Session Details & Speaker Information

This event took place virtually on Tuesday, November 10, 2020

Welcome & Opening Keynote

Recording length: 30 minutes

Welcome: Joy Ditto, President & CEO, American Public Power Association

Amazon’s Vision on Sustainability

Amazon has announced Climate Pledge goals to be net zero carbon by 2040, which includes plans to power all facilities with 100% renewables by 2025, deploy 100,000 electric delivery vans, and work with utilities to more accurately track renewables. Learn more about their vision on sustainability and how utilities can be partners in helping Amazon meet its goals.

Speaker

Chris Roe, Principal, Renewable Energy & Sustainable Operations, Amazon

Chris leads strategy and execution of Amazon’s commitment to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2025 and net zero carbon throughout the company’s real estate portfolio by 2040. This commitment is part of The Climate Pledge, a commitment by Amazon to meet the Paris Agreement 10 years early. Prior to Amazon, Chris led energy, water, and sustainable waste initiatives within Boeing’s real estate operations, and has 15 years’ experience driving initiatives in corporate energy and sustainability. Chris has a Master’s degree in Engineering from Cambridge University, a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Washington, and is on the board of the Smart Building Center in Seattle.

Machine Learning and AI

Recording length: 1 hour

What’s real, what’s marketing, and where are things going from here? Learn about applications including prediction, image recognition, and customer service.
Speakers

Heather Feldman, Director of Innovation in the Nuclear Sector at the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)

Heather is passionate about being a part of shaping a clean energy future. Heather leads a team that conducts applied R&D to overcome barriers for modernizing and maximizing the utilization of the existing nuclear fleet and for deploying advanced reactors and leads EPRI’s initiative on Artificial Intelligence. Prior to her current role, Heather was the Director of Plant Support and led an expert team who develop new or enhanced technologies and processes for inspection and repair, aging management and flexible operations of nuclear power plants. She previously led and managed the Engineering Programs area and worked in the Steam Generator Management Program and the Office of Innovation.

Dr. Tao Hong, Director of Big Data Energy Analytics Laboratory, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, North Carolina

Dr. Tao Hong is Associate Professor of Systems Engineering and Engineering Management Department, Director of BigDEAL (Big Data Energy Analytics Laboratory), and NCEMC Faculty Fellow of Energy Analytics at University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He is the Founding Chair of IEEE Working Group on Energy Forecasting, Director at Large of International Institute of Forecasters, General Chair of Global Energy Forecasting Competition, and author of the blog Energy Forecasting. Dr. Hong has provided training and consulting services in energy analytics and load forecasting to over 200 energy companies across more than 20 countries.

Energy Storage: Beyond Batteries

Recording length: 1 hour

Often lost among the buzz about battery energy storage systems is the array of long-term energy storage solutions like pumped hydro, alternative and non-Lithium Ion batteries. Learn how public power utilities are deploying these technologies and discuss the challenges and possibilities of these technologies with industry experts.

Speakers

Marc Chupka, Vice President of Research and Programs, Energy Storage Association, Washington, D.C.

Marc leads ESA’s Corporate Responsibility Initiative Task Force, and directs the organization’s Technical Advisory Council.

Marc has over 30 years of experience analyzing and advising on the market impacts of both domestic and international energy and environmental policy, including serving as the acting Assistant Secretary of Energy for Policy and International Affairs for the U.S. Department of Energy and chief economist at the White House Office of Environmental Policy.
Alan Ettlinger, Sr. Director, Research, Technology Development & Innovation, New York Power Authority

Alan has over 40 years in the power industry including the last 7 years in charge of research at the New York Power Authorities where he is the Senior Director, Research Technology Development and Innovation. Alan is in charge of all aspects of NYPAs research for transmission, generation and customer solutions. Alan has a Masters in mechanical engineering, an MBA and is a licensed professional engineer in seven states.

Justin Kramer, Supervisor, Emerging Technologies and Renewables, Orlando Utilities Commission, Florida

Justin Kramer is the Supervisor of Emerging Technologies for the Orlando Utilities Commission. He has a Masters Degree in Mechanical Engineering with a specialty in Sustainable Energy Engineering from Florida State University. While at FSU, he was the project manager for the Energy and Sustainability Center and has experience in Hydrogen Combustion, Building Efficiency, Solar Thermal energy, Fuel Cells, Electrolysis, Electric Vehicles, Microgrids and PV technologies. At OUC he leads a team of engineers working on projects including Vehicle-to-Grid demonstrations, Hydrogen technologies, Microgrid controls, flow batteries and more. His current focus is developing the tools that will be needed for the Utility of the Future.

Hydrogen for Cross-Sector Benefits

Recording length: 1 hour

Learn how hydrogen can be part of a clean energy future from hydrogen fuel cells to power-to gas applications.

Speakers


Neha Rustagi is a Technology Manager leading the Systems Analysis, and Hydrogen Infrastructure portfolios within the U.S. Department of Energy’s Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office (HFTO) in the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. Her key activities include management of analyses to inform Office priorities in support of the H2@Scale initiative, experimentation in support of the HyBlend initiative to enable hydrogen blending in natural gas pipelines, and the H-Mat consortium on hydrogen materials compatibility R&D. Previously, she has held positions in oil and gas market analysis, and engineering and environmental compliance at power generators. She received her B.S. from the University of Maryland, College Park in 2008 and her M.S. from the University of Colorado, Boulder in 2012. She completed her M.S. thesis research at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in the area of materials compatibility with hydrogen.
Paul Schultz, Director - Power External Energy Resources, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power

Paul has served LADWP for over 31 years. In his current role, he is responsible for all of LADWP’s external generation resources, wholesale resource marketing, and the implementation of the Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) for LADWP. Before this, he was the Operating Agent for the Intermountain Power Project and Apex Generating Station representing LADWP. Paul headed the Control Systems Support group which is responsible for the operations of the Energy Management/Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition Systems and all additional Energy Control Center Systems. He holds a Bachelors and Masters in Electrical Engineering and is a Registered Professional Electrical Engineer in the State of California.

Boost Your Revenue through Strategic Electrification

Recording length: 1 hour

Strategic electrification – including promotion of heat pumps and managing electric vehicle charging – can turn flat growth in sales around and accommodate rising demand for clean energy. Just a 5% increase in off-peak sales could double a utility’s revenue. Learn what makes for effective, targeted marketing for EV charging options and heat pump models and how these programs can help public power utilities stay on track to a stronger financial and environmental future.

Speakers

Bill Bottiggi, General Manager, Braintree Electric Light Department, Massachusetts

Bill was born and raised in Braintree. He leads a team of dedicated personnel at Braintree Electric who strive to be innovative and entrepreneurial which can be difficult at times in the world of municipal government. Some of his major accomplishments at Braintree Electric include the construction of a 116 mega-watt gas turbine power plant which commenced commercial operation in 2009, the expansion and modernization of three 115kv substations, and the ongoing successful competition with Comcast and Verizon in the High Speed Internet industry.

Gary Smith, Director of Programs, Sagewell, Woburn, Massachusetts

Gary works closely with utility clients to design, analyze and implement beneficial electrification programs. Gary coordinates Sagewell’s business development and works closely with their software development and analytics teams.
What Do Customers Really Want?

Recording length: 1 hour

Behind every consumer technology there’s a person, often one who acts irrationally or emotionally. How can utilities tap into customers’ core wants, needs and fears to offer solutions that work for them? Using “design thinking”, a customer-first approach to product development pioneered in Silicon Valley, we can really elevate the chances of success in new energy offers, including electric vehicles, building electrification, solar, and low-income options. Bill LeBlanc’s entertaining style (a part-time stand-up comedian) along with E Source’s deep research will keep you engaged on this consumer journey.

Speaker

Bill LeBlanc, Chief Instigation Agent, E Source, Boulder, Colorado

Bill is a recognized leader in utility customer programs and strategies, with particular expertise in program design, marketing, market research, design thinking, and behavior change. He assists utility clients in understanding their customer markets, providing tools and messages to sway customer demand, and creating overall market strategies. He has been a leader and innovator in energy efficiency and load management throughout his 20+ year career, working for PG&E, EPRI, E Source, and consulting firms. He was just named one of only 7 Gamechangers in the Past 30 Years by the Association of Energy Services Professionals. Bill is known for his creativity and problem-solving ability and is a sought-after public speaker. He also spent 5 years doing standup comedy during his midlife crisis. Before joining the utility industry, Bill worked for Disney as well as Apple.