CASE STUDY

When ComEd was mandated to improve overall system reliability, it decided to deploy a common network for multiple smart grid and smart city services, enabling the utility to partner with cities to deliver new and improved services. The approach:

- ADVANCED METERING INFRASTRUCTURE (AMI) – delivering more choices and lower energy costs through an open and competitive electricity retail market

- DISTRIBUTION AUTOMATION (DA) – improving outage management through better targeting of restoration crews to fault locations, faster power restoration through the automatic detection of faults and rerouting of power around the faults. Outage avoidance saved customers an estimated $175 million from 2012 to 2014

- SMART STREET LIGHT PILOT – extending the network to install 800 smart street lights in small region of the Chicago area. ComEd expects 65 percent cost reduction for operations, maintenance and energy

BEST PRACTICES TO GET THERE

Start with a pilot
Conduct due diligence to research and select a smart grid/smart city technology partner. Set specific benchmarks and overall pilot goals to ensure technology will meet your needs.

Leverage a single network for multiple grid services
Think beyond your current needs and build a network that can integrate future services on a single network. Look for a standards-based architecture with high-level security features.

Communicate success
Publicize concrete statistics that demonstrate the success of your project along the way, such as operational savings, reduced energy needs and improved customer satisfaction.