# Getting Started with EPHCC Contributions on GitHub

Member contributions are a key part of the online Electric Power HIL Controls Consortium and we welcome them. But, in order for the repository to maintain organization with so many contributors a few guidelines must be followed.

Please familiarize yourself with the member contribution process which can be all done through the web interface or using other git command line tools:

1. First users should update their local repository with a pull from GitHub to ensure any other recent commits and/or potentially conflicting work is reflected on your local copy.
2. Make a [new branch](https://help.github.com/articles/creating-and-deleting-branches-within-your-repository/) which will hold your proposed changes for others to see. A good branch name might be something like organizationName\_changes. For example: govLab\_lowVoltRideThrough, johnDoe\_securityFix.
3. Apply (commit and push) any code changes or new files to the branch. This can be done in as many steps as needed. It often helps to break into several steps for clarity and linking comments to actions.
4. Check that your additions follow these guidelines:
   1. Files are placed in the appropriate sub-folder for the simulation tool and component class. See folder description in readme.
   2. Documentation and unit tests for any new components are included.
   3. Any validation results are included.
   4. Setup and supporting files are included.
   5. Derived files and intermediate temporary files are NOT included.
   6. Any information you don’t want to disclose is removed. Your commit will be public.
5. When you feel the work is ready for merging into the master repository branch start a new [pull request](https://help.github.com/articles/about-pull-requests/). In the comments you should include something about why you want to merge this new work to the master branch. For instance: This work adds the new battery model from vendor XYZ. It is tested on this piece of hardware. This solves the over voltage problem seen in previous testing.
6. At this point GitHub will send a notice to repository maintainers who can review the changes. Discussions can take place on the pull request page between parties. Lastly, once the changes are ready the administrators will merge the work to the master branch.