

Energy **Talk**

Your Monthly Energy News Digest

December 2024



IEI Co-Chair and Puget Sound Energy President and CEO Mary Kipp moderates a panel discussion on flexible demand resources at Powering the People 2024.

TOP STORY

Powering the People 2024

The Institute for Electric Innovation (IEI) brought together senior electric company executives, policymakers, technology company leaders, regulators, and other thought leaders for its annual Powering the People forum, which featured panel discussions on how customer partnerships are driving the future of energy.

National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners Executive Director-elect Tony Clark opened the summit by discussing key trends facing electric companies, including demand growth and the industry's drive toward net zero.

The summit also featured a panel discussion on the urgent need for flexible demand resources to manage demand growth, moderated by IEI Co-Chair and Puget Sound Energy President and CEO Mary Kipp, as well as a conversation on innovative strategies to enhance customer engagement, moderated by IEI Co-Chair and Fortis Inc. President and CEO David Hutchens.



Above, L to R: Mary Sprayregen, Global Head, Regulatory Affairs and Market Development, Oracle; Scott Engstrom, Chief Customer Officer, GridX; Erica Borggren, Vice President, Corporate Customer Strategy & Solutions, Exelon Corporation; IEI Co-Chair David Hutchens, President and CEO, Fortis Inc.

EEl interim President and CEO Pat Vincent-Collawn concluded the event by highlighting the innovative ways electric companies are working to meet the rising energy demand while remaining focused on customer reliability and affordability: "This is a huge opportunity for our industry—no matter how we meet that rising demand—to show the American public and businesses that the electric power industry really is the solution to demand growth for economic prosperity and security. The new technologies and innovative solutions that we talked about here today are going to be crucial for us to meet this rising demand."

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



Members of EEI's delegation met with the Conservative Climate Foundation delegation during COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan.

GLOBAL ENERGY LEADERSHIP

Demonstrating Global Clean Energy Leadership at COP29

Last month, leaders from around the world gathered in Baku, Azerbaijan, for the U.N. Climate Change Conference, or COP29. EEI's delegation, which included Pedro J. Pizarro, president and CEO of Edison International, and several other member company executives, participated in four official side events highlighting the industry's clean energy leadership and our efforts to partner with key stakeholders.

EEI, in partnership with EPRI and the Nuclear Energy Institute, held an event on how energy companies are navigating the challenges of meeting carbon emissions reduction goals while maintaining affordability and reliability in the face of rapidly rising demand for electricity.

When delivering a keynote during this event, Pizarro highlighted the importance of the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act in driving clean energy investments and in providing tax credits for customers. Pizarro called the legislation a "great tool in the United States," saying it "helped stimulate the development of [clean energy resources] and brought down the cost to customers as an end-result."

Find more information, including event recordings, on [EEI's COP29 webpage](#).



EEI UPDATES

Pat Vincent-Collawn Joins EEI as Interim President and CEO

Pat Vincent-Collawn, Chairman and CEO of TXNM Energy and an EEI board member, has been appointed interim President and CEO of EEI. Vincent-Collawn will lead EEI while the board of directors conducts a comprehensive national search for a permanent replacement.

“The board is grateful to Pat for stepping in to lead EEI during this critical time for the industry,” said EEI Chair Maria Pope, President and CEO of Portland General Electric. “With more than three decades of experience in the industry, Pat understands all aspects of what electric companies do—from business and system operations to finance to legislative and regulatory policy. She is one of the longest-serving directors on the EEI board and has helped to shape EEI strategy for more than a decade. Pat is well-positioned to lead our industry and the talented EEI team while we conduct a search for EEI’s next President and CEO.”

[Read more in EEI’s press release.](#)



EEI Member Companies Among Recipients of DOE GRIP Funding

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) established the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) Program through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to help fund projects that will modernize the energy grid; guard against the impacts of extreme weather events; unlock more opportunities to integrate clean energy resources; and deploy innovative approaches to transmission, storage, and distribution projects.

In October 2023, DOE issued an initial \$3.5-billion tranche of GRIP funds to support 58 projects across 44 states—with more than 25 EEI member companies and their affiliates collectively receiving a federal cost share of more than \$1.7 billion for their grid-enhancing initiatives. Then, in August 2024, DOE awarded an additional \$2.2 billion for eight more projects across 18 states—six of which involve EEI member companies, with awards of more than \$2 billion.

In October 2024, DOE announced an additional round of nearly \$2 billion in GRIP funding to be awarded to 38 projects, 12 of which involve EEI member companies. To date, DOE has issued nearly \$7.6 billion in funding for 104 projects in all 50 states and the District of Columbia through the GRIP Program.

In a statement after announcing the second round of funding, U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm said the GRIP Program “has provided the largest grid investment in U.S. history helping us add more energy to the grid faster, improve reliability and resilience, and invest in innovative technologies so customers across the country can have access to more renewable energy and pay less for their electricity.”



[REGISTER NOW](#)

Take Advantage of Lower Rates for EEI 2025

Registration is now open for EEI 2025, the premier annual gathering of electric industry executives, policymakers, and thought leaders. It will be held June 2-4 at the Grand Hyatt New Orleans, located blocks from the iconic French Quarter.

Our dynamic keynote discussions, thought-provoking breakouts, and one-of-a-kind networking opportunities will bring together electric company executives, government leaders, technology partners and innovators, policymakers, regulators, and industry

stakeholders to explore the forces defining and shaping the electric power industry today, and tomorrow.

Demand for electricity is growing at the fastest pace in decades, and you won't want to miss this chance to learn how America's electric companies are meeting this demand now, while leading the way to a resilient clean energy future for all Americans.

[Register now](#) before rates increase on January 1. We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans!



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, EEI Managing Director of Climate Programs and Executive Director of the Institute for the Energy Transition Eric Holdsworth; Dave Quier, PPL Electric's vice president and chief operating officer; and Margie Sweezer-Fischer, vice president of operations for NextEra Energy Transmission, discuss the role grid-enhancing technologies play in increasing resilience, how electric companies work with regulators to help define the customer benefits of adopting these technologies, and more.

Plus, Stan Connally, executive vice president of operations at Southern Company, and Chair, President, and CEO of Southern Company Services, joined the podcast to reflect on Georgia Power's restoration efforts after Hurricane Helene and its massive mutual assistance response. He also talked about our industry's partnership with the federal government to protect critical infrastructure and the importance of resilience investments for grid reliability.

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



ELECTION 2024

EEI Congratulates Trump, Vance, and the Newly Elected 119th Congress

EEI interim President and CEO Pat Vincent-Collawn issued the following statement on the 2024 presidential election results.

“EEI and our member companies—America’s investor-owned electric companies—congratulate Donald Trump and JD Vance on their election as President and Vice President of the United States. We also congratulate the incoming members of the 119th Congress and the winners of the many state and local elections that took place across the country.

“Our nation’s economy is powered by reliable, affordable, and resilient clean energy. This is an exciting time for electric companies and our industry, as customer demand for electricity is growing at the fastest pace in decades, and we look forward to working with the Trump administration, Congress, and state policymakers and regulators to meet this demand safely, reliably, and affordably. Through continued investments in grid resilience, innovation, and our workforce, we will deliver the future of energy together.”



- **Slow down**
Take your time. Scammers pressure customers to act fast.
- **Verify**
Scammers often pose as the utility. Always verify the info being provided to you matches your latest bill.
- **Stop**
Utilities never demand immediate payment and do not accept bitcoin, prepaid cards, or third-party payment apps.

HAPPENING NOW

Electric Companies Team Up to #StopScams

Together with Utilities United Against Scams (UUAS), EEI and our member companies observed the ninth annual Utility Scam Awareness Day, an advocacy and awareness campaign focused on educating customers and exposing the tactics used by scammers, on November 20. We also supported International Fraud Awareness Week (November 17-23).

UUAS, a consortium of more than 150 U.S. and Canadian electric, water, and natural gas companies and their respective trade associations, continues to raise customer awareness of common scams and new scam tactics being used by utility impostors. Through its work and with the help of customer reporting, UUAS has successfully helped to take nearly 13,000 toll-free numbers used by scammers against utility customers out of operation.

Visit www.utilitiesunited.org for information and tips on how customers can protect themselves from impostor utility scams. Follow along with UUAS on [X](#) and [Facebook](#), and join the conversation by using [#StopScams](#).



EEI Executive Vice President of the Business Operations Group and Regulatory Affairs Phil Moeller moderated a panel discussion on resource adequacy and demand growth during EEI's 59th Financial Conference. Panelists included Julien Dumoulin-Smith, Managing Director & Research Analyst, Energy Research, Jefferies; Duke Austin, President and CEO, Quanta Services; Todd Hillman, Senior Vice President and Chief Customer Officer, External Affairs, Midcontinent Independent System Operator; and Leslie Biddle, Deputy Under Secretary for Commercialization and Finance, DOE's Office of Infrastructure.

IN THE NEWS

EEI's 59th Financial Conference

EEI's 59th Financial Conference, held November 11-13 in Florida, gathered more than 1,000 electric company C-suite officers, investors, and members of the financial community to discuss major issues impacting the electric power industry and Wall Street.

GET SOCIAL

#EmPOWERing Pro Bono Day

Today is the 3rd annual emPOWERing Pro Bono Day, which brings together volunteer attorneys & legal staff from energy companies to provide pro bono legal assistance to address critical needs of underserved communities. [#emPOWERprobono2024](#)



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