

EEI 2023

JUNE 11-13 | JW Marriott Austin

Highlights From EEI's Annual Meeting

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Above, L to R: EEI Chair Pedro J. Pizarro, President and CEO, Edison International; EEI President and CEO Tom Kuhn; EEI Vice Chair Maria Pope, President and CEO, Portland General Electric; and Ameren Corporation Executive Chairman Warner Baxter, outgoing EEI Chair.

EEI Elects New Leadership

Today, EEI's Board of Directors elected Edison International President and CEO Pedro J. Pizarro as EEI Chair for the 2023-2024 cycle. Pizarro succeeds Warner Baxter, executive chairman of Ameren. Maria Pope, president and CEO of Portland General Electric, also was elected as Vice Chair.

"On behalf of EEI and our member companies, I extend our sincerest thanks to Warner Baxter for his tremendous leadership as EEI chair this past year," said EEI President and CEO Tom Kuhn. "Warner's sustained engagement and clear commitment to deliver resilient clean energy to customers were instrumental as we worked with leaders in Congress and the Administration to ensure that industry priorities were included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and in the robust clean energy tax package that was included in the Inflation Reduction Act. These historic laws are driving significant investments in critical energy infrastructure and represent an unprecedented commitment to addressing climate change and to deploying more clean energy affordably and in ways that directly benefit our customers."

"We also are pleased to welcome Pedro as EEI chair for the 2023-2024 cycle," added Kuhn. "Pedro previously served as an EEI vice chair and is a key leader in our efforts to address climate change and to transform our economy using resilient clean electricity. I look forward to continuing our work together to advance public policies that benefit the customers and communities we so proudly serve."

"There is incredible work underway to implement the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the new clean energy tax credits in ways that enable deep carbon emissions reductions across our economy," said Pizarro. "It is an exciting time to be in energy, and I am confident that America's electric companies are well-positioned to drive the innovation and investments that are needed to deliver an affordable and resilient clean energy future to customers."

Kuhn also applauded Pope's election as vice chair: "Maria is a champion for innovation in the energy sector where she is balancing investments in renewable energy, improving grid resilience, and ensuring customer prices remain affordable. She also provides exceptional leadership collaborating with our federal agencies on resiliency and wildfire mitigation. We are extremely fortunate for her continued service on the EEI leadership team."

[Read more in EEI's press release.](#)



Above: EEI President and CEO Tom Kuhn and EEI Chair Warner Baxter, Executive Chairman, Ameren Corporation, welcoming attendees to EEI 2023.

EEI 2023's Opening Keynote Session

Today, EEI President and CEO Tom Kuhn welcomed attendees to EEI 2023 and gave a powerful overview of the leadership of EEI's member companies in delivering a resilient clean energy future.

"We are excited to be here in Austin and we have a terrific program in store for EEI 2023," said Kuhn. "We will showcase how EEI's member electric companies and the people in this room are dedicated to delivering clean energy without compromising affordability and reliability. I don't know of any other organization that can bring together the great group of speakers we have with us. There's no doubt I'm truly excited about the next two days."

The opening session continued with outgoing EEI Chair Warner Baxter, executive chairman of Ameren, congratulating Kuhn on his more than 30 years of service in the electric power industry.

"What Tom has stood for, for decades, is EEI's motto: Power by Association," said Baxter. "You don't just stand for it, Tom. You have lived it."



Above, L to R: EEI Chair Warner Baxter, Executive Chairman, Ameren Corporation, and Bill Gates, Founder, Breakthrough Energy.

Baxter then was joined on stage by Bill Gates, founder of Breakthrough Energy, for an engaging conversation on Gates' career in energy and on emerging innovative carbon-free technologies.

"The key playbook of Breakthrough Energy has been to drive innovation and to drive policies for innovation," said Gates. "Massive electrification is daunting, but you can see that there is a path—a path that doesn't involve saying customers have to pay a lot more for electricity." Gates continued that what makes him optimistic is the "phenomenal" progress of innovators.

"We see a path forward through federal investments like the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the clean energy tax credits in the Inflation Reduction Act, and through partnerships with companies like Breakthrough Energy," said Baxter.

They also discussed the 'three Ps'—or three impediments—to building more electric transmission: planning, paying, and permitting. Gates touched on those critical policy areas and highlighted how technology could complement transmission buildout. "Innovation will help further the deployment of electric transmission," said Gates.

Gates concluded: "Electrification is what it's all about. It's a huge opportunity."



Above, L to R: EEI Vice Chair Maria Pope, President and CEO, Portland General Electric; U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm; Senior Advisor to the President for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation John Podesta.

Monday's opening session concluded with an insightful conversation on the federal investments in clean energy creating opportunities across the country among U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm, Senior Advisor to the President for Clean Energy Innovation and Implementation John Podesta, and EEI Vice Chair Maria Pope, president and CEO of Portland General Electric.

Secretary Granholm encouraged energy companies to apply for clean energy funding programs: "We need to deploy, deploy, deploy clean energy to the grid."

Podesta described the process of negotiating on the debt ceiling, saying that not everyone got what they wanted but "our agreement will speed up permitting and be helpful in the clean energy space... it creates more certainty in how that process will take place."

When discussing the customer benefits of the Inflation Reduction Act, Pope announced EEI's new website—[FindEnergySavings.org](https://www.findenergysavings.org)—dedicated to helping customers understand the potential tax credits and rebate programs available to them.

"A sustainable, clean energy future will take extensive collaboration. In order to support the Biden Administration in spreading the word about the IRA's benefits and savings, I am pleased to announce that EEI is releasing an online resource guide that member companies will make available to customers," said Pope.

"Most of the way individual customers are going to experience the work that this industry is doing is at the household level," said Podesta. "That EEI's new website is able to look at the federal, state, and company level is an enormous public service and enormous service to the country."

Secretary Granholm concluded the session by emphasizing the significance of this moment: I hope you feel the significance. I know we do—we say it all the time at the Department of Energy. It is an honor to be arm-in-arm with EEI in working with your leadership and with the White House. We couldn't ask for better partners.”



Above, L to R: Jason Lanclos, Director, State Energy Office, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources; Dr. Henry McKoy, Director, Office of State and Community Energy Programs, U.S. Department of Energy; Dan Hahn, Partner, Guidehouse; Erica Borggren, Vice President, Customer Solutions, ComEd; and Brian Wolff, Chief Strategy Officer & Executive Vice President, Public Policy and External Affairs, EEI.

Highlights from Monday's Programming

EEI Chief Strategy Officer and Executive Vice President of Public Policy and External Affairs Brian Wolff began the day's programming by moderating a conversation with ComEd Vice President of Customer Solutions Erica Borggren, Guidehouse Partner Dan Hahn, and Department of Energy Office of State and Community Energy Programs Director Dr. Henry McKoy on the benefits provided to the electric power industry through the Inflation Reduction Act's clean energy tax credits.

"At EEI, we're focused on being a force multiplier for customer programs funded through the Inflation Reduction Act," said Wolff.

Borggren concurred: "A force multiplier is anything that helps someone do more with less. ComEd does that with \$425 million in energy efficiency programming. We try to take a funnel approach to deliver programs across all customer segments."



Above: EEI Vice President, Chief Diversity Officer, and Chief Human Resources Officer Courtney Peterson, who moderated sessions on workforce development in The Hub.

Monday morning in The Hub, EEI Vice President, Chief Diversity Officer, and Chief Human Resources Officer Courtney Peterson led discussions on our industry's efforts to enhance workforce development and to continue to prioritize safety protocols.

During a panel discussion on attracting and retaining talent, Center for Energy Workforce Development Executive Director Missy Henricksen highlighted that this is a key focus for energy companies: "There has never been a more significant time for workforce development in energy than right now."



Above: Duke Austin, President and CEO, Quanta Services; Joseph Kennedy III, President, Citizens Energy; Caroline Winn, CEO, San Diego Gas & Electric; John Arnold, Chairman, Grid United; Bethany Owen, Chair, President, and CEO, ALLETE Inc.; Phil Moeller, Executive Vice President of the Business Operations Group and Regulatory Affairs, EEI.

Energy grid resilience and reliability was top-of-mind during EEI 2023's afternoon sessions. EEI Executive Vice President of the Business Operations Group and Regulatory Affairs Phil Moeller moderated a dialogue on new and innovative partnerships providing financing solutions for transmission development with ALLETE Inc. Chair, President, and CEO Bethany Owen; San Diego Gas & Electric CEO Caroline Winn; Grid United Chairman John Arnold; Quanta Services President and CEO Duke Austin; and Citizens Energy President Joseph Kennedy III.

"Transmission has become the hottest topic in the clean energy transition," said Winn. "In California—as in many states—there's absolutely a need to expand and upgrade the transmission network not just to meet California's aggressive climate goals, but also to address climate change, hot weather, and renewable development."

Another component to expanding transmission is navigating supply chain constraints. As Owen noted: "When you think about supply chain challenges and how much we have to do, it's daunting, but it's doable. We have to focus and work on it together. We've got to do this, and do it affordably and reliably."



Above: EEI Senior Vice President of Security and Preparedness Scott Aaronson speaks on grid security and resilience. Pictured with Paul Stockton, President, Paul N.

Stockton, LLC, and Stan Connally, Executive Vice President, Operations, Southern Company, and CEO, Southern Company Services, Inc.

EEI Senior Vice President of Security and Preparedness Scott Aaronson moderated a panel discussion with industry leaders and key partners on the policies, investments, and actions needed to further strengthen the energy grid and to provide resilient clean energy to customers in the face of extreme weather and malicious actors.

"Never did I think that energy security would support national security in the way it does today," said Stan Connally, Executive Vice President of Operations, Southern Company, and CEO, Southern Company Services, Inc., during the panel discussion. "At Southern Company, we believe that energy is a necessity, not a commodity. We have to be at our very best when our customers need us most."



Above, L to R: Emily Fisher, Executive Vice President of Clean Energy and General Counsel, EEI; Katie Jereza, Vice President, Corporate Affairs, EPRI; Dr. Vanessa Chan, Chief Commercialization Officer and Director of the Office of Technology Transitions, Department of Energy; Joe Zhou, CEO, Quidnet Energy; and Mateo Jaramillo, Co-Founder and CEO, Form Energy.

New clean technologies are crucial to reducing carbon emissions across the U.S. economy. An important emerging clean technology is long-duration energy storage, which has the potential to enhance grid resilience, increase the adoption of renewable power generation, and strengthen energy security. EEI Executive Vice President of Clean Energy and General Counsel Emily Fisher led a panel discussion on the future of long-duration energy storage featuring Department of Energy Chief Commercialization Officer and Director of the Office of Technology Transitions Dr. Vanessa Chan, Form Energy Co-Founder and CEO Mateo Jaramillo, and EPRI Vice President of Corporate Affairs Katie Jereza.

"What's next for long-duration energy storage? It is starting to make real these projects and products in the market," said Jaramillo. "The future is happening right now. It is imperative to scale up and deploy."



Above, L to R: Phil Dion, Senior Vice President, Customer Solutions, EEI; Chelle Izzi, Vice President of Energy Transportation, Walmart; Calvin Butler, President and CEO, Exelon; Alex Schroeder, Chief Technology Officer, Joint Office of Energy and Transportation; and Dan Belmont, Managing Partner, Energy and Utilities, West Monroe.

Another key component of reducing carbon emissions across the economy is the electrification of transportation. The federal government has made record investments in increasing electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure as new commercial partnerships are forming and EV adoption is increasing. EEI Senior Vice President of Customer Solutions Phil Dion held a dialogue on how electric companies and our partners are ensuring that EV charging is accessible, affordable, and reliable.

Exelon President and CEO Calvin Butler also mentioned the Environmental Protection Agency's [Clean School Bus Program](#), which is an effort to replace diesel school buses with cleaner electric and lower-emissions models.

"Under the Clean School Bus Program, Exelon partnered with our jurisdictions to understand where they wanted to get to [in terms of emissions]," said Butler. "When you look at fleet electrification, this is a great way to impact the air quality in lower-income and minority communities. ...What the federal government has done is allow

electric companies to partner in ways and to access dollars that have never been there before."



Above: EEI Senior Director of Electric Transportation Kellen Scheffer moderating afternoon sessions on electric transportation in The Hub.

Throughout the afternoon, The Hub was host to a series of deep-dive programming on electric transportation and hydrogen as a clean energy source. EEI Senior Director of Electric Transportation Kellen Scheffer moderated a variety of conversations on the future of electric transportation and electric vehicle adoption and integration, including a discussion with WeaveGrid CEO and Co-Founder Apoorv Bhargava on the company's innovative software facilitating electric vehicle-energy grid integration.

EEI Associate General Counsel of Energy and Technology Regulation Sandra Safro moderated multiple conversations on the future of hydrogen in the clean energy transition, including a look into the Department of Energy's Clean Hydrogen Liff Report. Anna Siefken, senior advisor for the Department of Energy Loan Programs Office, held a deep-dive panel discussion on the future of electrolyzers, featuring Electric Hydrogen Vice President of Product Dr. Alex Panchula, McKinsey & Company Associate Partner Tom Hellstern, and Nel Hydrogen Vice President of Advanced Product Development Everett Anderson.

Previewing Our Tuesday Agenda

[Download the EEI
2023 Agenda](#)

[See All
Speaker Info](#)

Tuesday Morning Keynotes

JW Grand Ballroom | 8:45 – 10:45 a.m.

- Elon Musk in conversation with EEI Chair Pedro J. Pizarro, president and CEO, Edison International
- CEO Leadership Panel moderated by Duke Energy Chair, President, and CEO Lynn Good and featuring EEI Chair Pedro J. Pizarro, outgoing EEI Chair Warner Baxter; and EEI Vice Chair Maria Pope

REMINDER: For security reasons, all attendees are asked to be in the Ballroom by 8:30 a.m. for the opening keynote session.

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

- **Keeping the Clean Energy Transition Equitable and Affordable**
Lone Star Ballroom C | 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- **The Future of Natural Gas and Combustion Turbines**
Lone Star Ballroom D | 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Energy Grid Resilience in The Hub

Griffin Hall | 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Conference Lunch and Closing Keynote

JW Grand Ballroom | 12:15 – 1:45 p.m.

Get Social: Tweet of the Day



Secretary Jennifer Granholm 
@SecGranholm



Thrilled to join @Edison_Electric and @POTUS Senior Advisor John Podesta to discuss the impacts of the Investing in America agenda on our clean energy future.

We're building a clean energy workforce to WIN.  



1:06 PM · Jun 12, 2023 · 2,062 Views

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