

National Energy Summit for States

Navigating Energy Trends and Federal Programs

Day One – Wednesday, May 28, 2025

9:00

Welcome and Opening Plenary

The opening plenary will feature a panel with representatives of several states discussing the issue of energy affordability and what their states are doing to make energy costs more affordable.

- Anna Ziai (Clean Energy States Alliance)
- Phillip Bartlett (Maine Public Utilities Commission)
- Angie Hatton (Kentucky Public Service Commission)
- Peter Ledford (North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality)
- Warren Leon (Clean Energy States Alliance) – moderator

10:00

Small Group Networking Breakouts

In small breakout rooms, state attendees will exchange information about their state's energy programs, with an emphasis on three topics: affordability, load growth, and resilience. Federal attendees can discuss the federal perspective on those topics or ask questions about state strategies. Attendees can also discuss what they hope to get out of the Summit.

11:00

Break

11:15

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Breakout 1: Load Growth: What States Need to Know

This session will discuss the sources and drivers of load growth, how these differ from one another, how they vary regionally, and how to assess the assumptions underlying load growth forecasts.

- Jonathan Koomey (Koomey Analytics)
- Bruce Tsuchida (The Brattle Group)
- Carrie Hearne (Virginia Commission on Electric Utility Regulation) – moderator

Breakout 2: Energy Tax Credits Status Update

This session will help attendees understand the status of various energy-related tax credits, and how those tax credits can be used by the residents, businesses, and other organizations in their state.

- Keith Martin (Norton Rose Fulbright)
- Vero Bourg-Meyer (Clean Energy States Alliance) – moderator

Breakout 3: Facilitating Community Engagement in Project Development

Attendees will hear from an expert panel and discuss how to integrate community participation into the project development process.

- Tamara Ogle (Perdue University)
- Damian Pitt (Virginia Commonwealth University Institute for Sustainable Energy and Environment)
- Ryan Trauley (Maryland Energy Administration)
- Jonathan Morgenstein (National Renewable Energy Laboratory) – moderator

12:30

Lunch

1:30

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Breakout 1: Working with FERC: How and Why

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) plays a key role in energy issues, but it can be difficult to understand and engage with. This session will give guidance on what FERC does, currently pressing issues, and how stakeholders can participate.

- Yewande Bayly (FERC)
- Christina Hayes (Americans for a Clean Energy Grid)
- Rob Thormeyer (FERC)
- Ben Paulos (PaulosAnalysis) – moderator

Breakout 2: Actions States Can Take to Address Load Growth

This session will discuss actions states might take in response to load growth to address issues of affordability, allocate the costs of supporting investments, protect ratepayers from economic and reliability risks, and consider how load growth might affect states' ability to meet statutory energy policy goals.

- Daniel Hopper (Southern California Edison)
- David Springe (National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates)
- Jason Stanek (PJM Interconnection)
- Angela Navarro (ALN Policy and Law, LLC) – moderator

Breakout 3: Home Energy Strategies & Best Practices

State participants will hear about best practices in home energy strategies, updates on the Home Energy Rebates programs, and best practices from states implementing home efficiency upgrades via incentives across the US. States will have designated time to discuss and ask implementation questions of one another.

- Forest Bradley Wright (American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy)
- Anita Wilson (Georgia Environmental Finance Authority)
- Melissa Cheatham (S2 Strategies) – moderator

2:45

Break

3:00

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Breakout 1: Geothermal Opportunities

Geothermal energy is benefiting from innovations in heat pumps and drilling, to provide new sources of heating and power production. This panel will talk about recent progress and what states can do to take advantage of it.

- Anna Holmstead (Utah Office of Energy Development)
- Zeyneb Magavi (HEET)
- Sean Porse (U.S. Department of Energy, Geothermal Technologies Office)
- Ben Paulos (PaulosAnalysis) – moderator

Breakout 2: How Grid Operators Manage the Grid

This session will cover such basic concepts as the variability of demand, reserve margins, dispatchability, and load following. It will explain traditional strategies grid operators use to balance supply and demand, as well as emerging tools like energy storage, demand response, and virtual power plans. It will explain how a range of generation sources, including intermittent generation, can be incorporated into a reliable 24/7 power system.

- Paul Denholm (National Renewable Energy Laboratory)
- Sam Schacht (Clean Energy States Alliance) – moderator

Breakout 3: Meaningful Household Savings from Solar

This session will examine ways that states can design and later evaluate solar programs to ensure that they provide meaningful household savings to participants. It will consider a range of solar project types, including residential-serving community solar, rooftop solar, and installations serving multifamily affordable housing.

- Jonathan Abe (Sunwealth)
- Kyle Wallace (PosiGen)
- Vero Bourg-Meyer (Clean Energy States Alliance) – moderator

4:15

Break

4:30

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Breakout 1: State-Tribe Collaboration

Working with Tribes is different for states than working with other entities, because Tribes are sovereign entities and are not subject to state laws, regulations, or processes on Tribal lands. This session will discuss strategies for working with Tribes and will highlight successful programs and energy projects involving collaboration between states and Tribes.

- Claudio Clini (Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy)
- Chris Deschene (National Inter-Tribal Energy Council)
- Wendolyn Holland (Alliance for Tribal Clean Energy) – moderator

Breakout 2: Transmission

This session will discuss the status of transmission upgrades and what states can and should do to address transmission.

- Josh Rogers (Great Plains Institute)
- Elizabeth Salerno (GQS New Energy Strategies)
- Beth Soholt (Clean Grid Alliance)
- Gretchen Kershaw (Grid Strategies LLC) – moderator

Breakout 3: Virtual Power Plants

In recent years, there has been increased interest in virtual power plants (VPPs), the connected aggregation of distributed energy resource technologies to collectively play the role of a local power plant. This session will present different models for VPPs and will consider ways in which state energy agencies can help implement VPPs. The session will include a case study of consumer education and customers' experiences through a VPP.

- Sergio Carrillo (CT Green Bank)
- Hanna Jones (Clean Energy States Alliance)
- Todd Olinsky-Paul (Clean Energy States Alliance)
- Seth Mullendore (Clean Energy Group) – moderator

5:45

Adjourn

5:45 – 9:00

Reception and Dinner

After the day's sessions adjourn, attendees can dine and connect with one another at the Gallaudet University Peikoff Alumni House, steps away from the Kellogg Conference Hotel. Hors d'oeuvres and a buffet-style dinner will be served, along with music and a cash bar. In addition to the indoor reception, attendees can try their luck playing several fun games on the outside lawn.

Day Two – Thursday, May 29, 2025

9:00 – 9:30

Technical Assistance Poster Session

Posters from national laboratories and nonprofit organizations that offer technical assistance (TA) to states will be on display throughout the Summit. The posters will describe TA that is available to states. During this half-hour poster session, representatives of the organizations that prepared posters will be available to informally discuss their organizations and the TA they offer. Summit attendees will be able to schedule short 15-minute one-on-one meetings with the TA providers.

Technical Assistance One-on-One Meetings (9:30- 12:00). Summit attendees can use the Whova app to schedule one-on-one meetings with TA providers from national laboratories and nonprofit organizations. [Details here](#).

9:15 – 9:30

Breakout Session

Breakout 1: How to Compensate DERs for Location-Specific Services

- Corrin Moss (Massachusetts Clean Energy Center)

9:35 – 10:05

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Breakout 1: State Consumer Protection Measures

The Illinois Power Agency (IPA) has made consumer protection a priority in its energy programs and has implemented a range of consumer protection procedures. Sarah Duffy, IPA's Director of External Affairs, will identify issues states should consider when designing consumer protection measures, and will share strategies states can use to protect consumers who participate in solar, energy efficiency, and other home energy programs.

- Sarah Duffy (Illinois Power Agency)

Breakout 2: CAIRO Tool, Rates Design, and Electricity Markets

- Thomas Bowen (NREL)

Breakout 3: The Art of Stacking

This session will discuss how states can combine federal, state, and local incentives to maximize program benefits.

- Alisa Petersen (Rocky Mountain Institute)

10:10 – 10:40

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Breakout 1: NCSP+, SAM, and ReOpt Tools

- Simon Sandler (NREL)

Breakout 2: Technical Assistance with Sandia National Laboratories

Sandia National Laboratories is available to provide technical assistance to states regarding energy storage topics, focusing on regulations, economics, and technologies. Through analysis and knowledge-sharing, Sandia supports states by providing independent and objective perspectives on relevant topics that are needed to explore and effectively implement energy storage solutions through state-level regulations. Sandia assists regulatory commissions, state energy offices, and other related organizations by providing customized, educational tutorials that provide state officials with the tools needed to more quickly and efficiently integrate energy storage into their regional operations. In this session, Will McNamara and Dylan Poindexter of Sandia will discuss the program offering and share insights that have been developed through Sandia's energy storage engagements with states.

- Dylan Poindexter (Sandia National Laboratories)
- Will McNamara (Sandia National Laboratories)

Breakout 3: Programs from Minnesota and Rhode Island

This session will discuss Minnesota's Regional C-PACE Program and Revolving Loan Fund and the Rhode Island Clean Energy Internship Program.

- Shauna Beland (Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources)
Karen Stewart (Rhode Island Commerce)
- Leah M Wilkes (Minnesota State Energy Office)
- Hanna Jones (Clean Energy States Alliance) – moderator

10:45

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Breakout 1: Promoting Innovation by States: A Roundtable Discussion

Some states have programs to support and promote cutting-edge energy technologies, start-up energy businesses, and innovative financing strategies. A roundtable discussion among representatives of several states that have been active in these arenas will suggest possible ways for other states to support innovation. There will be opportunity for questions and ideas from the audience.

- Richard Bourgeois (NYSERDA)
- Sara Harari (CT Green Bank)
- Galen Nelson (Mass Clean Energy Center)
- Cammy Peterson (California Energy Commission)
- Warren Leon (Clean Energy States Alliance) – moderator

Breakout 2: The State of the Art in Energy Storage

Presenters will first summarize the state of the art in energy storage technologies and applications, and the current position of the US industry and markets. From that foundation, the panel will look ahead to anticipated near-future advances and trends including new battery chemistries, medium- and long-duration storage, and changing wholesale energy market rules.

- Paul Denholm (NREL)
- Prantik Saha (Black & Veatch Corporation)
- Spencer Nelson (Form Energy)
- Seth Mullendore (Clean Energy Group) – moderator

12:00

Lunch

1:00

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Breakout 1: Demystifying State Activities for Supporting Advanced Nuclear

2024 was an important year for advanced nuclear. Load growth forecasts grew in part due to new energy requirements from data centers and re-shoring of industrial manufacturing; DOE announced \$800 million in new funding for Gen III+ nuclear projects; and large tech companies increased their interest in nuclear. This panel will share snapshots from NARUC's Advanced Nuclear State Action Tracker on how states are preparing for advanced nuclear and will provide insights from states that are frontrunners in planning and deployment. The session will also briefly summarize the status of existing nuclear plants, including prospects for re-opening closed plants.

- Reed Clay (Texas Nuclear Alliance)
- Francisco Ralston Fonseca (Electric Power Research Institute)
- April Wade (Virginia Nuclear Energy Consortium)
- Katheryn Kline (National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners) – moderator

Breakout 2: The Role of Local Resources

There is growing awareness that local resources—distributed generation, energy storage, microgrids, and automated demand flexibility—can provide valuable services to help maintain the reliability of electric supply and increase the grid's resilience to disruption, often at a cost less than other solutions or infrastructure investments. This session will examine regulatory and policy approaches to realizing the value of local resources for the benefit of customers in the form of lower bills and greater reliability and resilience.

- Emile Thompson (District of Columbia Public Service Commission)
- Pete Wyckoff (Minnesota Department of Commerce)
- Stacey Paradis (Illinois Commerce Commission) – moderator

2:15

Break

2:30

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Breakout 1: Solving Barriers to Energy Development

It can be difficult to site and get approval and build new energy projects. This panel will discuss some of the structural barriers that stand in the way of successful completion of a project. The session will include: recommendations for state siting and permitting policies, from a survey performed by E3; proposed reforms to the interconnection queue by Grid Strategies, to solve the backlog of new generation and storage waiting to come online; and the Northeast States Collaborative on Interregional Transmission, a multistate effort to accelerate the siting and permitting of regional and interregional transmission facilities.

- Lakshmi Alagappan (E3)
- Rob Gramlich (Grid Strategies)
- Jessica Waldorf (New York State Department of Public Service)
- Ben Paulos (PaulosAnalysis) – moderator

Breakout 2: What States are Doing about Energy Storage

Presenters will provide a brief overview of current state energy storage policies, programs, and procurement, before moving into a discussion of what states can do in the coming years to scale up energy storage. Topics will include energy storage and electrification, virtual power plants, community solar+storage, and new program and policy models.

- Erin Ferrell (Maine Governor's Energy Office)
- Jeremy Lewis (New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department)
- David Comis (Maryland Energy Administration)
- Will McNamara (Sandia National Laboratories) – moderator

3:45

Break

4:00

Wrap Up and Next Steps

This will be an opportunity for wrap-up comments and to discuss follow-up actions that Summit organizers and states can take to ensure effective state implementation of federal energy programs going forward.

4:30
Adjourn
