Energy Talk

By Julia Slattery • Jun 30, 2026

Smart Brevity® count: 3.5 mins ... 915 words

In this edition of Energy Talk:

- New analysis highlights the electric grid's essential role in supporting the U.S. economy and national security.
- Highlights from EEI 2026, including new EEI board leadership and the winner of the 2026 Edison Award.
- Storm season is here—and America's electric companies are ready to help customers.
- Key takeaways on permitting reform from the EEI-sponsored POLITICO Energy Summit.

Let's dive in!

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Electric Grid Bolsters U.S. Economy: New Report

The U.S. electric grid stands as a critical national asset, bolstering both economic stability and national security, as shown in a new report by Concentric Energy Advisors.

Why it matters: The grid's 99.95 percent reliability is attributed to strategic investments in resilience, transmission modernization, and expanded system capacity.

- America's electric companies are projected to invest $239 billion this year to make the grid smarter, stronger, and more reliable. These investments help ensure the grid can continue to power the energy of every day, while keeping electricity as affordable as possible for all customers.

Go deeper: Read the full report here.

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Highlights from EEI 2026

L to R: Judge Jehmal Hudson, NARUC and Virginia State Corporation Commission; Alex Fitzsimmons, U.S. Department of Energy; Nick Elliot, National Energy Dominance Council; and Drew Maloney, EEI.

Held in Las Vegas from June 2-4, EEI 2026 showcased how EEI member companies are prioritizing reliability and affordability as they power the energy of every day.

- **Keynotes featured:** Leaders like Siemens Energy's Christian Bruch, Alphabet and Google's Ruth Porat, Digital Realty's Andy Power, and Emerald AI's Dr. Varun Svaram.
- Check out the highlights from EEI 2026 for more in-depth coverage and insights.

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Preparing the Grid for Extreme Weather

America's electric companies work year-round to help customers—strengthening the grid, investing in smarter technology, and preparing crews to respond and restore power quickly.

Why it matters: Extreme weather can trigger power outages, impacting communities nationwide. Here's how electric companies are gearing up to help the customers and communities that depend on them:

- **Proactive measures**: Companies are strengthening infrastructure and deploying new technologies to bolster grid resilience against storms and fires.

- **Expert insights**: EEI's latest video features frontline experts from ComEd, Entergy, Georgia Power, Hawaiian Electric, and National Grid sharing strategies for rapid restorations when it matters most.

Go deeper: Learn more about these preparations on EEI's website.

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Key Takeaways from POLITICO Energy Summit

At the EEI-sponsored POLITICO Energy Summit, lawmakers, business leaders, and Administration officials agreed we must cut bureaucratic red tape to strengthen grid resilience, unlock American innovation, and support the delivery of affordable energy.

- **Permitting reform will help customers:** Regulatory delays add up to 25 percent to project costs, acting as a bureaucratic tax paid by customers.
- **Red tape hampers competitiveness:** Speed-to-power is crucial, and the United States risks losing its competitive edge if red tape stalls infrastructure buildout.
- **Now is the time for action in Washington:** Bipartisan efforts are pushing for a durable permitting package this year.

The bottom line: To lower costs and power the economy, we need more steel in the ground and electrons on the grid.

Watch the full recap.

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Sponsored Content: After the Storm: Rebuilding the Networks Communities Depend On

After hurricanes and wildfires, restoring critical infrastructure becomes a complex, multi-sector effort.

The new docufilm [“After the Storm”] follows broadband crews working alongside electric companies and government partners during recovery—and highlights how stronger coordination reduces delays and accelerates restoration.

Bringing communities back online hinges on timing, precision, and teamwork, often in challenging conditions. The film offers a closer look at the operational realities of recovery and the shared responsibility of improving how sectors work together before the next storm hits.

Watch [“After the Storm”] to see how stronger coordination can help drive faster recovery.

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EEI Elects New Board Leadership

L to R: Chris Womack, Southern Company; David Campbell, Evergy; Calvin Butler, Exelon; and Drew Marsh, Entergy.

David Campbell of Evergy has been elected as the new chair of EEI's board, taking over from Exelon's Calvin Butler.

- **Vice chairs:** Drew Marsh from Entergy and Chris Womack from Southern Company were elected as vice chairs.

What's next: Look for EEI and our member companies to advance the policies and partnerships needed to strengthen the grid, support economic growth, and continue to deliver reliable, affordable energy to the customers and communities we serve. Read more.

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Duke Energy Wins Edison Award

The Duke Energy team accepts the 2026 Edison Award.

Duke Energy was awarded the 98th Edison Award for its groundbreaking DeBary Hydrogen Production and Storage System.

Why it matters: This award, presented at EEI 2026 in Las Vegas, is the electric power industry's highest honor, recognizing innovation and excellence.

What they're saying: "By transforming Florida sunshine into stored, on-demand power, this hydrogen project is advancing what's possible for clean energy storage," said EEI President and CEO Drew Maloney.

- The DeBary system helps meet growing energy demand while keeping costs low for customers.

Go deeper: Read more about Duke Energy's award-winning project.

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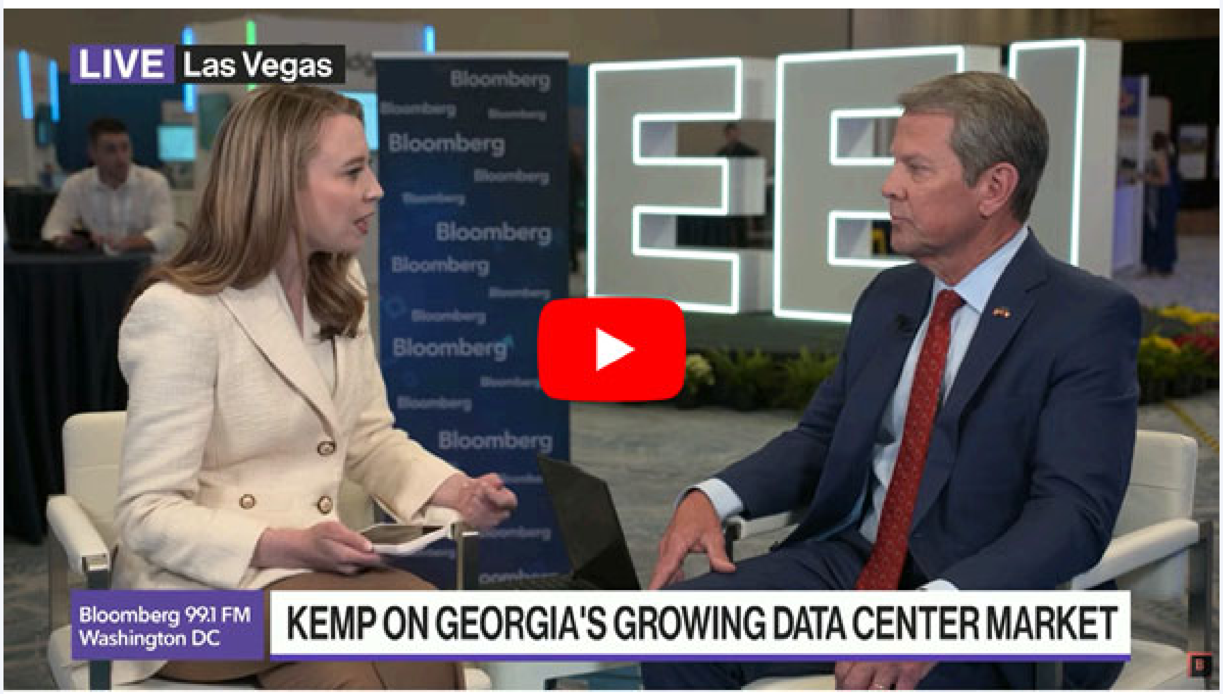
Energy Leaders Tackle Affordability, Grid Investments



Bloomberg TV’s Tyler Kendall interviewed electric company CEOs and Georgia Governor Brian Kemp at EEI 2026 in Las Vegas.

The big picture: Discussions focused on how EEI’s members are meeting rising electricity demand while keeping power reliable and costs as affordable as possible for customers.

Look closer: Watch the interviews [here]() for more insights from top energy leaders.

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Maloney Op-Ed on Investing in the Grid

EEI President and CEO Drew Maloney urged sustained investment in America's energy grid in his recent op-ed for POLITICO.

Why it matters: The energy grid is the backbone of America's infrastructure, powering nearly every sector as demand surges and new technologies redefine energy usage.

- Investing in the grid ensures reliability and supports economic growth.
- As energy needs evolve, the grid is adapting to ensure America maintains its competitive edge.

Go deeper: Read the full op-ed.

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