

Wisconsin Public Utility Institute
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON

2025

ACTIVITIES REPORT

CELEBRATING OVER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Thank you, WPUI Members, for your continued commitment to making WPUI a successful and impactful organization. For over 40 years, WPUI has served as facilitator and leader of discussion for the utility of the future – thanks entirely to WPUI Member support and involvement.

WPUI remains an officially-sanctioned UW-Madison Institute, operating and relying solely on membership fees and program registration fees. WPUI's governance structure – an external board of 24 directors representing all stakeholders in the utility industry – ensures that WPUI remains focused on its mission and goals. The board continues to its commitment to:

- Prioritizing WPUI's financial health and operational continuity
- Maintaining and strengthening WPUI's role in providing relevant, high-quality programming for utility industry stakeholders
- Expanding and strengthening WPUI's membership
- Supporting staff training and board development

In 2025, we welcomed several new board members whose contributions are already strengthening WPUI's programming and the future of the Institute. As the utility sector continues to evolve in response to global challenges and transformations in the electricity, natural gas, and water industries, WPUI looks forward to deepening engagement with member organizations to deliver timely, informative, and interesting programming.



Over the past year, WPUI continued to offer hybrid formats for multi-day programs and virtual delivery for single-day programs, a model that has proven effective in expanding access and participation. As we begin planning WPUI's 2026 programming, we anticipate even more opportunities to incorporate WPUI member feedback into program design. WPUI's programs benefit enormously from the participation of a diverse range of speakers that includes wide representation from WPUI member organizations.

This report was produced in collaboration with students from the UW-Madison Department of Communication Arts. WPUI is proud to support student development through this partnership and values the fresh perspectives the students bring.

WPUI thrives and continues to provide timely and important programming because of your organization's ongoing support and engagement. Thank you!! We look forward to another exciting year in 2026.

Sincerely,

Lori Sakk



PRINCIPLES

WPUI provides programs and forums, in non-partisan format, that promote the exchange, creation, integration, transfer, and application of knowledge. WPUI does not take a position on issues.

VISION

WPUI is an officially-sanctioned UW-Madison Institute and an educational outreach organization within the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and as such the activities of WPUI follow the Wisconsin Idea of applying the resources of the University to meet the need for information outside of the University's boundaries.

MISSION

The mission of WPUI is to advance understanding and discussion of relevant industry topics and emerging trends in the electric, natural gas, and water industries.

PRIORITIES

- WPUI financial well-being and continuity of operations
- WPUI role as facilitator and leader of discussion for the utility of the future
- Membership Enhancement
- Staff Training and Board Development

2025 PROGRAM STATISTICS

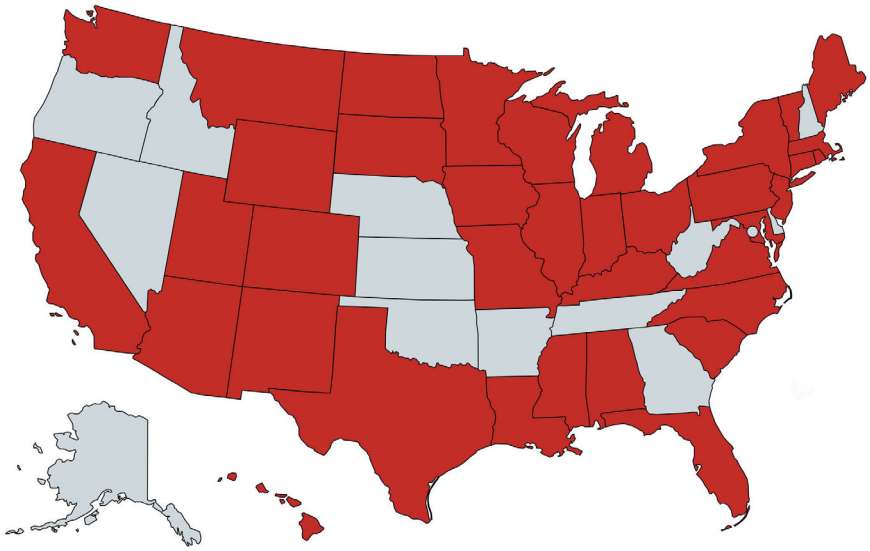
21 DAYS OF PROGRAMMING:

3 Members-Only Programs

3 One-Day Programs

2 Multi-Day Programs

2 Hosted Programs

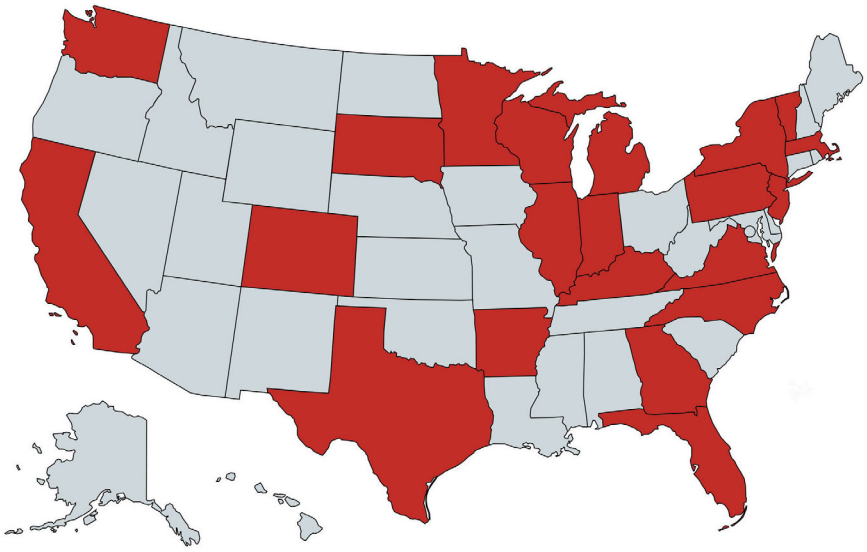


560+
Registrants

38 + D.C.
States Represented

115
Speakers

22 + D.C.
States Represented



2025 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Introducing the GREEN-Z Consortium

JANUARY 23
A members-only opportunity to learn about the Consortium and the approach being taken.

Short-Term Energy Outlook for 2025

FEBRUARY 12
A members-only opportunity to hear about key highlights and trends found in the U.S. Energy Information Administration's Short-Term Energy Outlook report.

Public Utilities Law Update

MARCH 18
Update of notable regulatory and legal cases, statutes, and administrative code provisions impacting practitioners in the energy and water arenas.

RTO Fundamentals and RTO Advanced

MARCH 31 – APRIL 4
RTO Fundamentals provides an overview of RTOs in North America, from their creation to current-day functions and responsibilities. RTO Advanced builds on Fundamentals, providing deeper understanding of core topics.

Measuring Water Utility Success

JUNE 30
Assessment of how water utilities can leverage data, technology, and communication strategies to strengthen infrastructure, improve service delivery, and make informed policy decisions.

Edison Electric Institute's Electric Rates Course

JULY 13 – 16
Rate design course on principles and examples of new rate options in a changing industry.

Load Growth

SEPTEMBER 9
Exploration of how electric utility leaders, regulators and policy experts are responding to current load growth challenges and preparing to meet rising demand in a rapidly evolving landscape.

Energy Utility Basics

OCTOBER 6 – 10
WPUI's annual intensive course on the history of the utility industry and the fundamental concepts critical to being conversant in the industry today.

Energy Security

OCTOBER 28
Discussion of the evolving dimensions of energy security, including reliability, regulation, affordability, and sustainability, while highlighting strategies to strengthen resilience and prepare for the energy demands of the future.

State and Federal Grants in Transition

NOVEMBER 18
A members-only opportunity to receive an update on the status of major programs including how policy and administrative changes are influencing grantmaking.

2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lori Sakk, WPUI, Director
Sarah Justus, kp environmental, WPUI Board Chair
Kira Loehr, Perkins Coie, WPUI Board Vice Chair

Rebecca Cameron Valcq, Alliant Energy
John Garvin, American Transmission Company
Lawrie Kobza, Boardman & Clark LLP
Tom Content, Citizens Utility Board of WI
Kristin Gilkes, Customers First! Coalition
Joyce Peppin, Dairyland Power Cooperative
Andrew Koors, Deloitte
Jeff Kuhn, Great Lakes Utilities
Matthew Spencer, Madison Gas and Electric
Orrie Walsvik, Michael Best & Friedrich
Erik Sonju, Power System Engineering
Kara Pennoyer, Public Service Commission of WI
Drew Vielbig, Ranger Power
Robin Lisowski, Slipstream Group, Inc.
Paul Wilson, College of Engineering, UW-Madison
Mary Blanchard, WI Energy Institute, UW-Madison
Joel Haubrich, WEC Energy Group
Greg Pils, WI Department of Natural Resources
Todd Stuart, WI Industrial Energy Group
Rep. David Steffen, WI State Assembly, District 4
Rep. Lisa Subeck, WI State Assembly, District 78
Tyrel Zich, Xcel Energy

Rodney Stevenson, Professor Emeritus, UW-Madison, WPUI Founder



Sarah Justus,
kp environmental,
WPUI Board Chair



Kira Loehr,
Perkins Coie,
WPUI Board Vice Chair

2025 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

CORPORATE

Alliant Energy
WEC Energy Group

SUSTAINING

American Transmission Company
Madison Gas and Electric
UI Solutions Group
Xcel Energy

CONTRIBUTING

Dairyland Power Cooperative
Deloitte
Michael Best & Friedrich
Ranger Power

ASSOCIATE

Great Lakes Utilities
Illume Advising - An E Source Company
ITC Midwest
kp environmental
WPPI Energy

STANDARD

Advanced Energy United
Boardman & Clark LLP
Christensen Associates Energy Consulting
Citizens Utility Board of Wisconsin
Clean Wisconsin
CleanCounts
Customers First! Coalition
Customized Energy Solutions
Dentons
Focus on Energy
Foley and Lardner LLP
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
GDS Associates, Inc.
Godfrey & Kahn, S.C.
Kentucky Public Service Commission
Michaels Energy
Midcontinent Independent System Operator
Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin
Pacific Economics Group
Perkins Coie LLP
Power System Engineering
Preferred Intelligence LLC
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
Quarles & Brady LLP
Rice Lake Utilities
Slipstream Group, Inc.
Stafford Rosenbaum LLP
Superior Water Light & Power
Taft Stettinius & Hollister LLP
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association
Wisconsin Industrial Energy Group
Wisconsin State Legislature

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2026 PROGRAM PREVIEW

Series: Grid Under Pressure – Understanding the Data Center Surge

1. **Strategic Load Integration** – Managing Data Center Load Growth and Coordination *(March 3)*
2. **Deep Dive** – Affordability, Nuclear, and Water-Energy Nexus *(September 22)*
3. **Forward Look** – Cybersecurity, Resilience, Infrastructure Cost-sharing, and Regulatory Innovation *(November 4)*

Multi-Day Programs:

- **RTO Fundamentals** *(April 13-15)*
- **RTO Advanced** *(April 15-17)*
- **Energy Utility Basics** *(October 5-9)*

Members-only Opportunities:

- **Short-Term Energy Outlook for 2026** *(January)*
- **Nuclear Update** *(June)*
- **Monitoring for Wastewater Contaminants** *(November)*

Hosted Programs:

- **Public Utilities Law Update** *(March 10)*
- **Edison Electric Institute's Electric Rates Course** *(August 2-5)*

CREDITS

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PHOTO CREDITS

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