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Powerful Response to Hurricanes Helene, Milton

Hurricane Helene made landfall on September 26 as a Category 4 hurricane near Perry, Florida, and impacted nearly 6 million* customers in the Carolinas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. An army of more than 50,000 workers from at least 41 states, the District of Columbia (D.C.), and Canada was dedicated to the Helene response—which is one of the largest and most complex industry restoration efforts in U.S. history.

Less than two weeks later, Hurricane Milton made landfall on October 9 as a strong Category 3 storm and moved across the Florida peninsula, impacting approximately 3.4 million* customers at peak. An army of more than 50,000 workers from at least 43 states, D.C., and Canada was dedicated to the Milton response and restoration effort.

We are grateful for the extraordinary work of all of the impacted companies—and the tireless efforts of tens of thousands of mutual assistance workers from across the nation and Canada. Rebuild and recovery continues in the areas of North Carolina hardest hit by Helene.

EEl thanks impacted customers for their patience and support, and we are grateful for our industry and government partners who have been coordinating closely to ensure safe and efficient restorations. [President Joe Biden expressed his gratitude for this close coordination while speaking directly to electric company CEOs on October 11.](#)

Visit EEl's [Helene](#) and [Milton](#) storm centers to find storm response resources and photos and videos of the response and restoration efforts.

**It is important to remember that outages measure customer meters impacted, not the number of individuals without power. Due to the nature of the storm, customers may have experienced more than one outage.*



L to R: Gina Mahony, Managing Director, Cogent Strategies; Abigail Ross Hopper, President and CEO, Solar Energy Industries Association; Dan Brouillette, President and CEO, EEI; and John Di Stasio, President, Large Public Power Council, at National Clean Energy Week.

CLEAN ENERGY LEADERSHIP

EEI Showcases Industry Leadership During Climate Week NYC, National Clean Energy Week

The clean energy leadership of America's electric companies was front and center last month as EEI and our member companies sponsored and participated in numerous events related to Climate Week NYC and National Clean Energy Week (NCEW).

During the NCEW Policymakers Summit, held September 23-27 in Washington, D.C., EEI President and CEO Dan Brouillette joined a panel discussion on the opportunities and challenges for clean energy investment and deployment.

"We need to find the balance between reliability and resilience," Brouillette said when discussing the opportunities for more clean energy development. "We need to look at affordability. And, of course, we need to keep our eye on the environmental goals we've set for ourselves. All three have to be in balance, otherwise we won't meet our clean energy goals."

EEI Chair Maria Pope, president and CEO of Portland General Electric, also delivered remarks to attendees, highlighting the work of EEI's member companies to deploy clean energy and to improve the resilience of the energy grid.

“The transition to clean energy is foundational,” Pope said during her remarks. “EEI member companies are leading the way while addressing the impacts of extreme weather, including wildfires, by investing in climate-resilient infrastructure.”

Climate Week NYC was held September 23-29. EEI Vice Chair Calvin Butler, president and CEO of Exelon Corporation; Andrés Gluski, president and CEO of AES Corporation; Rebecca Kujawa, president and CEO of NextEra Energy Resources; Pedro J. Pizarro, president and CEO of Edison International; and many more EEI member company executives showcased our clean energy leadership through discussions on clean energy deployment, investments, grid resilience, new technologies, and more.

From September 27 to October 6, EEI member companies across the United States celebrated National Drive Electric Week (NDEW). Through in-person and virtual events, EEI’s member companies educated customers about the benefits of owning an electric vehicle (EV) and showcased their work to expand access to EVs and EV charging infrastructure.

Stay tuned for more in-depth highlights in an upcoming issue of *Electric Perspectives*.



L to R: Ralph Cleveland, President and CEO, American Association of Blacks in Energy; Melody Birmingham, Executive Vice President and Group President of Utilities, NiSource; Steve Hightower, President and CEO, Hightower EV Solutions; Karim Marshall, Senior Advisor for Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; and Lloyd Yates, President and CEO, NiSource.

ENSURING ENERGY EQUITY

Highlights from the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference

In early September, NiSource hosted a panel at the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's 53rd Annual Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., on economic inclusion, affordability, and environmental justice in the clean energy transition.

Panelists included Lloyd Yates, president and CEO of NiSource; Melody Birmingham, executive vice president and group president of utilities at NiSource; Steve Hightower, president and CEO of Hightower EV Solutions; and Karim Marshall, senior advisor for environmental justice and external civil rights for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

"Diversity, equity, and inclusion is opening your aperture to find the best people from every walk of life," said Yates. "When you do that, your company and organization perform a lot better. Diversity, equity, and inclusion make you a whole lot better than having nothing at all."

During this session, which was moderated by Ralph Cleveland, president and CEO of the American Association of Blacks in Energy, panelists discussed the importance of business diversity and workforce development to meet the growing infrastructure needs brought on by rising energy demand.

Yates encouraged attendees to "think about the amount of jobs and opportunities that creates" for disadvantaged communities. "Those jobs are people out in the streets and fields and plants," he said. As a whole, the electric power industry supports more than 7 million American jobs.

EEL Vice President of Government Relations Eric Grey also participated in a panel discussion at the Annual Legislative Conference with Gilbert Campbell, founder and CEO of Volt Energy Utility; Ben Duncan, chief resilience officer for the South Carolina Office of Resilience; Emile Thompson, chairman of the Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia; and Jahi Wise, senior advisor to the EPA administrator. The panelists discussed the economic opportunity and environmental benefits of federal resources dedicated to solar development and deployment.

"Ensuring that all voices are included [in the clean energy transition] goes back to ensuring that all resources are available at the local level," said Grey. "EEL's member companies operate in every state. They have that in-depth knowledge of all these programs to be able to help every community begin clean energy projects."

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EEI VOTES

Use Your #EnergyToVote

Free, fair, and transparent elections are a hallmark of our democracy. With Election Day next month, EEI encourages all Americans to exercise their right to vote.

Voters should be aware of candidates, deadlines, and registration information; early, absentee, and mail-in voting rules; polling locations; and other details specific to their jurisdictions. All of this information is available through EEI's Get Out the Vote website, [EEIVotes.org](https://www.eei.org/get-out-the-vote).



TUNE IN

Electric Perspectives: The Podcast

The *Electric Perspectives* podcast discusses the latest trends and issues shaping the electric power industry.

On a recent episode, Adam Grant, director of electrification and energy services, Nevada, at NV Energy, and Maria Kretzing, vice president and general manager of electric vehicles (EVs) and analytics at Bidgely, joined the podcast to discuss Bidgely's AI-powered technology that supports electric transportation programs and how NV Energy is partnering with Bidgely to understand its customers' EV charging habits.

Plus, Dan Krueger, executive vice president of infrastructure and generation planning at WEC Energy Group; Todd Duffield, market strategist at WEC Energy Group; and Jon Rodriguez, energy business director of engine power plants at Wärtsilä, discuss the companies' partnership to test a Wärtsilä engine that is designed to run on a hydrogen fuel blend at one of WEC Energy's power plants in Michigan.

[Listen to the episodes here](#) or wherever you get your podcasts.



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DRIVE ELECTRIC

EEI Projects 78.5 Million EVs Will Be on U.S. Roads in 2035

Earlier this month, EEI released its Electric Vehicle Sales and the Charging Infrastructure Required Through 2035 report. Originally released in 2018, the updated report details new insights into the coming wave of electric vehicle (EV) sales and the charging infrastructure needed to support the projected EV growth.

EEI projects that the number of EVs on U.S. roads will reach 78.5 million in 2035, up from 4.5 million at the end of 2023. This is more than 26 percent of the nearly 300 million total vehicles (cars and light trucks) expected to be on U.S. roads in 2035.

[Read more highlights and access the full report here.](#)

Also this month, EEI signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Powering America's Commercial Transportation (PACT), a coalition focused on education and advocacy for accelerating the deployment of nationwide infrastructure for medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles.

[Read the announcement](#) to learn more about how the MOU will enable EEI and PACT to work together to help deploy and scale the affordable infrastructure necessary to facilitate and enable the widespread operation of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles.



Stream All Sessions From the 8th Annual Global Electrification Forum

EEl's eighth annual Global Electrification Forum (GEF)—held April 15-19 in Washington, D.C.—attracted more than 1,000 in-person and virtual attendees from around the world and highlighted how international electric companies are leading efforts to advance global electrification.

Sessions centered on the need for innovation and collaboration to continue our progress toward a resilient clean energy future, with a focus on cross-industry partnerships, emerging demand-drivers like artificial intelligence and data centers, grid resilience initiatives, green hydrogen, and more. All GEF sessions now are available to stream on [the EEl International Programs Engagement Hub](#).

GET SOCIAL

President Joe Biden Recognizes Industry Response to Hurricane Milton



President Biden

@POTUS



So far, 50,000 dedicated power line workers have restored power to more than 1 million people across Florida. And I've just spoken with electric utility leaders to thank them for surging crews.

We'll continue to prioritize this effort until everyone's power is restored.



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