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The Accelerator

by  slipstream



Energy Edition – January 2021

Welcome to *The Accelerator*, a brand-new digest brought to you by Slipstream. Every other month, we'll bring you news, research, program results, and other insights to help utility, government, and institutional thought leaders get ahead of the curve on energy and equity solutions.

If you'd like to receive the other bimonthly edition of *The Accelerator*—designed to help builders, contractors, vendors, and developers put the latest and most promising energy solutions into practice—or to hear additional messages from Slipstream, [confirm your preferences on our website](#).

News You Can Use

U.S. General Services Administration chooses Slipstream to test innovative grid-interactive efficient building solutions

As we move toward a future with more renewable energy, we need to prepare the grid to be more reliable, flexible and resilient. One of the keys is to better control the way our

buildings use energy in the first place. Our research in [grid-interactive efficient buildings](#) (or GEBs) explores the technologies that boost our buildings' efficiency by making them smarter.

There are plenty of innovative GEB solutions to explore, but the U.S. GSA [recently asked Slipstream](#) to test two of the more promising tools, Synapse and Nantum, in real-world situations. Look forward to seeing the results of this study in this newsletter and beyond. In the meantime, learn more about the promise of GEBs with our free webinar, [Building Toward Zero Carbon with Grid Flexibility](#).

[Learn more about GEBs](#)

Three climate solutions from the Wisconsin Governor's Task Force on Climate Change Report that excite us

Last month, the Wisconsin Governor's Task Force released its report outlining 55 solutions the state intends to adopt to address the climate crisis. Overall, the report serves as a solid example for other states to shape their own climate policies. We scoured the list and found three solutions we think are exceptionally promising for tackling our climate challenges. Among them: setting concrete carbon reduction goals, which is vital to the electric sector's mission to balance its carbon budget.

[Read our full thoughts](#)

Catching Up with Slipstream

Research + Innovation

For an industry that's all about facing a challenge as urgently as we can, things don't always move as quickly as we need. At Slipstream, we know we can turn up the speed by making sure we turn the *right* technologies into the right programs. Here are a couple projects in which our researchers have looked at emerging tech to determine whether it's worth the industry's focus.

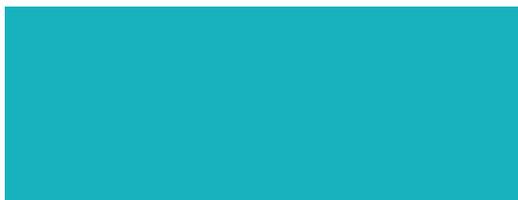




Photo: Philipp Katzenberger on Unsplash

Iowa Storage Energy Report

In 2020, Slipstream partnered with Synapse Energy Economics (Synapse) of Cambridge, MA to evaluate the benefits and potential barriers of **expanding energy storage in Iowa**. With funding from the Iowa Economic Development Authority, Synapse and Slipstream evaluated the benefits and capabilities of various available energy storage technologies and how they might contribute to Iowa's economic development and clean energy goals.

[Read More](#)



Photo: Getty Images

"The LEDs of Motors"?

For decades, we've heard industry folks refer to **switched reluctance motors** as "the LED of motors" for the way they might improve the efficiency of entire systems—if only the tech became practical at scale. Recently, as the technology behind SRMs has shown signs of becoming more feasible to implement, we began a study for ComEd to evaluate the benefits and potential barriers to installing SRMs in lieu of traditional motors.

[Read More](#)

Financing Solutions

To bolster our mission to eliminate barriers to energy savings with affordable financing options, Slipstream [recently welcomed Linda French to our Board of Directors](#). As assistant chief counsel for IC Global, Linda leads global policy work on sustainable finance issues. With 16 years of experience in finance and a passion for sustainability, her perspective will be vital as we address the challenge of transitioning to a low-carbon economy.

Energy Education

Accelerating climate solutions for everyone means making sure that energy efficiency programs leave no one behind— especially lower-income households and communities of color. In our free education webinar, [Equity and Clean Energy](#), a panel of experts from across the Midwest share facts, figures, and ideas on equity and clean energy, including their strategies to achieve a zero-carbon world.

Visit the [webinar page](#) to view the course, or [register](#) to browse any of Slipstream's free

educational courses.

[View the webinar](#)

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