



Tuesday, October 21, 2025—Optional Activities

1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Workshop on States Driving Energy Innovation

National Renewable Energy Laboratory
15013 Denver West Parkway, Golden, CO

State attendees are invited to join the NREL Foundation and fellow state energy leaders for a dynamic half-day workshop prior to the CESA Annual Members Meeting to spark collaboration and drive energy innovation forward. Through facilitated discussion and deep-dive sessions, participants will explore emerging collaboration opportunities, identify priority areas for joint action, and build lasting connections to power a cross-state energy innovation agenda going forward. From 4 to 5 PM, participants will have an opportunity to tour the NREL Energy Systems Integration Facility. If you have questions or want to attend this workshop, you must write to Graham Pugh at graham.pugh@nrelfoundation.org.

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Tour of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

15013 Denver West Parkway, Golden, CO

NREL's administrative offices, education center, and most research laboratories are located on an extensive campus in Golden. This tour will give you an overview of the facility with an emphasis on the NREL Energy Systems Integration Facility. Interested CESA Members can either meet the group at the NREL campus at 3:30 PM or leave with colleagues from the Magnolia Hotel at 3 PM.

7:00 pm

Optional Dinner

Thirsty Lion Denver at Union Station

1605 Wynkoop Street

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

All sessions and breakfast will be at the Tivoli Student Union on the Auraria Campus, 900 Auraria Parkway, Denver, CO

8:30 am – 9:15 am

Breakfast

Outside the LoRaine Good Room, Tivoli Student Union

9:15 am

Welcome and Introduction

- Warren Leon, Executive Director, CESA

9:25 am

Ice-Breaker Networking

An opportunity for attendees to learn about each other and the concerns they may have in common.

9:55 am

Setting the Stage for the Day's Brainstorming and Discussions

This session will consider how the meeting can meet attendees' goals and expectations and will set guidelines for brainstorming.

10:15 am

Delineating Challenges (Part A)

Brainstorming solutions requires a clear understanding of the problems we seek to solve and the challenges we face. In small groups, attendees will draw challenges to meeting their state goals, and by draw, we mean draw! So, sharpen your pencils, and work with your peers while engaging a different part of the brain, in community.

- Facilitator: Vero Bourg-Meyer, Deputy Director, CESA

10:45 am

Break

11:00 am

Delineating Challenges (Part B)

The group will get back together, clarify shared goals and challenges, and create a master list.

11:15 am

State Presentations

Short presentations from three states about innovative programs they are excited about and that could be applicable to other states.

12:00 pm

Lunch

1:00 pm

Stop/Start/Continue

Grouping state programs into categories:

1. Those that may need to stop because of federal energy policy and funding changes.
2. Those that will be able to continue with few changes and little outside help.
3. New programs and initiatives that can be started to meet current needs but may need outside assistance.

2:00 pm

The Near Future for Energy Markets, Energy Regulation, and Energy Technologies

A panel discussion among experts on how the energy landscape is changing and what the implications may be for state policies, programs, and regulations.

- Moderator: Todd Olinsky-Paul, Senior Project Director, CESA
- Panelists:
 - Cameron Brooks, Founder and President, E9 Insight
 - Will McNamara, Policy Analyst, Sandia National Laboratories
 - Jenny Sumner, Group Manager, Decision Support Analysis, National Renewable Energy Laboratory
 - Possible additional panelist

3:00 pm

Break

3:10 pm

The Crystal Ball

Building on the previous panel discussion, attendees will consider what is going to happen with clean energy in their states in the next five years. What are the possibilities for clean energy policies, business models, financing strategies, etc?

3:55 pm
Break

4:05 pm
Areas for State Intervention and Potential Collaboration

The group will bring together the themes of the day into an organized whole and flesh out the pathways for coordinated state actions.

5:05 pm
Half-Baked Ideas Session

In a judgment-free atmosphere, we will come up with wild and wacky ideas to find insights and brilliance mixed in with the dreck—and to have fun.

5:50 pm
Adjourn

7:00 pm
Dinner Near the Meeting Hotel
Maggiano's Little Italy Denver
500 16th Street, Suite 150

Thursday, October 23, 2025

All sessions and breakfast will be at the Tivoli Student Union on the Auraria Campus, 900 Auraria Parkway, Denver, CO

8:30 am – 9:15 am

Breakfast

Outside the LoRaine Good Room, Tivoli Student Union

9:15 am

State Presentations

Short presentations from three states about innovative programs they are excited about and that could be applicable to other states.

10:00 am

Opportunities Part One: Concurrent Breakout Sessions

In this session and the next two, the meeting will explore topics that represent opportunities for new and expanded state action. Depending upon the topic, the breakout session may include presentations, panel discussions, brainstorming, or information exchange.

Breakout 1: Affordability

- Moderator: Hanna Jones, Project Director, CESA

Breakout 2: Innovation

- Moderator: Sam Schacht, Project Director, CESA

11:00 am

Break

11:10 am

Opportunities Part Two: Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Breakout 1: Load Growth

- Moderator: Todd Olinsky-Paul, CESA

Breakout 2: Networked Geothermal

- Moderator: Anna Ziai, Project Director, CESA

12:10 pm

Lunch

1:10 pm

Opportunities Part Three

The groups from the morning opportunities breakout sessions will report out on the key findings from those sessions. In addition, there will be identification of other opportunities not covered by those four groups.

1:40 pm

Risks and Uncertainties

Initially in small groups, attendees will identify and discuss the risks and challenges associated with addressing the opportunities that were discussed earlier in the day.

2:30 pm

Break

2:40 pm

Vision of the Future

Meeting participants will build a picture of the future that states want and aspire to.

3:30 pm

Close-Out

Summarizing the results of the meeting and identifying next steps. This session will give special attention to the assistance that CESA can and should provide to members in the coming year.

4:00 pm

Adjourn
