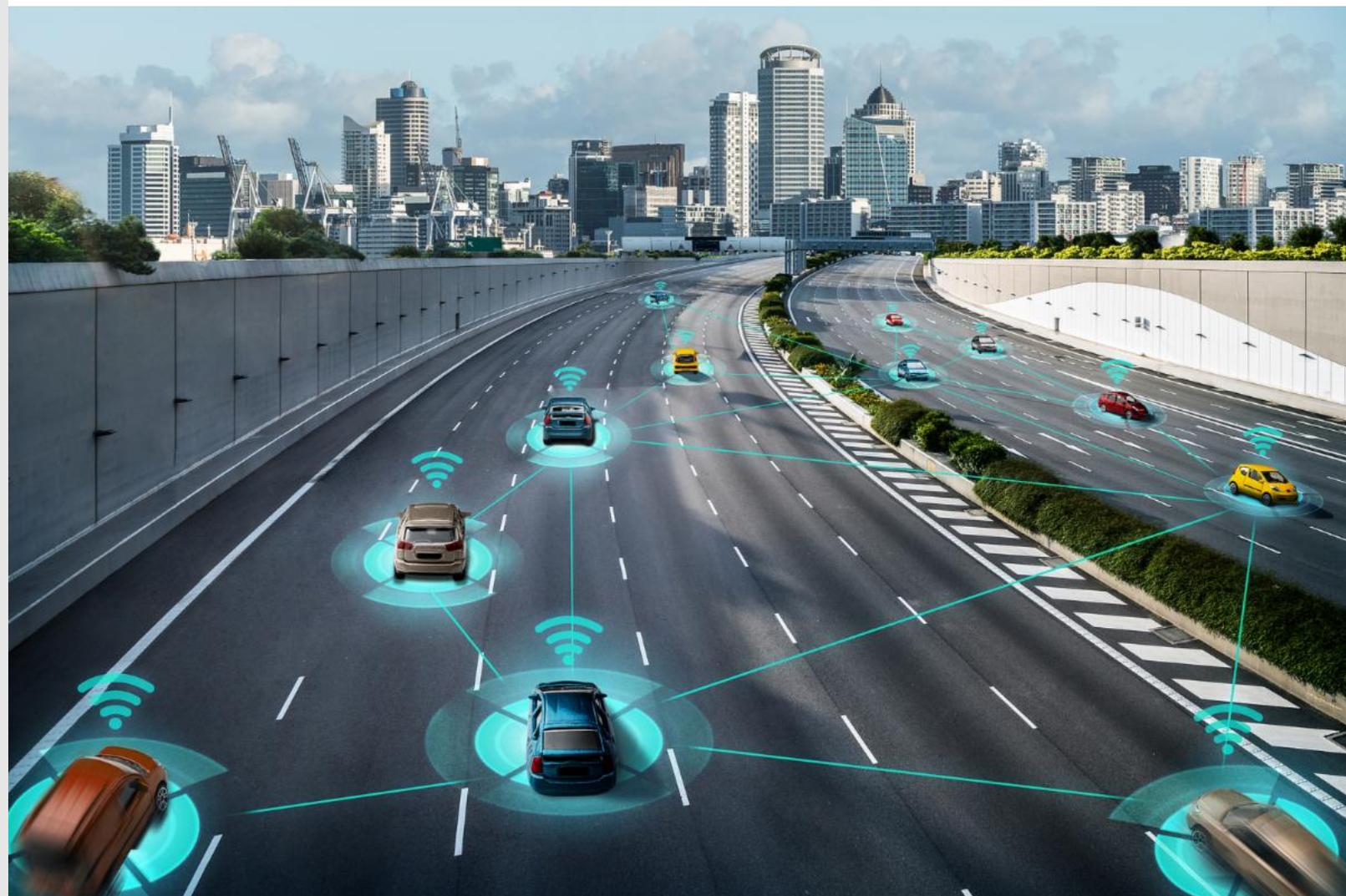
In early 2021, [Michigan Department of Environment Great Lakes and Energy](#) (EGLE) awarded NextEnergy a market research grant to assess the Michigan supply chain for electric vehicle (EV) battery recycling and secondary use. With our partner, Wixom, MI-based [Battery](#)

[Solutions](#), an industry leader in recycling management solutions for all battery chemistries, we

are examining and characterizing the existing Michigan supply chain for collection, analysis, remanufacturing, reuse, and recycling of used EV batteries. The assessment will identify existing supply chain gaps as well as opportunities for addressing those gaps, including via secondary use applications. We will finish this work in early 2022 and submit our findings to EGLE to prepare for future EV battery applications.

[Read more](#)

Viewpoints



What is a Smart City? NextEnergy Offers Another Definition

By: Kate Bell, Program Manager

Pop quiz: What is the definition of a smart city?

If you're having trouble narrowing down an answer, you aren't alone. Chances are that if you asked ten different strangers this question, you'd receive ten different responses. Some would highlight the possibilities for integrating futuristic technologies like self-driving cars or flying taxis

into daily life. Others would emphasize improving data-driven governance through sensors feeding into an internet of things or efficiency gains via cloud computing. There's also a real possibility that you might not receive an answer, but a puzzled look instead.

Even experts and municipal leaders at the helm of the smart cities movement have difficulty reaching a consensus on what exactly makes a city "smart." A recent [Smart Cities Dive](#) survey asked city officials from the 25 largest metro areas in the United States to define what a smart city is today and how that definition has changed during their tenure. The answers were as unique as the cities themselves. [Read more.](#)

What We're Reading

We've asked the NextEnergy team to share the industry-related news, stories and information that have grabbed their attention this month. We hope you find it useful! [For more recommendations, you can explore past editions on our website.](#)



Angella Durkin, Chief Operating Officer

What she's reading: [Tech companies eye Detroit as mobility sector with accessible streets](#)

Media: WDIV Local 4

What makes it interesting: This story highlights Michigan Mobility Funding Platform awardee Kuhmte and provides a great look at how Detroit is innovating to solve mobility challenges in the City.

[View our full list](#)

News & Events



Electrification 2022: Collaborating for a Clean-Energy Future

NextEnergy is proud to be a Supporting Organization for the Electric Power Research Institute's (EPRI's) upcoming [Electrification 2022](#) conference. Join us in person March 14-17 in Charlotte, N.C., to share what's new in the electrification of buildings, vehicles and

industry, spend time with your colleagues, and explore efficient, equitable solutions for a net-zero economy.

Stay at the forefront of our decarbonizing society with immersive pre-conference workshops, expert-led agenda sessions, an all-inclusive exposition, and extensive networking including a

expert led agenda sessions, an all inclusive exposition, and extensive networking including a closing party at the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

[Register now!](#) #ElectricTogether



WEST GATE
Unlocking Innovation, Inspiring Entrepreneurs

NREL
Transforming ENERGY

**Announcing West Gate,
NREL's Lab Embedded
Entrepreneurship Program**

**Now seeking innovators
for West Gate Cohort #1**

ENERGY Office of ENERGY EFFICIENCY
& RENEWABLE ENERGY
ADVANCED MANUFACTURING OFFICE

NextEnergy is excited to share DOE Advanced Manufacturing Office's newest Lab Embedded Entrepreneurship Program, West Gate at [@NREL](#).

West Gate is looking for talented scientists, engineers, and technical entrepreneurs who would like to receive more than \$500,000 of support over 2 years to work closely with NREL to build a cleantech company in Colorado.

Through a competitive selection process, West Gate will provide up to five selected innovators with:

- An annual stipend of \$100,000
- Healthcare and relocation benefits for qualifying candidates
- Curated, individualized programming
- Entrepreneurial curriculum, mentorship, and support
- Two-year technical assistance funding of \$175,000 redeemable at NREL, Colorado School of Mines, and other program affiliates.

You must complete the eligibility and pre-application process by Jan. 30, 2022.

[Register](#)

Funding Opportunities

[View our full list](#)

Enhancing Mobility Innovation

The Enhancing Mobility Innovation program supports transit agencies as they work to improve mobility, with a focus on how innovation can help improve service delivery and make buses, trains and ferries easier to use and more attractive to riders.

RFI-Infrastructure and Investments Job Act

As part of the recently passed Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, two new electric vehicle programs will receive funds to address climate change by reducing carbon emissions. The National Electric Vehicle Program or EV Charging Program will provide funding to the States to strategically deploy EV charging infrastructure and to establish an interconnected network to establish data collection, access and reliability.

To get started, the new law directs the Department of Transportation (DOT) to coordinate and consult with the Department of Energy to develop guidance for the two new programs. DOT's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) posted a request for information in the Federal Register, to invite public comments that will inform program guidance development.

Michigan Mobility Funding Platform

The Michigan Mobility Funding Platform provides grants to mobility and electrification companies looking to deploy their technology solutions in Michigan. [Learn more and apply.](#)

Rolling

- [Business Accelerator Fund](#)
- [Energy Foundation Grants](#)
- [The Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Loans for Michigan Businesses](#)

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corporations, communities and cities.

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