



Grantee Spotlight: U.S. Department of Energy Alumni Network

The [Giving Green Fund](#) is awarding an unrestricted grant to the [U.S. Department of Energy Alumni Network](#) to support its work preserving institutional expertise from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), supporting DOE's mission, and developing a non-partisan agenda for its future.

The DOE Alumni Network's work falls within our philanthropic strategy of [unleashing clean energy in the U.S.](#) and, more specifically, our sub-strategy of supporting research, development, and demonstration (RD&D) and innovation. Please see Giving Green's strategy report for more information, including potential risks and co-benefits, recommended sub-strategies, theory of change, funding need, and key uncertainties.

Last updated: October 2026

What Is the U.S. Department of Energy Alumni Network?

The DOE Alumni Network is a national organization founded in 2025 after a mass exodus of DOE staff driven by early retirements, buyouts, and structural workforce reductions under the Trump Administration. It estimates that more than 3,000 staff left DOE in 2025, including 40% of those working on clean energy innovation, 52% on deployment, and 85% on demonstrations. Those departures removed much of DOE's working knowledge of how it designs programs, manages awards, and moves technologies toward commercialization. The DOE Alumni Network works to preserve DOE's institutional knowledge, engage in non-partisan policy work, and support its members' careers.

The DOE Alumni Network is volunteer-led, supported by a small staff of former DOE employees. It works through five working groups backed by more than 260 volunteers, and reports over 1,100 members drawn from more than 47 DOE offices. Its audiences are its membership, Congress, DOE stakeholders (e.g., nonprofits, clean technology companies, and energy offtakers), and DOE grant awardees.

What Are We Funding, and How Could It Help Address Climate Change?

In our strategy report on [unleashing clean energy in the U.S.](#), we identified supporting RD&D and innovation as a promising sub-strategy. We are providing unrestricted funding to support the DOE Alumni Network across its areas of work:

- **Building the alumni community**, including networking events, professional development programming, and a mentorship program
- **Supporting DOE's mission space**, such as providing information for congressional budget and appropriations work, tracking budget execution, and assisting grantees facing award terminations
- **Producing a non-partisan research and policy agenda** for DOE through its Envision DOE Initiative
- **Analyzing proposed DOE budgets** office-by-office and assessing clean energy innovation funding needs under the Innovation Portfolio Initiative

DOE is the single largest domestic source of public funding for energy research, development, and demonstration, so decisions about its budget, staffing, and program design shape which clean technologies reach the market. This work will preserve technical expertise, inform appropriations decisions, and keep clean energy innovation programs running. Together, these strands support faster deployment of clean energy technologies imperative to reducing emissions.

Why Do We Think the DOE Alumni Network Will Use This Funding Well?

Since its founding, the DOE Alumni Network has held more than 35 events, published a weekly newsletter, and drawn contributions from over 150 alumni to its policy working group. It serves as a non-partisan source of technical assistance for Congress.

Its most concrete work to date has been on behalf of DOE awardees. With Lawyers for Good Government, it ran a grantee assistance effort after 321 awards were terminated in October 2025. It supported 317 awardees and published "Innovation Interrupted," an analysis of the terminations and the funding freezes that followed. The DOE Alumni Network was one of several organizations working on this issue, and it estimates the effort helped restore hundreds of millions of dollars in terminated awards and retain billions of dollars in stalled grants.

Due to the DOE Alumni Network's experience running DOE's program offices, its existing work supporting terminated and ignored awardees, and its team's technical expertise, we

think the DOE Alumni Network is well suited to preserve DOE's clean energy innovation capacity, inform budget decisions that will shape the agency, and help transform the way the U.S. supports innovation.

We publish grant spotlights to offer transparency to [Giving Green Fund](#) donors and resources for those interested in the impact strategies each grant supports. Giving Green believes our [Top Climate Nonprofits](#) have the greatest impact potential for large, unrestricted gifts. [For several reasons](#), we also disburse and recommend grants to other organizations surfaced through [our research process](#) for work that we believe is at least as impactful as grants to our top recommendations.

This is a non-partisan analysis (study or research) and is provided for educational purposes.

DOE Alumni Network is a registered nonprofit in the U.S.