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Above, L to R: Jensen Huang, Founder and CEO, NVIDIA, and outgoing EEI Chair Pedro J. Pizarro, President and CEO, Edison International.

TOP STORY

Highlights from EEI 2024

EEI 2024—the industry’s leading thought leadership forum, held in Las Vegas from June 18-20—showcased the work of EEI’s member companies to deliver the future of energy.

The conference featured a dynamic lineup of speakers and sessions covering top-of-mind topics. Following are a few highlights—find more on the [EEI 2024 Highlights webpage](#) and in the upcoming issue of *Electric Perspectives*.

To kick off the conference, outgoing EEI Chair Pedro J. Pizarro, president and CEO of Edison International, led a conversation with Jensen Huang, founder and CEO of NVIDIA, on how NVIDIA’s pioneering work to advance AI and quantum computing has, in part, driven a significant growth in electricity demand. The conversation also focused

on how electric companies are partnering with companies like NVIDIA to meet that growing demand. “My guess is energy consumption goes up quite substantially,” said Huang. “The implication of the [artificial] intelligence that is created will reduce waste, and, hopefully, less carbon. This will create greater productivity and increase the size of industries. I think the future of intelligence is quite high, and then the future of energy is quite high.”



Above, L to R: Hewlett Packard Enterprise President and CEO Antonio Neri and EEI Chair Maria Pope, President and CEO, Portland General Electric.

Newly elected EEI Chair Maria Pope, president and CEO of Portland General Electric, led a conversation with Antonio Neri, president and CEO of Hewlett Packard Enterprise, on the changing technology industry and Neri’s career journey. “All of us in this room need to have a minor in AI,” said Neri. “It doesn’t matter what you do: engineer, finance, legal, human resources. If you don’t understand how this technology works, you’re going to be left behind.”



Above, L to R: Chairman Willie Phillips, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and EEI Vice Chair Calvin Butler, President and CEO, Exelon Corporation.

EEI Vice Chair Calvin Butler, president and CEO of Exelon Corporation, led a conversation with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chairman Willie Phillips on the energy transition and regulatory policies, including the importance of industry-government partnership. “We’re all in this together,” said Chairman Phillips. “So, when you ask me do we have the right tools—we have the tools. The question is, are we deploying them in the right way to get us where we need to go?”



Above: U.S. Congressman Steven Horsford (D-NV).

U.S. Congressman Steven Horsford (D-NV) welcomed EEI 2024 attendees to Las Vegas and highlighted the strides the United States has made in the transition to clean energy. Congressman Horsford also discussed the strength of industry-government partnerships in delivering clean energy.



Above, L to R: EEI Vice Chair David Campbell, Chairman and CEO, Evergy; EEI Vice Chair Calvin Butler, President and CEO, Exelon Corporation; EEI Chair Maria Pope, President and CEO, Portland General Electric; Outgoing EEI Chair Pedro J. Pizarro, President and CEO, Edison International.

Pizarro moderated a CEO leadership panel on the key issues facing the electric power industry with Pope, Butler, and EEI Vice Chair David Campbell, chairman and CEO of Evergy.



Above, L to R: Sandra Douglass Morgan, President, Las Vegas Raiders, and Doug Cannon, President and CEO, NV Energy.

NV Energy President and CEO Doug Cannon led a conversation with Las Vegas Raiders President Sandra Douglass Morgan on her experiences as the first woman or first Black person to hold certain positions throughout her career, and how she approaches leadership through this lens. “When you realize that you are the first to do something, there is a greater responsibility,” said Douglass Morgan. “It’s really important to pay it forward and to be able to mentor other people of color and women. It’s an honor, but, to me, it won’t be a success if I’m the first and only. ... When they say ‘trailblazer,’ I know it’s a compliment, but it’s not success if it’s just a trail. It needs to be an eight-lane highway. It can’t just be one-and-done with me.”



Above, L to R: EEI President and CEO Dan Brouillette and Ralph Cleveland, President and CEO, American Association of Blacks in Energy.

In addition to these keynote speakers, EEI 2024 also included:

- A conversation on the power of partnerships in promoting workforce diversity with EEI President and CEO Dan Brouillette, American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE) President and CEO Ralph Cleveland, and EEI Senior Vice President, Chief Diversity Officer, and Chief Human Resources Officer Courtney Peterson. Brouillette and Cleveland signed a memorandum of understanding to reinforce EEI's and AABE's joint commitment to strengthening the energy workforce. Read more about this commitment in [EEI's press release](#).
 - 29 high-potential leaders, nominated by their member company CEOs, who participated in the Diverse and Emerging Leaders Cohort programming at EEI 2024. They also heard from EEI Board members and member company leaders on how to chart a path for growth in the industry.
 - 8 breakout sessions on timely industry topics, as well as ongoing programming in The Hub.
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Above, L to R: EEI Vice Chair David Campbell, Chairman and CEO, Evergy; EEI Chair Maria Pope, President and CEO, Portland General Electric; EEI Vice Chair Calvin Butler, President and CEO, Exelon Corporation; EEI President and CEO Dan Brouillette.

LEADING THE WAY

EEI Board Elects New Leadership

On June 20, EEI's Board of Directors elected Portland General Electric President and CEO Maria Pope as EEI Chair for the 2024-2025 cycle. Pope succeeds Pedro J. Pizarro, president and CEO of Edison International. Calvin Butler, president and CEO of Exelon Corporation, and David Campbell, chairman and CEO of Evergy, were elected as Vice Chairs.

"We are pleased to welcome Maria as EEI chair for the 2024-2025 cycle," said EEI President and CEO Dan Brouillette. "Maria previously served as an EEI vice chair and has been critical in our industry's efforts to mitigate wildfire risk and liability. She is a tremendous leader, and we all look forward to her ascension as chair."

“It is an honor to serve as EEI’s chair during this transformational period. EEI’s member companies continue to lead on clean energy and are focused on affordability and reliability as we meet accelerating customer demand,” said Pope. “The investments being made to enhance the reliability and resilience of the energy grid have never been more important as we work to deliver the future of energy.”

Brouillette also applauded the vice chairs who will support Pope as part of the leadership team.

“Calvin and David are exceptional leaders for our industry, and we are very fortunate for their service and dedication to EEI.”

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



Above, L to R: Junhui Zhao, Manager of Transmission and Substation Data Innovation, Eversource Energy; Umair Zia, Director of Distribution Engineering, Eversource Energy; and Asim Fazlagic, Vice President for Substations & Transmission Lines Engineering, Eversource Energy.

DELIVERING INNOVATION

Eversource Energy Wins 96th Edison Award; EDP Wins International Edison Award

During EEI 2024, EEI President and CEO Dan Brouillette proudly presented the 96th Edison Award to Eversource Energy and the International Edison Award to EDP.

Presented annually and selected by a panel of former energy industry executives, the Edison Award is the electric power industry's highest honor, recognizing distinguished leadership, innovation, and contributions to the advancement of the electric power industry. (Read about the finalists in [Electric Perspectives](#).)

Eversource launched the SmartInspect platform in 2022 to streamline inspections of its thousands of miles of transmission and distribution lines. Using advanced image recognition and artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms, the cloud-enabled platform improves efficiency and accuracy, centralizes data collection and analysis efforts, and automatically identifies potential system defects.

Using SmartInspect, Eversource conducted a thorough circuit patrol across its territory in three states, which saved hundreds of hours compared to traditional methods and improved accuracy and efficiency. Broken or missing animal protection, vegetation encroachment, and broken or cracked crossarms are examples of several high-priority issues identified and repaired with the support of the platform, improving reliability for all Eversource customers.

Read more in [EEI's Edison Award press release](#).



Above: Kelly Snyder, Senior Director of Origination, North America, EDP Renewables.

EDP's Alqueva Park—an innovative hybrid hydropower, floating solar, and battery storage project located in southern Portugal in Europe's largest artificial lake—is Europe's largest floating solar energy production facility in a dam reservoir. The project consists of 12,000 solar panels supported by 25,000 floats, which can generate 7.5 gigawatt-hours of clean energy each year. That's roughly 30 percent of the annual energy usage of the region or the equivalent of around 1,500 households.

In partnership with local stakeholders, most of the reservoir area was left free for neighboring communities to use for recreational purposes and fishing tied to the local economy, benefiting both the community and the environment.

Read more in [EEI's International Edison Award press release](#).



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The Power of Impact

Exelon's Calvin Butler on Leading the Clean Energy Transformation



WHAT WE'RE READING

The Power of Impact: Leading the Clean Energy Transformation

In the latest issue of *Electric Perspectives* magazine, EEI Vice Chair Calvin Butler, president and CEO of Exelon Corporation, shared his views on keeping equity and affordability at the forefront of the clean energy transition.

“Our customers are key to our business growth and success,” said Butler. “When they thrive, we thrive. The promise of a clean energy future must be fulfilled for all of our communities. No one can be left in the dark.”

[Read his full interview in *Electric Perspectives*.](#)



COLLABORATION IS KEY

EEI Co-Hosts Western Wildfire Workshop

In May, EEI co-hosted a Western Wildfire Workshop in conjunction with the Western National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners meeting. The workshop focused on the increased intensity of wildfires over the last several years and the significant implications for customers, communities, and energy providers. EEI member company executives, state commissioners, forest management experts, and representatives from municipal and cooperative energy providers, insurance companies, and the financial community, gathered to discuss the necessary partnerships and complex solutions needed to address and mitigate wildfire risk.

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Electric Perspectives

PODCAST

TUNE IN

Electric Perspectives: The Podcast

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

A recent episode featured the keynote conversation from EEI's Spring Transmission, Distribution, Metering, and Mutual Assistance Conference. EEI Senior Vice President of Security and Preparedness Scott Aaronson moderated a panel discussion on AI, data centers, and how electric companies are meeting the explosive energy demand produced by these technologies. The panel featured Dominion Energy Vice President of Strategic Partnerships Alan Bradshaw, U.S. Department of Energy Grid Deployment

Office Deputy Director Ariel Horowitz, and Compass Datacenters CEO Chris Crosby.

Plus, Maria Kretzing, vice president and general manager of electric vehicles and analytics at Bidgely, and Andrew Barrington, products and services manager at Avista, joined the podcast to discuss some of the fascinating ways Avista is working with Bidgely to optimize and streamline its operations through the use of AI. This episode is sponsored by Bidgely.

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

GET SOCIAL

NVIDIA's Jensen Huang Kicks Off EEI 2024



In his #EEI2024 keynote, Founder and CEO Jensen Huang described how #AI will transform the U.S. power grid by enabling #utilities to improve energy efficiency, reduce operating costs, and advance clean energy. 💡

Read the blog to learn more: [nvida.ws/45w86Xy](https://nvidia.ws/45w86Xy)



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