

Sample: Integrated Resource Plan Objectives

Objective	Nature of the Objective
Reliable Electric Service	Serving consumers with minimal disruptions in electric service
Electrification	Providing electric service to those without convenient access to electricity is a common objective in developing countries
Minimize Environmental Impacts	Reducing the impacts of electricity generation (and energy use in general) is a goal that has received increasing attention in recent years. Environmental impacts on the global, regional, and local scales can be considered
Energy Security	Reducing the vulnerability of electricity generation (and the energy sector in general) to disruptions in supply caused by events outside the country
Use of Local Resources	Using more local resources to provide electricity services—including both domestic fuels and domestically manufactured technologies—is of interest in many countries. This objective may overlap with energy security objectives
Diversify Supply	Diversification may entail using several types of generation facilities, different types of fuels and resources, or using fuels from different suppliers
Increase Efficiency	Increasing the efficiency of electricity generation, transmission, distribution and use may be an objective in and of itself
Minimize Costs	Cost minimization is a key impetus for pursuing IRP, and a key objective in planning. The costs to be minimized can be costs to the utility, costs to society as a whole (which may include environmental costs), costs to customers, capital costs, foreign exchange costs, or other costs
Provide Social Benefits	Providing the social benefits of electrification to more people (for example, refrigeration and light for rural health clinics and schools, or light, radio, and television for domestic use). Conversely, social harms, as from relocation of households impacted by power project development, are to be prevented or minimized
Provide Local Employment	Resource choices have different effects upon local employment. IRP objectives can include increasing local employment related to the electricity sector, and increasing employment in the economy at large
Acquire Technology and Expertise	A utility (or country) may wish to use certain types of supply project development in order to acquire expertise in building and using the technologies involved
Retain Flexibility	Developing plans that are flexible enough to be modified when costs, political situations, economic outlook, or other conditions change

Source: *Best Practices Guide: Integrated Resource Planning For Electricity*, U.S. Agency for International Development (2009)