IEP Model

INTEGRATED ENERGY PROJECT

The growth of the renewable energy and energy efficiency industries has led to a wide range of websites and software tools for both consumers (homeowners and businesses) and service providers (contractors). Consumers can leverage tools that recommend energy efficiency measures (EEMs) and renewable energy projects, identify qualified contractors, coordinate contracting and purchasing, as well as manage implementation and post-project analysis and review. Service providers list services with these sites, and are adopting tools to automate their business processes to market, bid, contract, and manage projects. However, there are currently no established standards by which all of these websites and tools, for both consumers and service providers, can readily share information about customers, projects, products and services.

The IEP team has been funded by the CPUC's California Solar Initiative (CSI) to develop an Integrated Energy Project (IEP) Model to standardize and integrate the data underlying these processes. The IEP Model introduces a common language to project stakeholder software applications – it provides a comprehensive, standardized definition of an EE/DR+PV project, as well as how stakeholders can communicate between each other about that project. This will simplify and streamline the process, reduce time and costs for both the consumer and contractors, produce a better ROI for both, and remove a key market barrier for the adoption of both EEM's and solar energy.

The following principles guide the IEP Model:

1. Standards Incorporation – The IEP Model should incorporate or complement existing standardization efforts around energy project data.
2. Comprehensive Commercial Relevance – The IEP Model should support all energy measures that hold current commercial relevance and provide for future extensibility.
3. Multi-Party Usability – The IEP Model should appropriately structure data so that multiple parties can effectively collaborate on defining and implementing any energy project which can include one or more energy measures.
4. IT Independence – The IEP Model should be independent of any specific information technologies, which may include operating systems, databases, languages, etc.
5. Business Model Independence – The IEP Model should be designed to be independent of any particular business model.

The IEP Model team was selected to represent the main categories of market participants, and will also solicit input from a wide range of other market participants. The team will leverage their existing software products and expertise to define and test an IEP Model implementation, and document the results. The resulting deliverables will include structured data definitions and application programming interface (API) specification. The goal is to ensure that any industry solution provider will be able to use the project's deliverables to integrate their applications with other IEP-compliant applications in a standard way. For example, all consumer energy efficiency audit tools on the market would be able to integrate freely with other applications that also support the IEP Model such as contractor bidding or project management tools. The resulting eco-system will streamline consumer implementation of EE/DR+PV projects.

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For more information visit www.iepmodel.net