

Energy Talk In Depth

Focus on: Energy Grid Resilience



TOP STORY

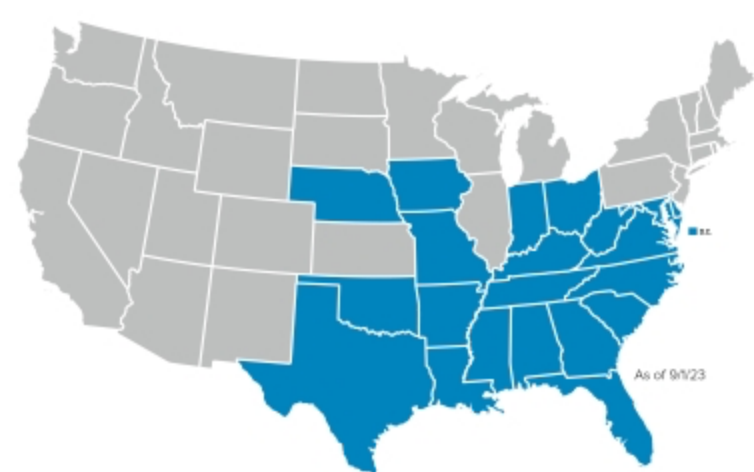
Electric Companies Invest in Resilience

EI's member companies—America's investor-owned electric companies—are committed to delivering a resilient clean energy future to the customers and communities they serve. They have invested more than \$1 trillion over the past decade to make the energy grid cleaner, stronger, more reliable, and more secure, and they are on track to invest more than \$167 billion in 2023 alone. In every state, electric companies are working with policymakers, regulators, community leaders, and other key stakeholders who have an important role in prioritizing investments.

Facing an increase in wildfires and other extreme weather events, electric companies are making substantial investments in adaptation, hardening, and resilience to help mitigate risk: still, there is no such thing as zero risk. That is why EEI's member companies are working to drive down risk and to ensure they are prepared to respond safely and as quickly as possible when incidents do occur.

The energy grid is the platform that is enabling the continued deployment of clean energy, as EEI and our member companies continue to work to lower carbon emissions in our sector and across the economy to combat climate change. Electric companies are uniquely positioned to continue making the investments needed to build more resilient infrastructure in a way that prioritizes customer affordability.

Hurricane Idalia: Mutual Assistance Networks Activated



EXTREME WEATHER

Hurricane Idalia: Powerful Storm, Powerful Response

In August, Hurricane Idalia made landfall in Florida as a Category 3 hurricane before moving inland through Georgia and the Carolinas. In total, approximately 669,000 customers lost power during Idalia. An army of more than 29,500 workers from at least 21 states and the District of Columbia mobilized to restore power quickly and safely to impacted customers.

The significant investments made in hardening critical transmission and distribution infrastructure enabled mutual assistance crews to begin restoring power swiftly in the wake of Idalia. Investments in smarter energy infrastructure also have greatly increased situational awareness of where outages are occurring to help enable this efficient response.

Learn more about the industry's response to Idalia in [the August edition of Energy Talk](#).



SECURITY MATTERS

Ensuring a Secure, Resilient Grid

"The scope and significance of our role as grid owners and operators cannot be overstated," writes Brian Barrios, vice president and chief information security officer at Southern California Edison, in the latest issue of *Electric Perspectives*. "The work we do is essential to our national security and economy. As I look back on our industry's unique record of partnership and collaboration among peer companies and our federal, state, and local government partners, I have confidence in the future. Ensuring the security and reliability of the grid is a shared priority between industry and government. We must continue the good work being done today and continually look for opportunities to improve and expand our collective efforts."

Read more about how industry and government are managing this transformative period for the energy grid in [Electric Perspectives](#).



SPONSORED CONTENT

Creating a New Model for Resilience

For Oklahoma Gas & Electric (OG&E), reducing disaster recovery time is a top priority. After a 2020 ice storm knocked out power for weeks, it had to change how it looked at resilience. [OG&E partnered with Osmose](#) and started a four-step process to maximize value in making overhead lines more structurally resilient.



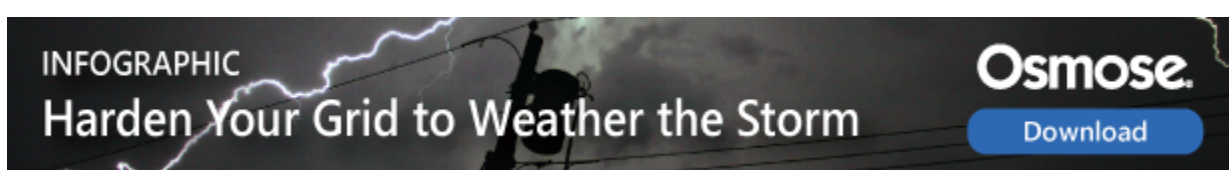
COMPANY SPOTLIGHT

PG&E Microgrid Powers Coast Guard Air Base Through Natural Disasters, Extreme Weather

A microgrid developed in part by Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) was put to the test earlier this year as historic winter storms battered Humboldt County, Calif., just days after a 6.4-magnitude earthquake shook the region and knocked out power to thousands of residents in the surrounding area.

In both instances, the Redwood Coastal Airport Microgrid kept the lights on for its 19 business and military customers, including the Arcata-Eureka Airport and adjacent U.S. Coast Guard Air Base, which are critical to travel, emergency, and rescue efforts in the region. The microgrid "islanded"—disconnecting from the surrounding distribution grid and sustaining power through a 2.3-megawatt battery energy storage system made up of three Tesla Megapacks—for several hours following the earthquake and during the winter storms.

Read more about the microgrid—and its standard blue-sky operations of generating resilient clean energy—in the latest issue of [Electric Perspectives](#).



Back row, left to right: El Paso Electric President and CEO Kelly Tomblin, Fortis Inc. President and CEO David Hutchens, UNS Energy Corporation President and CEO Susan Gray, Dominion Energy Virginia President Ed Baine, Hawaiian Electric President and CEO Shelee Kimura, Hawaiian Electric Industries President and CEO Scott Seu. Table: EEI President Tom Kuhn and Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy, and Environment Rachel Jacobson.

INDUSTRY-MILITARY PARTNERSHIPS

EEI Collaborates with Army, Navy, for Resilience

In March, EEI and the U.S. Army signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to facilitate the continued exploration of best practices for joint energy resilience planning at installations across the Army enterprise. The MOU, signed by the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations, Energy, and Environment Rachel Jacobson and EEI President and CEO Tom Kuhn, established a framework for the two organizations to collaborate and share information on energy security and resilience strategies.

The MOU laid the foundation for joint efforts to identify, develop, and implement best practices for energy resilience planning, with the goal of ensuring a secure and reliable energy supply for military installations, as well as the broader community.

Read more about the EEI-Army MOU in the [joint press release](#).



L to R: Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations, and Environment Meredith Berger and EEI President and CEO Tom Kuhn.

In August, EEI and the U.S. Department of the Navy (DON) signed an MOU on energy resilience, which establishes a framework for the two organizations to identify opportunities to align the common energy goals of the Navy, its servicing electric companies, and nearby communities.

Relationships between EEI member companies and DON have been instrumental in increasing energy resilience, reliability, and efficiency, as well as reducing energy consumption at DON and Marine Corps installations. The MOU, signed by Kuhn and Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations, and Environment Meredith Berger, will empower these relationships to identify best practices that support the energy grid, local communities, and national security interests.

Read more about the EEI-DON MOU in the [joint press release](#).



TUNE IN

Investing to Enhance Grid Reliability

EEI's member companies continue to make significant investments to enhance the energy grid. One of the many grid enhancement projects that is underway to ensure reliable and resilient clean energy can be delivered to customers now and in the years to come is Georgia Power's Grid Improvement Plan.

On a recent episode of the *Electric Perspectives* podcast, Georgia Power Vice President of Strategy and Support Cleve Fann and Pike Electric President Matt Fisher dive into the details of Georgia Power's Grid Improvement Plan. They discuss specific projects underway as part of the plan and how they are benefiting customers.

[Listen now.](#)

