

Summary

Cristin Lyons is a partner and head of ScottMadden's energy practice. With almost 25 years of experience helping clients optimize their businesses, she leads client engagements to transform utility operations and enable the clean energy transition. Cristin was the lead for the firm's grid transformation practice before becoming the energy practice lead. She is a frequent speaker and panelist at conferences across the country. Cristin earned a B.A. in political science and Spanish from Gettysburg College and an M.B.A. from the Cox School of Business at Southern Methodist University.

Areas of Specialization

- Clean Energy Transition
- Utility Operations and Technology
- Grid Edge
- Grid Modernization
- Electric Transmission

Recent Articles and Speeches

- Podcast: "Energy Central Perspectives: From Tension to Transition." October 2023
- "Energy: A Sector in Transformation." EUCI Leadership Conference for Women in Energy. June 2023
- "Keeping the Lights on Down Under: Energy Lessons from Australia." Utility Dive. March 27, 2023
- "Utility Evolution Brings About the (Re)Integration of System Planning Processes." March 2023
- "Informing the Transmission: A Look at Renewables Integration and Resilience Issues for Power Transmission in Selected Regions of the United States." Produced for WIRES. January 2020
- "Grid Transformation and the Impact of Distributed Energy Resources." Platts Utility Supply Chain Conference. January 2016
- "Integration of DER: New York and California." EEI Strategic Issues Forum. September 2015
- "Impacts of Distributed Energy Resources on T&D Organizations." August 2015

Recent Assignments

- Led the development of a multi-year integrated grid plan to meet state-mandated clean energy objectives; supported the stakeholder process to engage on clean energy-related topics and prepared discovery and rebuttal related to the plan
- Developed a design and roles and responsibilities for a new organization put in place to lead the clean energy transition for this utility
- Performed an assessment of a start-up transmission organization to identify organizational and process improvements needed to enable it to scale up; led implementation of organizational changes and new key performance indicators
- Led the development of a "clean energy center of excellence" construct to enable alignment of a T&D utility's offerings in electrification, energy efficiency, and e-mobility
- Assisted two New York utilities in the development of multiple distributed system implementation plans as part of the Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) proceeding
- Led and supported multiple rate case and non-rate case filings related to grid modernization and clean energy
- Led the development of grid modernization plans for multiple utilities, including supporting testimony for rate cases
- Led the development of a SCADA road map to define the needed upgrades for an obsolete SCADA system
- Led a project to inventory the sensors, communications pathways, and head-end systems through which sensor data traveled; developed recommendations to improve the governance and processes through which sensors were deployed and operated
- Developed a governance model and project management structure by which to manage a utility's response to the REV proceeding in New York
- Assisted in developing demonstration project filings to define a utility's plans to incorporate distributed energy resources and pilot alternative business models
- Led the development of strategic initiatives in T&D to drive operational improvements, respond to significant regulatory initiatives, and reduce cost. Developed the work plans associated with each initiative and the managed process to ensure their completion

- Led the effort to establish program management offices to manage both a Smart Grid investment grant and a Smart Grid demonstration grant for a large T&D utility. The effort included creating the necessary project management infrastructure to manage the projects and meet regulatory reporting requirements
- Developed the project controls and EVM reporting necessary to manage a T&D Smart Grid investment grant for a large integrated utility
- Developed a functional model for T&D through which existing accountabilities were assessed. Created a future state accountability model that clarified roles and responsibilities across the organization
- Led a project to develop a series of strategic initiatives for a T&D organization to improve its capital project-planning process; work included benchmarking of capital project planning and project management activities across multiple T&D organizations
- Developed the strategic initiatives and plan to establish a new asset management function at a T&D utility; work included analysis of the existing functions within the engineering organization and external benchmarking of asset management practices in T&D; helped the client stand up the new organization
- Managed the effort to build a new capital project planning process for a T&D utility which included a project prioritization process and stage-gating approvals
- Assessed capital project planning and project management processes to develop recommendations for improvements; led the implementation of initiatives to establish a capital committee and improve variance analysis and reporting