

21st Edition

# Microgrid & Energy Storage Innovation Forum

December 1-2, 2026 Chicago



The 21st edition of the **Microgrid & Energy Storage Forum**, taking place December 1–2, 2026, in Chicago, will bring together technology innovators, project developers, utilities, energy providers, and policymakers for focused networking and in-depth knowledge exchange at the forefront of energy storage and microgrid development in North America. The program will emphasize how key enabling technologies, innovative applications, and evolving business models can address the rapidly growing demand driven by data centers, transportation electrification, and other high-growth sectors.

## Topics to be covered include:

- Distributed energy systems and grid-edge innovation
- Advanced energy storage technologies (Li-ion, solid-state, flow, long-duration storage)
- Co-location strategies for storage, renewables, and large loads (e.g., data centers)
- Powering data centers and high-density digital infrastructure
- Electrification of transport and EV charging infrastructure
- AI-driven energy management and grid optimization
- Grid resilience, reliability, and extreme weather preparedness
- Interconnection challenges and grid capacity constraints
- Hybrid energy systems (solar, wind, storage, and backup generation)
- Hydrogen and alternative energy carriers for long-duration storage
- Behind-the-meter solutions and energy-as-a-service models
- Market design, revenue stacking, and new business models
- Policy, regulation, and permitting reform
- Cybersecurity for distributed and digitalized energy systems
- Digitalization: IoT, advanced analytics, and digital twins
- Sustainability, lifecycle impacts, and battery recycling
- Supply chains, critical minerals, and manufacturing scale-up
  - Future grid architectures and decentralized energy systems

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

## Speaking Opportunities

The Microgrids and Energy Storage Innovation Forum brings together industry leaders, researchers, policymakers, and innovators to explore the technologies and strategies shaping the future of decentralized energy systems. Over two days, the conference will highlight advancements in microgrid design, energy storage technologies, grid resilience, and sustainable energy solutions.

We are seeking dynamic speakers to share insights, case studies, and forward-thinking ideas with a diverse and engaged audience.

### Why Speak?

This is a unique opportunity to share your expertise with a targeted audience of energy professionals and contribute to advancing microgrid and storage innovation. Network with industry leaders and decision-makers, and gain visibility for your work and organization.

### Who Should Apply

We welcome proposals from:

- Industry professionals and technology providers
- Academic researchers and scientists
- Utility representatives and grid operators
- Policymakers and regulatory experts
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- Startups and innovators

### Session Formats

We are accepting proposals for:

- Keynote presentations: (visionary, high-level insights)
- Technical sessions: (deep dives into specific topics)
- Panel discussions: (3–5 experts with diverse perspectives)
- Case study presentations: (real-world implementations)

### Submission Guidelines

Please submit the following to [speak@microgridinnovation.com](mailto:speak@microgridinnovation.com) by Friday, August 21, 2026:

- Presentation title
- Abstract (150–300 words)
- Key takeaways for attendees
- Speaker bio(s) and affiliations
- Preferred session format

### Selection Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on 1) relevance to conference themes, 2) originality, innovation and non-commercialism, 3) practical value and use of case study data, and 4) speaker expertise and experience

## Organizations that have attended previous editions of the Forum include:

127 Energy	Department of General Services, Montgomery County	ILAW Energy	R J Energy
60Hertz Microgrids	Development Ventures	Illinois Commerce Commission	Racepoint Energy
ABB	DNV GL	Illinois Institute of Technology	Rakon Energy
Adaptive Microgrids	Dobriansky Consultancy	Industrial Economics (IEC)	Redstone Technology Integration
Advanced Control Systems	Doosan GridTech	Inspire! Montana	Ricardo Energy & Environment
Ageto Energy	Duane Morris LLP	Invenergy	RMIT University
Air Voltaics LLC	Duke Energy	itunePower Inc.	Robert H. Smith School of Business, University of Maryland
Alaska Center for Energy and Power	Dynamic Energy Networks	JGC Corporation	Rolls-Royce Solutions America
Alliance for Rural Electrification	Eaton	Kore Lithium	RTI
AlphaStruxure	e-centricity, LLP	Krevat Energy Innovations	S&C Electric Company
Ameresco	EDF Renewable Energy	Lansing Board of Water & Light (LBWL)	Saft America. Inc.
American Public Power Association	EDI Capital	Lico Energy	Sapling Financial
ARDA Power	Edison Electric Institute	Lockheed Martin Energy	Scale Microgrid Solutions
AutoGrid	Edison Energy	Micgrid Institute	Schneider Electric
Blue Pillar	Electrical Industry Group NW	Microgrid Design of Mendocino	Schweitzer Engineering Laboratories
Blue Planet Energy Systems	Electriq Power	Modelon	SDG&E
Bluefin Energy Solutions Inc.	ELM FieldSight	Montgomery County Department of General Services, Maryland	Siemens
Bluewave Resources	Elum Energy	Morrison Foerster LLP	Skipping Stone
Boice Dunham Group	Emera Technologies	MPR Associates, Inc.	Smart Electric Power Alliance
Bowen Advisors	EMerge Alliance	National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners	Smart Grid Energy Research Center, UCLA
California Energy Commission	Enbala Power Networks	National Electrical Manufacturers Association	Southern Company
California Public Utilities Commission	Enchanted Rock	National Renewable Energy Laboratory	Southland Industries
Calpine Energy Solutions	Energia Group	NaturEner USA	SparkMeter
Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority	Energy News Network	New Sun Road	Sterling Energy Assets
Canadian Solar	Energy+ Inc.	New York Independent System Operator	Strathmore Energy Research Centre
Castello di Amorosa Winery	Enernet Global	New York State Smart Grid Consortium	Sungrow Power Supply
Cenfura Energy	EnerVenue	NextEnergy	Sunverge Energy
Center for Climate and Energy Solutions	Envision Solar International	North American Substation Services	Taiwan Institute of Economic Research (TIER)
ChargePoint	Eos Energy Storage	North Carolina's Electric Cooperatives	Tesla
Citizens Energy Corporation	ERS	Northern Alberta Institute of Technology	Tetra Tech
ComAp	ESPE Srl	Novartis	Tridium
Commonwealth Edison	Exelon	Nuvve	Tuatara Group
ComRent	e-Zn	NV5	U.S. Army Office of Energy Initiatives
Concentric Power	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	Oceanus Power & Water, LLC	U.S. Energy Information Administration
Concord Engineering Group	Fermata Energy	OMNETRIC Group	Unison Energy
Concord Engineers	FREEDM Systems Center, NC State	Pareto Networks	University of Idaho
Connect California	Future Energy Advisors	Powerflex by EDF Renewables	University of Maryland
Connected Energy	GE Grid Solutions	PSE Innowacje	University of Ottawa
Covanta	General Microgrids	PXiSE Energy Solutions	University of St. Thomas
CPS Energy	Geronimo Energy	Quebec Government Office	University of Wisconsin Milwaukee
CustomerFirst Renewables	Global Common		West Monroe Partners
Customized Energy Solutions	Gommyr Power Networks		Willdan Energy Solutions
CWL ENergy Management	GreenStruxure		Winch Energy
Daegunsoft	GRIDIRON		World Bank
DCfusion / EnSync Energy	Guidehouse Insights		
District of Columbia Public Service Commission	Harvard University		
DEIF	Hatch		
	Hitachi Systems Power Services, Ltd.		
	Husk Power Systems		
	Hydro-Quebec		
	ICF		
	I-EMS Group		

## 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
- Microgrid Laboratory Responsible
- Microgrids CTO North America
- News Director
- Of Counsel
- 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 – Regulatory 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

## Event Partners



[RenewablesNow](#) is one of the top providers of news and business intelligence for the global renewable energy industry. With a focus on wind, solar, energy storage and hydrogen -- the sources expected to contribute the most to the energy transition -- we cover the latest project announcements, tenders, M&A deals, PPAs, IPOs and more.



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](http://clean-coalition.org).



With over a decade of experience in the Power Grid and New Energy sectors, [PTR \(Power Technology Research\) Inc.](#) has evolved from a core market research firm into a comprehensive Strategic Growth Partner that empowers clients' transitions and growth in the energy landscape, particularly within the electrical infrastructure manufacturing space. Visit [www.ptr.inc](http://www.ptr.inc)



[Energy XPRT](#) is a global marketplace with solutions and suppliers for the energy sector, with product catalogs, articles, industry events, publications & more.

"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

# Sponsorship Packages

## Gold Level

Value: \$4,500

- Top-level logo positioning on event website, agenda, on-site signage, in introductory comments, and in all marketing communications for the event
- Speaking slot (either stand-alone or part of a panel)
- Tabletop exhibit space
- 3 complimentary conference passes
- 20% off additional registrations
- White paper or executive interview posted on event website
- Corporate description with link on event Sponsors website
- Company information distributed at registration check-in desk
- Attendee List with contact information

## Silver Level

Value: \$3,500

- Tabletop exhibit space
- 2 complimentary conference passes
- 15% off additional registrations
- 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

## Bronze Level

Value: \$2,500

- Tabletop exhibit space
- 1 complimentary conference pass
- 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

To arrange your participation, contact: Daniel Coran, Program Manager  
[dcoran@smartgridobserver.com](mailto:dcoran@smartgridobserver.com) +1-815-310-3343



## About the Organizer



*The Smart Grid Observer* is an online information portal and weekly newsletter serving the global smart energy industry. SGO delivers the latest news and information on a daily basis concerning key technology developments, deployment updates, standards work, business issues, and market trends driving the smart grid industry worldwide. Visit [www.smartgridobserver.com](http://www.smartgridobserver.com) to sign up for a complimentary subscription.

## Recent SGO Sponsors Include:



## Registration

	<b>Early Bird Before Friday, November 13</b>	<b>After November 13</b>
<b>Standard Rate:</b> Service providers, equipment and software vendors, consultants	\$795.00	\$995.00
<b>End-User / Customer Rate:</b> C&I microgrid owners, project developers and utilities	\$695.00	\$895.00
<b>Non-Profit Rate:</b> Academic, government, military and non-profit organizations <i>Note: edu, .gov, .mil or .org email address required</i>	\$595.00	\$795.00

Register securely online at <https://microgridinnovation-sgo.com/register>