



Certified Veteran Owned Enterprise

Fact Sheet

Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership starting in Scurry County, Texas

Heartland Clean Energy (Heartland) is advancing affordable, clean energy across rural communities. It is a public, private, and philanthropic partnership to prepare for extreme weather, enable additional renewable energy, and meet clean energy goals. The mission is a powerful blend of innovation and social impact, aiming to commercialize proven, cutting-edge technologies that embrace clean energy while uplifting communities.

Heartland envisions a future where the specter of the Texas power grid failure, like the one in February 2021, is banished. The first step is to develop an energy hub with Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) to enhance grid reliability. These systems offer hope for rural communities by providing backup power during outages, reducing peak demand on the grid, stabilizing service for grid operators, and promoting the growth of clean energy from sources like solar and wind. The next step is to add a supporting local microgrid.

Developing a collaborative of partnerships by applying the Flow Value Model of stakeholder engagement for the shared goal to help solve energy security, protect vulnerable Texans, and build economic development with Scurry County, City of Snyder, Big Country Coop, Touchstone Cooperative, Western Texas College, TSTC Abilene, Snyder ISD, DOE's Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership, and private foundations.

Project Outcomes and Benefits

- Grid resilience and load flexibility using super capacity batteries.
- New super capacity batteries that help prevent wildfires and are made with clean, US based materials.
- Veteran-owned enterprise engaging certified WBE/HUB women-owned business in development.
- Reducing the effect of long-duration outages.
- Training the workforce, creating jobs, and building economic development in renewables, battery technologies and microgrid development.

Leadership Team

US Navy Veteran, Eddie Gaston, is the visionary founder. His personal experiences during the February 2021 freeze fueled his determination to make a difference. His empathy for the struggles faced by his community, including the risk to his elderly parents, spurred him to create Heartland. Since then, Eddie and his team of renewable and community development professionals have embarked on a journey to champion renewable energy and battery storage technology which drives economic and grid resilience for disadvantaged and vulnerable Americans. Eddie is fluent in Japanese. He has worked in fuel cell technology and energy.

Handling the business operations is Royce Heslep, who brings 35 years of expertise in business operations and finance. Throughout his career, he has applied his skills to both large Fortune 1000 corporations and played a pivotal role in the success of numerous entrepreneurial ventures. In 2002, Royce co-founded Aptia Systems, a cutting-edge software company that has developed software applications to enhance business processes for major organizations. Some of these notable clients include Chevron, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Baylor College of Medicine, Texas A&M University, and a myriad of small and medium-sized businesses.

Blake Heslep, electrical engineer and certified Project Management Professional (PMP) will oversee the construction of the BESS facility, supported by a highly experienced technical team. Blake Heslep has a track record of successfully managing standalone storage projects ranging in size from 100 MW to 2 GW. He has handled the development efforts from site assessment, Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment (ESA), title survey, and interconnection application.