

University of Akron Secures \$5.5 Million in Federal Grants for Innovative Energy Projects

January 27, 2025



The University of Akron has been awarded two significant federal grants totaling nearly \$5.5 million from the U.S. Department of Energy. The grants will support two cutting-edge research and development projects focused on advancing sustainable energy technologies.

The first grant, totaling \$3,143,289, will fund the development of a revolutionary new recycling technology. This project aims to address the critical challenge of effectively recycling mixed plastics by developing a process to remove volatile organic compounds and pigments from these materials. This innovative technology will enable the production of high-quality, reusable plastic films that can be utilized by consumer packaged goods companies, thereby reducing plastic waste and promoting a more circular economy.

The second grant, valued at \$2,296,450, will support research and development efforts to enhance the transmission and distribution capacity of existing alternating current lines. This project will explore the integration of alternating current lines with high-voltage direct current energy networks, offering significant potential for improving the efficiency and reliability of the nation's energy grid. This innovative technology is expected to have broad applications across the electric transmission, distribution, and energy storage sectors.

"These grants are a testament to the University of Akron's commitment to research and innovation in the field of sustainable energy," said U.S. Rep. Emilia Sykes. "These projects will not only advance cutting-edge technologies but also contribute to a more sustainable and resilient energy future."

These prestigious awards underscore the University of Akron's position as a leader in energy research and

development. The university is committed to leveraging its expertise to address critical energy challenges and contribute to a more sustainable future.