



February 1-3, 2022 | Chicago, IL

*\*Please note that all times are listed in CST*

## Tuesday, February 1

9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

### **Pre-Conference Workshop: Exploring Community-Based Approaches to Inclusive Energy Efficiency**

Collaborative engagement with community leaders, policymakers and businesses across the sector is required to achieve equitable energy efficiency policy and programs in the Midwest. Too often, policies and programs lack input, involvement and consideration from the communities they are meant to serve. In this workshop, we will discuss initiatives and solutions from historically excluded communities taking climate and energy action. We will hear perspectives from community-based organizations and stakeholders and explore equity-driven approaches to inclusive energy efficiency policy and programs.

- Shama Mounzer, Wayne Metro Community Action
- Marcus Johnson, Springfield Urban League
- Moderator: Aimee Gendusa-English, National Community Action Partnership

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### **Registration Open**

12:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

### **Exhibit Hall Open**

1:00 p.m. - 1:15 p.m.

### **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

1:15 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

### **Keynote Speaker**

2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

### **Plenary: How the Biden Administration Priorities Will Benefit Energy Efficiency in the Midwest**

With the passage of the American Rescue Plan and the infrastructure bill and potentially the Build Back Better plan, the Biden administration is prioritizing infrastructure, jobs and the environment. Leaders from EERE, NASEO and the Alliance to Save Energy will discuss how the Midwestern energy efficiency industry fits into these policies and how we can continue to engage the administration.

- Vincent Barnes, Alliance to Save Energy
- Kelly Speakes-Backman, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy
- Moderator: Nick Dreher, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance

3:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

### **Break**

Sponsored by:  and 

3:45 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

## Break-Out Sessions and Workshop

### A1: EE Technologies: Reducing Carbon Now and in the Future

What energy-efficient technologies are ready to come online and drive decarbonization in buildings and ultimately, the grid? This panel will discuss technologies in the pipeline and the outlook and process for turning pilots into programs.

- Mark Milby, ComEd
- Ryan Kerr, GTI

### A2: Pay It Forward to Finance Future Clean Energy Solutions

Between new legislative strategies, state programs and utility offerings, energy efficiency financing is becoming more accessible for Midwestern customers. While energy efficiency will continue to be a critical tool in rebounding from the COVID-19 pandemic, financing efficiency will need to be a part of the conversation as we deepen clean energy commitments. Come hear from experts to understand more about energy efficiency financing and how it impacts customers.

- John Delurey, Vote Solar
- Todd Parker, Michigan Saves

### Workshop A3: Choose Your Own Adventure - Energy Codes Edition

Are you thinking about taking energy efficiency to the next level? How about decarbonizing new and existing buildings? Not sure how to identify and explain the best options? At this thrilling code adventure workshop you will investigate and debate the myriad options available in different situations. What next-generation policies will YOU choose?

3:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

### Training: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice: Understanding the Past and Looking Forward

This training will focus on what DEI is and how we got here from the history of a society focused on exclusion. We will address why understanding DEI is important as well as new terms that need to be understood to hold these conversations. We will also discuss how to make personal plans to improve our own actions and create a more inclusive industry. This session will allow for personal self-reflection and group discussion, but you will not be required to share personal experiences or anecdotes.

- Scott Alan Davis, Director of Energy Access and Equity, SEEL, LLC

5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

### Opening Reception (All Attendees)

Sponsored by:  **ComEd** Energy Efficiency Program and  **DTE**

## Wednesday, February 2

8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**Registration Open**

8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**Exhibit Hall Open**

8:30 a.m. - 9:15 a.m.

**Breakfast**

Sponsored by:  **CenterPoint Energy**

9:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

**Opening Remarks**

Stacey Paradis, Executive Director  
Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance

9:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

**Keynote Speaker**

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Shalanda H. Baker, Deputy Director for Energy Justice  
Office of Economic Impact and Diversity at the U.S. Department of Energy

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10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**Plenary: A Year of Action in State EE Policy**

Since last we met, states have been very active. The Midwest has seen two large energy bills passed, energy plans in multiple states and continued legislative debate in others. There's a lot of good, but some bad, too. Hear about the nuances of new state policies in Illinois and Minnesota, energy plans from Wisconsin and Missouri and the latest from Ohio.

- Anthony Fryer, Minnesota Department of Commerce
- Trish Demeter, Ohio Environmental Council
- Moderator: Dan York, ACEEE

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11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Break**

Sponsored by:  and 

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11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Break-Out Sessions and Workshop**

**B1: Energy Affordability Roadblocks and Strategies for Success**

From households to communities, low-income neighborhoods are carrying disproportionate energy burdens due to historic exclusion. Compounded by poorly-insulated housing and high rates of weatherization programming walkaways, it is imperative to approach affordability efforts holistically, centered around key issues defined by the affected communities while democratizing access to affordable energy. Join this session to hear from folks working to increase energy affordability across the Midwest.

- Briana DuBose, EcoWorks
- Mari Ojeda, Fresh Energy
- Andrenika Whisenton, CLEAResult
- Moderator: Katie Frye, Minnesota Power

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**B2: The Opportunities and Challenges of Energy Efficiency Farm Program Design**

Whether defined as the Corn Belt or America's Breadbasket, the Midwest is unique in its agricultural landscape. As an energy-intensive industrial sector, efficiency gains in agricultural processes can have a large effect on reducing the industry's emissions-related impact. What constitutes effective energy efficiency program design in the agricultural sector is unique. Don't miss this opportunity to learn about common hurdles and realized benefits of outdoor and indoor agricultural energy efficiency programs.

- Lauren Morlino, Evergreen Consulting Group

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**Workshop B3: Preparing the Midwest for Alternative Fuel Vehicle Adoption**

Attendees will explore the opportunities, challenges and implications likely to arise from widespread alternative fuel vehicle adoption in the U.S. and discuss strategies to overcome them in the Midwest.

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12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Lunch**

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1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Training: Making Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice Actionable**

This training session will continue the conversation from session one, though attendance at the previous session is not required. During this training, we will focus on reviewing the behaviors and history of exclusion through micro aggressions and biases. This session will also introduce strategies on how to reassess our own actions to be active change agents in the JEDI space. This interactive training will include thought exercises and discussions, but you will

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not be required to share personal experiences or anecdotes outside of your comfort level.

- Scott Alan Davis, Director of Energy Access and Equity, SEEL, LLC

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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### **Break-Out Sessions and Workshop**

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#### **C1: Earth, Wind & (Less) Fire: Advanced HVAC Systems**

HVAC technologies will play a key role in mitigating climate change in Midwestern buildings. But how available are these technologies, and can they also meet the heating and cooling needs of this region? Join us for a conversation about advanced HVAC technologies, including, but not limited to, heat pumps.

- Debbie Driscoll, Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance
- Alex MacCurdy, Energy Solutions
- Ben Schoenbauer, Center for Energy and Environment
- Moderator: Vinoth Sekar, Willdan

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#### **C2: Re-Energizing the Rust Belt: Decarbonizing the Midwest's Large Energy Users**

Federal, state and local governments are adopting decarbonization goals. To meet them, large energy users will be a key target for reducing emissions. These diverse customers, ranging from steel mills to universities to local critical infrastructure like hospitals, will need a pathway to carbon reduction that recognizes their vital roles in the region's economy and communities. Whether seeking electrification, cogeneration or electric & gas efficiency, they will turn to MEEA members for answers. This discussion will take a hands-on look at the practices that will bring decarbonization to these customers.

- Jane Epperson, Energy Resources Center
- Joel Freehling, APTIM
- Deb Harris, ICF

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#### **C3: Better Together With Energy Efficiency and Health**

Energy efficiency has a significant impact on human health; however, efforts to improve the two are often siloed. This workshop explores how efforts to address energy efficiency and health can be intertwined to more effectively and holistically improve the wellbeing of households and communities.

3:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

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### **Break**

Sponsored by:  & 

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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### **Break-Out Sessions and Workshop**

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#### **D1: Turning Up the Juice With Electrification in the Midwest**

Many states in the Midwest have historically banned utility fuel-switching programs, but that has begun to change with the 2021 passage of Illinois' Climate and Equitable Jobs Act and Minnesota's Energy Conservation and Optimization Act. Come hear from advocates and experts to understand how recent (and upcoming) electrification legislation will impact utilities and customers in the Midwest.

- Sarah Moskowitz, Citizens Utility Board
- Moderator: Jamie Fitzke, CEE

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#### **D2: Piecing Together the EE & DER Aggregation Puzzle**

The capacity and energy markets of the future will empower customers like never before. Yet, most energy customers will still be too small to compete.

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Aggregation of supply and demand-side DERs brings these resources to scale with the ability to compete with parity against other market offers. Market operators, market participants and regulators are currently planning how aggregation will affect the Midwest. This panel will examine their views on DER aggregation and how the implementation of FERC 2222 will drive the market.

- Alison Archer, MISO
- Ben Carron, Energy + Environmental Economics
- Tanya Paslawski, NARUC
- Moderator: David Siddiqui, Oracle

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### **Workshop D3: Building Your Hiring Toolbox With Workforce Development Strategies**

The energy efficiency industry is the largest employer in the energy sector. As opportunities continue to grow, it is imperative that we prioritize equitable workforce development with diversified outreach methods in all communities. Join this interactive discussion to explore strategies and tools to establish equitable workforce development through trainings, community engagement, hiring practices and more.

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3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

### **Training: Centering Conscious Communications in Your Work**

How does the language you use affect the ways your business is seen by customers and communities? Conscious communications and asset-framing language can help create trust and build more authentic, respectful relationships. This training will provide you with language strategies and style guides to equip you with the tools you need to update your communications.

- Sylvia Ewing, Director of Strategic Partnerships and Communication, Elevate

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5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

### **MEEA Reception**

Sponsored by:  **resource innovations** Reimagining tomorrow with Nexant today and  **Xcel Energy**

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7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

### **2022 Inspiring Efficiency Awards Dinner & Gala**

Sponsored by:  **Nicol Gas** |  **Energy Efficiency Program** and  **SEEL** Solutions for Energy Efficient Logistics

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## **Thursday, February 3**

8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

### **Registration Open**

8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

### **Exhibit Hall Open**

8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

### **Breakfast**

Sponsored by:  **PEOPLES GAS** |  **NORTH SHORE GAS**  
ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

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9:15 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

### **Break-Out Sessions and Workshop**

#### **E1: Bounce Back Better With EE and Grid Resiliency**

Extreme climate events, outdated infrastructure and emerging energy technologies have inspired discussion on grid resiliency in cities and utility systems across the Midwest. This panel will explore the role of energy efficiency in a grid resilience strategy that minimizes costs and maximizes benefits.

- Marty Hyman, Missouri Department of Natural Resources
- Kenya Stump, Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet
- Moderator: Jacqueline Freidel, VEIC

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#### **E2: There's Something In the Water! It's Energy Savings**

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The interdependencies between our energy and water systems are well documented and recent projects have identified ways to capture and quantify more energy savings from water infrastructure. Join this session to hear about local efforts to help strengthen energy and water systems in the Midwest.

- Carrie Donohoe, Elevate
- Moderator: Ron Burke, Alliance for Water Efficiency

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10:15 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.

**Break**

Sponsored by: **CLEAResult**<sup>®</sup> and  Nest

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10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Closing Plenary: What's on the Horizon for the Energy Efficiency Industry?**

Our industry is changing and evolution is essential to ensure the continued growth of energy efficiency. With clean energy goals being established, new technologies coming to market and new federal funding on the horizon, there is a lot driving our industry. And we have other industries to consider: Renewables, storage, demand response and DERS are being tied to EE more than ever. What does the future hold for energy efficiency and how can we move forward with intent to serve our customers in the best way possible? Hear from leadership across the industry on how they are preparing for the EE industry of the future.

- Erica Borggren, ComEd
- Tyler Huebner, Wisconsin Public Service Commission
- Dave Kolata, Citizens Utility Board
- Emmett Romine, Xcel Energy
- Samantha Williams, Natural Resources Defense Council
- Moderator: Stacey Paradis, MEEA

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12:00 p.m.

**Close of Conference**

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