



20th Edition

MICROGRID

AND OFF-GRID INNOVATION FORUM

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 1, 2025 • AUSTIN, TX

The 20th edition of the **Microgrid & Off-Grid Innovation Forum**, September 30 - October 1, 2025 in Austin, TX brings together technology innovators, project developers, utilities, energy providers and policy makers for focused networking and in-depth information sharing at the cutting edge of microgrids in North America. The emphasis is on how key enabling technologies, applications and business models can unlock power quality, timely energy access, and cost savings for a range of end users.

Topics to be covered include:

- Microgrids for servicing data center, building electrification and EV charging loads
- Off-grid, remote, and rural use cases and deployments
- System feasibility, design, and implementation
- Ownership models and benefits for multiple stakeholders
- The state of enabling technologies
- Utilizing microgrids to cope with grid outages and crisis situations
- Utility-driven microgrids and deployment partnerships
- Public-purpose, city-community, and commercial microgrid deployments
- Integration of microgrids into the larger grid
- Determining the correct technology mix for hybrid renewable energy systems
- Advanced battery, fuel cell, LNG and flow battery technologies
- Microgrid power control and performance management
- Regulatory and public policy developments impacting microgrids
- Standards and interoperability issues
- Market drivers and opportunities worldwide

The audience for the Forum includes microgrid project developers, owners, and entrepreneurs; C&I end users; mining and energy development companies; utilities and renewable energy providers; energy storage companies; technology researchers, investors and regulatory representatives, and more.



"This was a great networking opportunity. Speakers were interesting in and of themselves, but the mix (tech, policy, regulatory, markets) made for deeper conversations than most events provide."

-- Paul Roege, Vice President - Strategic Initiatives, Typhoon HIL

Organized by



Agenda *Note: Subject to change*

Monday, September 29, 2025

2:30 – 4:00 pm

Pre-Conference Tour of UT Austin Microgrid

Open to all attendees, included in registration fee

Tuesday, September 30, 2025

8:00 – 9:00 am

Welcome Continental Breakfast and Registration

9:00 – 9:30 am

Opening Keynote Address

- Tim Harvey, Director, Customer Renewable Solutions, **Austin Energy**

9:30 – 10:00 am

Bolstering Energy Resilience with Innovative Microgrid Solutions

- Importance of microgrid implementation to maintain operability in harsh environments and mission assurance
- Air Force (AF) lessons learned and progress updates in the integration microgrids at installations
- Benefits of microgrids including the dependency reduction on regional utility systems to enhance energy security
- Thermal and electrical microgrids supporting critical missions to align with AF Arctic Strategy

- Lucinda 'Lucy' Notestine, Chief - Special Programs Division, Office of Energy Assurance, **U.S. Air Force**

10:00 – 10:30 am

Upgrading Microgrid Control through Advanced Distributed Sensing

Maintaining distributed energy resources (DERs) during islanding events requires sophisticated controls and resilient design. This presentation explores strategies to ensure all DERs remain online when a microgrid disconnects from the wider utility grid.

Key Takeaways:

- Design considerations that allow DERs to operate seamlessly during grid separation.
- Lessons from the University of Texas's research into microgrid islanding controls.
- Implications for resilience when integrating multiple DER technologies.

- Shannon Strank, Deputy Director, University of Texas Center for Electromechanics

10:30 – 11:00 am

Networking Coffee Break

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Valuing Resilience in Energy: Applying Project Insights to State Policy

Few U.S. states currently offer explicit payments for resilience. Drawing on real-world microgrid and facility projects, this panel examines how developers capture resilience benefits today and how public policy could properly compensate resilience in the future. Discussion topics include the spectrum of resilience value streams, standardized metrics, and policy levers to recognize resilience benefits in electric rates.

Key Takeaways:

- Showcases examples of how developers capture resilience benefits today.
 - Unpacks the full spectrum of resilience value streams.
 - Outlines what a standardized “value of resilience” metric could look like.
 - Explores policy mechanisms states can use to properly compensate for resilience.
 - Highlights that microgrids provide numerous public and private benefits that should be recognized and compensated.
 - Notes that resilience is often treated as an externality in electric rates.
 - Emphasizes that the absence of a standard value of resilience hampers investment but does not diminish the importance of grid resilience.
- Markus Virta, Cofounder & Managing Partner, **Cascadia Renewables**
 - Ben Schwartz, Policy Manager, **Clean Coalition**
 - Elias Henderson, Research Assistant, **Schatz Energy Research Center, California State Polytechnic University, Humboldt**

12:00 – 1:00 pm

Lunch Break

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Value Stacking Energy Storage for Cost Reduction and Resilience

Storing locally generated power on-site offers significant benefits that add up to cost savings, increased availability and revenue generation. This panel presents case studies demonstrating how energy storage is used for peak shaving, resilience, and demand response. Discussion topics include maximizing renewable energy usage, minimizing grid power during peak times, providing grid services and backup power, and revenue opportunities such as demand response and power quality management.

Key Takeaways:

- Energy storage enables use of locally generated power during peak demand, reducing utility costs.
 - Microgrid and storage combinations can provide grid services and back-up power in oversubscribed or shut-off areas.
 - Demand response and power quality management open revenue streams for storage assets.
 - Case studies illustrate applications for peak shaving, resilience, and demand response.
- Adrienne Pierce, Chief Executive Officer, **New Sun Road, P.B.C.**
 - Andrew Tanner, Chief Technology Officer, **Yotta Energy**
 - Justine Sanchez, C&I Microgrid Solutions Architect, **Generac**
 - Anna Bella Korbatov, Vice President – Regulatory Affairs, **Fermata Energy**

2:00 – 2:30 pm

Design and Operation of Service-Point Microgrids within the Military

Military installations require unique microgrid architectures to ensure mission continuity and security. This presentation explores design considerations, operational strategies, and lessons learned from service-point microgrids deployed within the Texas Army National Guard.

Key Takeaways:

- Understanding the specific resilience needs of military installations.
- Integrating microgrids at the service-point level to maintain critical operations.
- Balancing energy security with operational flexibility in the military context.

- Thomas Myers, Energy Program Supervisor, **Texas Army National Guard**

2:30 – 3:00 pm

Networking Coffee Break

3:00 – 4:00 pm

Leveraging Microgrids to Enable Resilient Power for Airports

Airports are increasingly adopting microgrids to enhance energy resilience, reduce carbon emissions and support operational efficiency. Reliable backup power during outages, integration of renewable energy and battery storage, and improved power quality enable airports to continue critical functions such as air traffic control and terminal operations. Case studies from Pittsburgh, San Diego and other airports illustrate how microgrids are helping to achieve climate and ESG commitments.

Key Takeaways:

- Microgrids provide reliable backup power for critical airport functions during outages.
- Integration of solar and battery storage reduces carbon emissions and supports sustainability goals.
- Microgrids manage energy loads and reduce peak demand costs while powering electric ground support equipment.
- Airports are leveraging microgrids to align with electrification and ESG commitments.

- Megan Williams, Senior Associate, **Endurant Energy**

- Mark Schneider, President – East Region, **Cordia Energy**

- Joshua Barney, Director, Microgrid and Distributed Energy Solutions, **Eaton**

4:00 – 4:30 pm

Modern Public Power: A Community-Led Energy Strategy

California cities now have the flexibility to advance clean energy, resilience and affordability on community-driven terms. This session introduces the Spark Community Utility (SCU) model—a city-run, opt-in public-power approach that allows localized deployment of solar, storage, EV charging and microgrids alongside the existing investor-owned utility (IOU) system. Participants will gain insight into how SCUs use targeted regulatory frameworks to build trust, test new services and gradually expand infrastructure.

Key Takeaways:

- **Opt-in, complementary utility strategy:** Cities can operate alongside IOUs, providing energy services that align with local priorities without displacing incumbent utilities.
- **Stepwise scaling:** SCUs begin with behind-the-meter programs and progressively expand to microgrids.
- **Strategic infrastructure choices:** Weigh trade-offs between serving new developments (becoming a

load-serving entity) versus connecting clusters of DERs for shared resilience with less regulatory burden.

- **Peer-based pilot approach:** Charter cities can collaboratively pilot SCUs—sharing studies, lowering risk and building momentum.

- Bob Krause, Energy Policy Strategist, **Spark Communities**

4:30 – 5:00 pm

Microgrid Policy and Recent Activities Across Key States

Updates on recent policy developments and initiatives in key states regarding microgrid deployment. The session surveys new legislation, pilot projects and regulatory reforms that are shaping the future of microgrids across the U.S.

Key Takeaways:

- Overview of state-level policies promoting microgrid adoption.
- Case studies of recent microgrid projects enabled by state initiatives.
- Considerations for stakeholders navigating evolving regulatory landscapes.

- Allie Detrio, CEO and Chief Strategist, **Reimagine Power**

5:00 – 6:30 pm

Networking Drink Reception

Wednesday, October 1 2025

8:00 – 9:00 am

Continental Breakfast and Registration

9:00 – 10:00 am

Resilient Energy at the Edge: Innovations in Off-Grid and Distributed Power Solutions

As energy needs grow more complex—particularly in remote, disaster-prone or grid-constrained areas—new models for delivering reliable, scalable and resilient power are emerging. This session explores three innovative approaches to distributed energy: next-generation generator technology that provides a cleaner, more cost-effective alternative to diesel and gas; modular microgrid systems designed for rapid deployment; and off-grid charging solutions that enable electric vehicle use where grid infrastructure lags. These perspectives highlight how hybrid, flexible systems are meeting diverse energy needs and expanding the reach of clean, distributed power.

Key Takeaways:

- The role of next-generation generator technology in replacing traditional fossil fuel systems.
- How modular microgrids accelerate reliable energy access in remote or underserved areas.
- Off-grid charging solutions bridging the gap between EV adoption and grid readiness.

- Wissam Balshe, Senior Director, Channel Partnerships, **Mainspring Energy**

- Benjamin Mandel, Vice President, Market Development, **L-Charge**

- Andrey Bugrov, CEO, **Waste to Energy Generating Inc.**

10:00 – 10:30 am

Unlocking On-Site, Off-Grid, Behind-the-Meter Power and Liquid/Air Cooling Cogeneration

The U.S. loses an estimated 40–50 % of its electricity as low-grade waste heat, even as demand skyrockets due to re-industrialization, AI expansion and data center investments. This session presents a scalable, modular off-grid cogeneration technology designed to convert low-grade waste heat (under 120 °C) into electricity with over 20 % efficiency, using liquid and air cooling down to –35 °C with zero water use. Developed to power hyperscale data centers and AI infrastructure, the solution relieves grid strain and unlocks stranded thermal energy.

Key Takeaways:

- AI data center power demand could surge 30× by 2035, while grid capacity remains constrained.
- The U.S. wastes a massive portion of its energy as low-grade heat while demand for power is sharply rising.
- Liquid/air cooling cogeneration down to –35 °C with zero water consumption.
- More than 20 % efficiency in generating power from low-grade heat (< 120 °C).

- Andrey Bugrov, CEO, **Waste to Energy Generating Inc.**

10:30 – 11:00 am

Networking Coffee Break

11:00 – 11:30 am

Renewable Energy and Distributed Generation for Life-Saving Equipment and Oxygen Generating Devices

Designing microgrids for healthcare facilities involves navigating complex regulations and ensuring reliability for life-saving equipment. This presentation draws on the process of designing a microgrid for a healthcare facility under California's Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI) guidelines. It discusses how battery energy storage system (BESS) design must consider reliability, battery technology selection, power quality and environmental conditions, and highlights additional criteria mandated for HCAI review such as continuity of critical loads and configurable communications.

Key Takeaways:

- Governing entities are working with developers to simplify renewable energy installations in healthcare facilities.
- Healthcare facilities are driving the proliferation of distributed generation and microgrids on their campuses.
- Renewable energy and microgrids are proving essential to combat climate change and address emergency power needs.

- Jesus Mena, Manager, Development Engineering, **Ameresco**

11:30 am - 12:00 pm

Human-Assisted AI: Unlocking Practical Innovation in Microgrid Systems and Utility Operations

Grid operators, infrastructure planners and C&I stakeholders face increasing pressure to improve reliability, manage distributed systems and adopt renewables without adding complexity to already stretched teams. This session examines how Human-Assisted AI empowers utility professionals to make faster, more accurate decisions without overhauling their systems or retraining their workforce. Drawing on real-world utility projects, Sze Wong illustrates how AI-driven tools streamline microgrid planning, outage management and DER integration.

Key Takeaways:

- Understand the role of Human-Assisted AI in advancing microgrid and utility operations.
- Identify practical, low-friction use cases that improve time-to-power and decision-making.
- Learn from real utility projects that use AI without adding complexity or cost.
- Discover how to begin integrating enabling technologies even if systems are aging or siloed.

- Sze Wong, Chief Executive Officer, **Zerion Software**

12:00 – 1:00 pm

Lunch Break

1:00 – 1:30 pm

Powering the Future: Building Compliant Microgrid Ecosystems for Data Center Integration and Global Market Access

Microgrids are emerging as vital ecosystems for resilient and low-carbon energy, with data centers increasingly serving as their anchor loads. While integration offers clear benefits -- reduced grid dependence, improved uptime, and sustainable operations -- it also introduces complex compliance challenges. From inverter safety (UL 1741, IEEE 1547) and energy storage integration to IT hardware safety (IEC/UL 62368-1, CE, CCC, BIS), regulatory readiness is a critical success factor.

This talk presents a compliance-by-design approach for building microgrid-ready data centers, embedding certification requirements early in the engineering process to minimize redesigns and delays. Real-world case studies demonstrate how this strategy accelerates approvals, ensures interoperability between energy and IT systems, and supports multi-region market access. By aligning microgrid innovation with global compliance frameworks, stakeholders can unlock scalable, sustainable, and certifiable energy ecosystems.

- Chirag Parikh, Certification Specialist, **Amazon Web Services (AWS)**

1:30 – 2:30 pm

Powering EVs Where the Grid Can't — Microgrids for Resilient Charging Infrastructure

As electric-vehicle adoption accelerates, grid-stressed, remote and off-grid areas present a growing challenge for charging infrastructure. This session examines how microgrids—combining solar, battery storage and intelligent controls—enable reliable, scalable EV charging in constrained environments. Drawing from real-world deployments by HOLT Renewables, Cap Metro and partners, panelists discuss system design, financing models and the pairing of microgrids with EV charging to create resilient, future-proof solutions.

Key Takeaways:

- Solar-plus-storage systems provide reliable bus charging in grid-constrained areas.
- Microgrids support scalable fleet electrification, reducing dependence on utility upgrades.
- Strategies and technology options for deploying microgrids in off-grid or rural areas.
- Regulatory and funding considerations for microgrid-based EV infrastructure.

- Aaron Arriaga, Commercial Project Developer, **HOLT Renewables**

- Antonio Martin, Project Manager, **Cap Metro**

2:30 – 4:30 pm

Site Tour of Cap Metro Bus Charging Depot Microgrid — Open to all attendees; included in the registration fee.

Event Venue

AAA Executive Conference Center

8620 Burnet Rd Suite 475, Austin, TX 78757



"I enjoy this conference for its deeper discussions on grid and microgrid issues, new challenges, new opportunities, and changes in business models. This is not Microgrid 101. These are "graduate-level" microgrid discussions. Wonderful"

-- Steve Pullins, CEO, ReSET

"Excellent conference. Nice balance of participants from utilities to vendors to consultants. Great cross-section of participants."

-- Joel Jorgenson, CEO and President, BWR Innovations LLC

"Very useful presentations - good conference and well run. Very much appreciate the focus on solutions and applications, vs. products"

-- Charlie Gregg, Director, Commercial Projects, American Solar

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The [Clean Coalition](#) is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to accelerate the transition to renewable energy and a modern grid through technical, policy, and project development expertise. We work to develop smarter energy policies at the local, state, and federal level, and we design and stage Solar Microgrids and Community Microgrids and other projects that serve as showcases for clean local energy. Visit clean-coalition.org.



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Organizations that have attended previous editions of the Forum include:

127 Energy	County	Commission	Rakon Energy
60Hertz Microgrids	Development Ventures	Illinois Institute of	Redstone Technology
ABB	DNV GL	Technology	Integration
Adaptive Microgrids	Dobriansky Consultancy	Industrial Economics (IEc)	Ricardo Energy &
Advanced Control Systems	Doosan GridTech	Inspire! Montana	Environment
Ageto Energy	Duane Morris LLP	Invenergy	RMIT University
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AlphaStruxure	EDI Capital	Light (LBWL)	RTI
Ameresco	Edison Electric Institute	Lico Energy	S&C Electric Company
American Public Power	Edison Energy	Lockheed Martin Energy	Saft America. Inc.
Association	Electrical Industry Group NW	Microgrid Institute	Sapling Financial
ARDA Power	Electriq Power	Microgrid Design of	Scale Microgrid Solutions
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Bowen Advisors	Energia Group	Morrison Foerster LLP	Smart Electric Power Alliance
California Energy	Energy News Network	MPR Associates, Inc.	Smart Grid Energy Research
Commission	Energy+ Inc.	National Association of	Center, UCLA
California Public Utilities	Enernet Global	Regulatory Utility	Southern Company
Commission	EnerVenue	Commissioners	Southland Industries
Calpine Energy Solutions	Envision Solar International	National Electrical	SparkMeter
Camden County Municipal	Eos Energy Storage	Manufacturers Association	Sterling Energy Assets
Utilities Authority	ERS	National Renewable Energy	Strathmore Energy Research
Canadian Solar	ESPE Srl	Laboratory	Centre
Castello di Amorosa Winery	Exelon	NaturEner USA	Sungrow Power Supply
Cenfura Energy	e-Zn	New Sun Road	Sunverge Energy
Center for Climate and	Federal Energy Regulatory	New York Independent	Taiwan Institute of Economic
Energy Solutions	Commission	System Operator	Research (TIER)
ChargePoint	Fermata Energy	New York State Smart Grid	Tesla
Citizens Energy Corporation	FREEDM Systems Center,	Consortium	Tetra Tech
ComAp	NC State	NextEnergy	Tridium
Commonwealth Edison	Future Energy Advisors	North American Substation	Tuatara Group
ComRent	GE Grid Solutions	Services	U.S. Army Office of
Concentric Power	General Microgrids	North Carolina's Electric	Energy Initiatives
Concord Engineering Group	Geronimo Energy	Cooperatives	U.S. Energy Information
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Connect California	Gommyr Power Networks	Technology	Unison Energy
Connected Energy	GreenStruxure	Novartis	University of Idaho
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CPS Energy	Guidehouse Insights	NV5	University of Ottawa
CustomerFirst Renewables	Harvard University	Oceanus Power & Water, LLC	University of St. Thomas
Customized Energy Solutions	Hatch	OMNETRIC Group	University of Wisconsin
CWL Energy Management	Hitachi Systems Power	Pareto Networks	Milwaukee
Daegunsoft	Services, Ltd.	Powerflex by EDF	West Monroe Partners
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District of Columbia Public	Hydro-Quebec	PSE Innowacje	Winch Energy
Service Commission	ICF	PXiSE Energy Solutions	World Bank
DEIF	I-EMS Group	Quebec Government Office	
Department of General	ILAW Energy	R J Energy	
Services, Montgomery	Illinois Commerce	Racepoint Energy	

Previous Attendee Job Titles Include

- Assistant Professor, Microgrids
- Associate
- Associate Professor
- Attorney Advisor
- Business Advisor
- Business Development Director
- Business Unit Development
- Manager, Grid Automation
- Business Unit Director - Renewables (GB & International)
- CEO
- CEO and Co-founder
- Chairman
- Chief Commercial Officer
- Chief Marketing Officer
- Chief of the Office of Energy and Sustainability (OES)
- Co-Founder
- Co-Founder and CEO
- Co-Founder and President
- Deputy Director
- Director
- Director of Industry and Innovation
- Director, Distributed Electricity and Storage
- Editor
- ElectriFi Manager
- Energy & IT Analyst
- Energy Solutions Manager
- Energy Storage Marketing/Strategy Manager
- Engineer
- Engineering Manager
- Executive Director
- Founder & Managing Director
- Founding Partner
- General Manager
- Global Sales Manager
- Microgrids Global Sector Co-ordinator, Innovative Finance
- Head of Direct Sales
- Head of Innovation – Global Infrastructure & Networks
- Head of Microgrid & Digital Substation Solutions
- Head of Project
- Independent Consultant
- Industry Research Analyst
- Journalist and Economist
- Manager of Market Intelligence, Strategy and Innovation
- Manager, Business Development
- Manager, Optimization and Forecast
- Manager, Policy and Innovation
- Manager, Smart Grid & Technology
- Manager, Technology Development
- Manager, Utility of the Future
- Manager-Emerging Technologies Office
- Managing Director
- Managing Partner
- Market Design Specialist - Distributed Resource
- Integration
- Microgrid Advisor
- Operations Manager
- Partner & Co-Founder
- Portfolio Analyst
- Power Systems Group Leader
- President
- President & CEO
- Principal
- Principal Engineer
- Principal Research Analyst
- IEEE Fellow
- Program Director, Sustainable Energy Transformation and Microgrid Project
- Project Engineer
- Project Manager
- Renewable Energy Segment Manager
- Renewable Energy Specialist
- Research Associate Renewable Energy
- Research Officer
- Researcher and Industrial Engineer, Grid Integration
- Sales Manager
- Senior Analyst
- Senior Consultant Hydropower
- Senior Director, Energy & Utilities Practice
- Senior Engineer
- Senior Manager, Smart Grid Integration, North America
- Senior Portfolio Analyst
- Senior Principal, Sustainability
- Senior Vice President, Policy and Business Strategy
- SETS Program Manager
- Sr. Climate Change Specialist and Program Manager
- Technical Consultant - Power Supply & Protection
- Technical Expert – Regulator Instruments
- Technical Sales Manager
- Technical Support Manager
- Venture Developer
- Vice President
- Vice President - Smart Grid, North America Operations
- Vice President Business Development
- Vice President, Product Management
- VP Commercialization & Product Development
- VP of Operations

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 - Corporate description with link on event Sponsors website
 - Attendee List with contact information
-

Bronze Level

Value: \$2,500

- Tabletop exhibit space
 - 2 complimentary conference passes
 - Logo positioning on event website, agenda, on-site signage, in introductory comments, and in all marketing communications for the event
 - Corporate description with link on event Sponsors website
 - Attendee List with contact information
-

Exhibitor

Value: \$1,500

- Tabletop exhibit space
 - 1 complimentary conference pass
 - Logo positioning on event website
 - Attendee List with contact information
-

To arrange your participation, contact: Daniel Coran, Program Manager

dcoran@smartgridobserver.com +1-815-310-3343

About the Organizer



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- *Pat McGinnis, Chief Strategy Officer,
Tweddle Group*



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leadership."

- *Michael J. Zimmer, Washington
Counsel, Microgrid Institute*



"Just the right size. Excellent
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- *Dr. Robin Podmore, President, IncSys*

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Registration includes access to all sessions, lunches, coffee breaks, site tours and receptions on September 29 - October 1, as well as presentation PDFs and attendee list with contact information.*

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C&I microgrid owners, project developers and utilities	\$695.00
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* For those attendees who agree to have their email address included