



February 16-19, 2021 | A Virtual Experience

Thursday, December 10, 2020

Conference Platform Preview Session on the Long-term effects of COVID-19.

Tuesday, February 16, 2021

12:00pm - 12:10pm

Welcome and Opening Remarks

12:10pm - 12:40pm

Keynote

12:40pm - 1:10pm

Networking/ Lunch Break

1:10pm - 2:10pm

Plenary: Energy Efficiency Implications in a Biden Administration

The incoming Biden Administration will mean shifting federal priorities in the energy sector. Regional and national leaders will discuss the legislative, economic and funding opportunities following the 2020 election.

2:10pm - 2:40pm

Networking Break

2:40pm - 3:40pm

Break-Out Sessions

A1: No Wires, No Problem: Non-wires Solutions for Optimizing the Grid

Upgrading the grid doesn't just mean adding more wires. Non-wires solutions (NWS) that include energy efficiency, demand response, distributed generation, storage and grid controls can replace some traditional transmission and distribution upgrades. Hear all about NWS: The cost/benefit analysis, how to implement and examples of grid optimization across the Midwest.

A2: Addressing the Need for Energy Efficiency in Tribal Communities

Tribal communities are often burdened by high energy costs yet are hard to reach through traditional energy efficiency programs. Hear about energy insecurity and affordability in tribal communities and explore how the energy efficiency industry can better serve these customers.

A3: Energy Efficiency Research and Development Lightning Round

To achieve higher energy savings and continue to meet local energy efficiency targets and climate goals, building materials, mechanical equipment, control technologies and program strategies will need to

continue to evolve. Check out some of the latest technology advancements that will drive the future of energy efficiency.

3:40pm - 4:00pm

Quick Break

4:00pm - 5:00pm

Networking Reception

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

12:00pm - 12:30pm

Opening Remarks

12:30pm - 1:00pm

Keynote 2

1:00pm - 1:30pm

Networking/ Lunch Break

1:30pm - 2:30pm

Plenary: How Can Energy Efficiency Support Grid Resiliency?

What is the value of energy efficiency from a regional energy planning perspective? This plenary will include perspectives from key actors in regional energy planning and system resiliency, including regional transmission organizations, state governments and utilities.

2:30pm-3:00pm

Break

3:00pm - 4:00pm

Break-Out Sessions and Workshop

B1: The 2020 Gauntlet: How Programs Can Best Account for an Everchanging World

How can programs continue to adapt to meet the needs of customers while in the throes of an economic recession? What can we learn from past recessions to prepare us for the future, ensuring that program design and outreach continue to progress to meet the evolving needs of customers?

B2: Decarbonization and EE: How Corporations are Addressing Climate Demands

Decarbonization is key to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and meeting climate goals. Corporations are innovating to respond to this shift, as well as the growing demand for climate action from the public. This session will highlight how corporate leaders in the Midwest are advancing decarbonization and integrating energy efficiency to reach their targets.

B3: Empowering Women in Energy Efficiency Workshop

We know that diverse and inclusive organizations are stronger and perform better in the long-term. Hear experiences of women in energy efficiency in a discussion facilitated by female leaders in the industry. Come to learn and discuss intersectional approaches to organizational policies that create inclusive workplaces and help women succeed.

4:00pm - 5:00pm

Networking Reception

Thursday, February 18, 2021

12:00pm - 12:10pm

Opening Remarks

12:10pm - 1:00pm

Keynote

1:00pm - 1:30pm

Networking/ Lunch Break

1:30pm - 2:30pm

Break-Out Sessions and Workshop

C1: Evolving Evaluation: No Savings Left Behind

Traditional evaluation is too slow for the market. Traditional evaluation usually takes months after the completion of a program year to produce verified results, but this paradigm is showing its age. This panel will discuss how modern evaluation methods can verify savings in something approaching real time, so EE can compete as a resource in fast-moving and fast-changing energy markets.

C2: Not Everything's Included: Assessing and Quantifying Non-Energy Impacts

The impacts of energy efficiency expand far beyond energy and associated cost savings. This panel explores how energy efficiency impacts health and grid resilience, and how these non-energy impacts can be accounted for in cost-benefit analyses.

C3: The Systemic Problem of Energy Affordability

Energy affordability is a long-term, systemic problem, particularly for low to moderate income communities, and this issue is currently being further exacerbated due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Learn more about the state of energy affordability across the Midwest and potential strategies being looked at to lesson this deep-rooted problem.

2:30pm - 3:00pm

Break

3:00pm – 4:00pm

Break-Out Sessions and Workshop

D1: Lessons Learned from Swimming Upstream

To cost-effectively achieve larger energy savings and increase portfolio and programmatic impacts, Midwest utilities are prioritizing midstream program designs. Hear about lessons learned on midstream program design and implementation and the industry's move to the middle.

D2: At the Local Level: Municipal Leadership in Economic and Environmental Initiatives

Despite inaction at the federal level, the Midwest saw many positive energy efficiency policy developments in 2020. This progress was largely due to leadership at the municipal level. Explore how local leaders have led the charge for energy efficiency in their areas.

D3: Seeking EEquity and Inclusion in Our Industry Workshop

This open forum will be a platform for EE professionals and organizations rooted in Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) leadership and communities of color to share their stories of entry into—and their experience in—the industry. Reflecting on those stories, participants will be prompted to consider potential pathways to build the capacity of organizations and dismantle white supremacy, expanding workforce opportunities within BIPOC communities. Panelists will facilitate small group discussion to encourage honest conversation sharing challenges

faced and supportive strategies to nurture open, non-hostile work environments.

4:00pm - 5:00pm

Networking Reception

Friday, February 19, 2021

12:00pm - 12:10pm

Opening Remarks

12:10pm - 1:10pm

Break-Out Sessions and Workshop

E1: Electric Vehicles: A Driving Force to the Grid and Energy Efficiency Goals

As electric vehicle adoption rates increase, impacts on the utility system and the grid will intensify. Electric vehicles can be a grid asset, but they also introduce infrastructure and load considerations. This forward-looking panel will discuss the challenges and possibilities for utilities, regulators and the energy efficiency industry as EV adoption rates increase in the Midwest.

E2: Industrial Adaptation: How Industrial Energy Users Can Utilize Energy Efficiency to Overcome Obstacles

Industrial companies are facing challenges stemming from an ever-evolving global market, changes in government policies and rapid industry shifts. How can industrial users prepare for and adapt to these rapid changes and policy drivers? This breakout will feature industrial perspectives from around the region and discuss implications of industrial policy and program trends.

E3: Help Needed: Equity-Focused Workforce Development Workshop

The energy efficiency industry produces more new jobs than any other part of the energy sector and is crucial to the revitalization of the clean energy workforce. But our growing industry can provide greater opportunities for equity-focused workforce development programs and policies. Join this interactive discussion to identify innovative workforce development opportunities that diversify the energy efficiency industry by attracting youth, veterans and formerly incarcerated individuals.

1:10pm - 1:30pm

Networking/ Lunch Break

1:30pm - 2:30pm

Break-Out Sessions & Workshop

F1: Reduce Emissions by CommitEE: Keeping an Open Mind on Program Designs to Counteract Climate Change

Midwest states have begun proposing aggressive policy goals to avoid the climate change tipping point. State energy efficiency frameworks are a practical strategy for reducing emissions. Some have begun to prioritize longer life measures and much of the onus falls on utilities to strike the optimal balance between short- and long-term savings in their program portfolios. This panel will explore the value of near-term measures and multi-faceted EE measure planning in advancing climate goals.

F2: The Growing Need for Energy Efficiency in Indoor Agriculture

The need for energy efficiency programs for indoor agriculture facilities is rapidly expanding in the Midwest. Not only do programs need to identify cost effective measures for the customer, but the buy-in from the agricultural industry and participation in these programs must increase to ensure success for the utility. This panel will cover strategies and best practices to engage this growing customer segment to participate in utility programs.

F3: No, It's Not Another Atkins Diet: Decarb and EE Workshop

What does the road to implementation look like within a compliance framework once policies are passed? This interactive session will explore how energy efficiency and decarbonization work together. Join facilitated small group discussions to dig in and share solutions.

2:30pm - 3:30pm

Closing Plenary: State Policy Trends in the Midwest

This plenary will highlight emerging clean energy policies in Midwest states and discuss their implications for the future of energy efficiency. Focusing on state policy opportunities and challenges in Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin, you'll hear a range of perspectives from the government and advocacy sectors.