NCEL
National Caucus of Environmental Legislators

Building the Grid of the Future: An Energy Convening for Western Legislators

Dates: October 27 - October 30
States: AZ, CO, ID, MT, NM, NV, OR, UT, WA, WY
Location: Salt Lake City, Utah

Monday, October 27th: Check-in & Opening **Session and Time**
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM Hotel Check-in
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Opening Reception

Tuesday, October 28th: Setting the Scene for the West **Session and Time**
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM Registration & Breakfast
8:30 AM - 9:00 AM Opening Remarks & Introductions
9:00 AM - 10:15 AM *Setting the Scene* • What challenges and opportunities exist for the grid in the West? • Why is transmission important to addressing current and future challenges? • The economic, affordability, and resilience benefits of an improved grid & transmission infrastructure
10:15 AM - 10:45 AM Coffee & Networking Break
10:45 AM - 12:15 PM *Working Together To Build a More Reliable, Resilient, and Affordable Grid: National Security, Labor, and Conservation Concerns* • Learn how to balance concerns for national security, labor, and conservation when building the grid of the future
12:15 PM - 1:30 PM Lunch
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM *Pre-Tour Presentation from Torus Inc*
2:30 PM - 4:30 PM *Interactive Tour of Energy Storage Facility* • Torus Inc's state-of-the-art facilities in South Salt Lake, Utah. Torus is building groundbreaking energy

storage and management products designed to power communities sustainably and reliably. By manufacturing products stateside with domestically sourced materials, Torus is creating green jobs and helping to establish America as a leading source of energy innovation. Learn about battery storage, virtual power plants, and grid security.

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM
Break

6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Dinner Reception: The Business and Economic Case for Renewable Energy

Wednesday, October 29th: Grid Policy Workshops

Session and Time

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM
Breakfast Buffet

9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Tour the University of Utah Nuclear Reactor Lab (UNRL) & Grid Simulation Testbed at Utah Smart Energy Laboratory

- For 50 years, the **Utah Nuclear Reactor Lab** has been a vital research instrument for nuclear energy, medicine, defense, and radiation modeling. Tour the lab to learn how this work has supported the defense and medical industry in the state and the US Department of Energy.
- At the **Utah Smart Energy Laboratory** explore the front lines of grid resilience and energy innovation. The U-Smart hosts the NSF WIRED Center, a bi-national, interdisciplinary research hub leading efforts to strengthen the Western Interconnected Grid, serving nearly 80 million people across 11 U.S. states and 2 Canadian provinces. Visitors will also gain insight into how this cutting-edge center uses modeling, simulation, and cross-border collaboration to anticipate vulnerabilities and build long-term resilience into one of North America's most critical infrastructure systems.

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM
Lunch

1:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Data Center Workshop

- Throughout Western states, AI data centers are driving up energy demand at an exponential pace, straining our already aging grid and increasing costs for ratepayers. This workshop will dive into what data centers are, what their growth means for states and local communities, and ways state legislators are beginning to tackle both the challenges and opportunities presented by this new industry.

2:30 PM - 3:45 PM
Energy & Grid Policy Speed Dating

- Learn more about different policy options state legislators can advance to build a more resilient grid, promote affordability, and address energy demands. Join small breakout discussions for a deeper dive on these policy options.
    - Rotation 1: Transmission
        - Grid Enhancing Technologies (GETs) and Advanced Reconductoring
        - Public Financing for Transmission & Transmission Authorities
        - Siting with Existing Rights of Ways (ROWs)

- Rotation 2: Deploying Distributed Energy Resources
  - Expediting Permitting for Residential Solar/Batteries
  - Solar for Apartments and Condos (Plug-in Solar)
  - Microgrids
- Rotation 3: Meeting Large Scale Energy Needs
  - Virtual Power Plants
  - Demand Response (DR) and Energy Efficiency
  - Utility Scale Siting and Permitting

3:45 PM - 4:00 PM
Coffee & Networking Break

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Communicating benefits of transmission and energy infrastructure to your constituents

- Practical skills for bringing people into conversations on fraught and controversial subjects
- Tools and examples of successful outreach and engagement processes
- Effective messages for various audiences on the benefits of infrastructure

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Dinner on Your Own

Thursday, October 30th: Interactive Site Tour

Session and Time

7:30 AM - 9:00 AM
Breakfast & Check Out

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Interactive Site Tour at Weber State University

- **12:00 PM - 1:30 PM**
  - On Site Lunch

3:00 PM
Arrive back in Salt Lake City