

EEI 2022

JUNE 20-22 JW Marriott Orlando, Grande Lakes

Highlights From EEI's Annual Meeting

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Above: U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm discusses energy policy with EEI Chair Warner Baxter at EEI 2022.

Morning Keynote Highlights

Compelling conversations and engaging insights from the energy sector's key power players were the focus of the Wednesday morning keynote at EEI 2022. EEI Chair **Warner Baxter**, Executive Chairman of Ameren Corporation, opened the session with a fireside chat with **U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm**.

Baxter began by noting the transformative impact of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA): "It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. What's special about this legislation is bringing stakeholders together to drive solutions. It's not just electric companies, it's universities, community leaders. It's going to help us accelerate our mission."

Secretary Granholm outlined the benefits of IIJA's investments in a broad range of critical energy infrastructure, from electric transmission to energy storage, advanced nuclear energy, hydrogen, electric transportation, and more. She added: "We hope to see part two, which is the tax credits [under consideration by Congress].... It's a way to reduce costs to people, because these credits would be passed on in the form of lower rates."

They also highlighted the value of industry-government coordination. "Thank you for the partnership," Secretary Granholm said. "We are so grateful to be having an open line of communication to EEI and the Electricity Subsector Coordinating Council.... We know these extreme weather events keep happening. This aspect of your work, and our work, is so important, and it's vital that we stay lashed up."

Baxter agreed: "One thing we all know about is mutual assistance. It's a hallmark of our industry."

"We are in the middle of an amazing historic moment in energy," Secretary Granholm concluded. "It's no surprise to you who have been navigating this transition.... This group, more than almost any other, are the authors of our energy future. I know we're seeing it; I hope you're feeling it. We're grateful for our partnership—let's do this."



Above: Former U.S. Congressman Will Hurd offered insights on bipartisanship at EEI 2022.

Former U.S. Congressman **Will Hurd**, who also served as a cybersecurity executive and a clandestine officer in the CIA, next took the stage at EEI 2022 for a charged-up look at his approach of "good policy over good politics."

"If you are a left-wing nut, or a right-wing nut, now might be a good time to get a cup of coffee," Hurd quipped, before launching into a discussion of his book, *American Reboot: An Idealist's Guide to Getting Big Things Done*.

"We are at our best when we live our values," Hurd said. "The source of American power is our values. We have shown that the power of the state flows from the consent of the governed. This is a novel idea" in world politics, he said.



Above, L to R: American Electric Power Chairman, President, and CEO Nick Akins; EEI Chair Warner Baxter; EEI Vice Chair Maria Pope; outgoing EEI Chair Gerry Anderson.

EEI 2022 continued with the popular and time-honored tradition of a roundtable discussion among EEI's top leadership. American Electric Power Chairman, President, and CEO **Nick Akins** moderated this conversation between EEI Chair **Warner Baxter**; EEI Vice Chair **Maria Pope**, President and CEO, Portland General Electric; and outgoing EEI Chair **Gerry Anderson**, Executive Chairman, DTE Energy.

"A lot of the focus here at EEI 2022 has been on the clean energy transition," Akins began. "As well, we have covered resilience, reliability, and affordability—and making sure we do this at the same time. It's a difficult proposition, but we can do it." He added: "Our emissions today are the same as they were in 1984, even while electricity use is up 72 percent since then. Because of technology, our best days are yet to come."

"Our business model—what we were created to do—is even more important today than it was when created," Pope noted. "We bring capital and technology together to create solutions.... We're adding renewables and building in resilience. After the pandemic, our customers expect reliability and resilience at a different level."

"Our core values remain safety and focusing on our customers," agreed Baxter. "Our business model has allowed us to get through the pandemic, and it will allow us to get through today's economic and geopolitical situation."

Anderson, who will retire later this month after nearly 30 years with DTE Energy, reflected: "If I learned anything as a CEO, it is that the statement 'culture eats strategy

for breakfast' is 100-percent true. If you have a superior strategy and an inadequate culture, you will fail. If you have an adequate strategy and a superior culture, you will succeed. Leaders should be students of their culture, and of the energy of their people."



Above: Commentator Ana Navarro speaks with EEI Chief Strategy Officer and Executive Vice President of External Affairs Brian Wolff.

EEI 2022 continued with a fireside chat between EEI Chief Strategy Officer and Executive Vice President, Public Policy and External Affairs **Brian Wolff** and **Ana Navarro**, a GOP strategist, political contributor to CNN and Telemundo, and co-host of ABC's *The View*.

"Ana Navarro calls 'em as she sees 'em," Wolff said. "Quite often, that means calling out people on both sides of the aisle—sometimes at the same time."

The two insiders' wide-ranging conversation covered this November's elections, the likelihood of bipartisan legislation on gun control, and high-level trends in American government.

"I believe in American democracy," Navarro said. "If anything, [the response to] January 6 makes me appreciate American democracy that much more. There are still people willing to put country over politics and career. To me this is heartening."

Wolff concluded the Wednesday keynote session of EEI 2022 by announcing the [winners](#) of the 2022 Awards for Outstanding National Key Accounts Customer Service. These awards, which have been presented annually for the past 20 years, they

recognize EEI member companies and their National Key Accounts executives for outstanding engagement and partnership with multi-site customers. [Read more](#) about these awards and this year's recipients.



Top: PSEG Chairman, President, and CEO Ralph Izzo (L) accepted the 94th Edison Award from EEI President Tom Kuhn. Above: National Grid's North Sea Link team accepted the International Edison Award.

2022 Edison Awards: EEI Congratulates PSE&G and National Grid

On Tuesday evening at EEI 2022, EEI President **Tom Kuhn** proudly presented the [94th Edison Award](#) to Public Service Electric & Gas (PSE&G) and the [International Edison Award](#) to National Grid.

Presented annually and selected by a panel of former energy industry executives, the Edison Award is the electric power industry's highest honor, recognizing distinguished leadership, innovation, and contributions to the advancement of the electric power industry.

"This year's finalists lived up to the highest standards of the Edison Awards: providing distinguished leadership, innovation, and contributions to the advancement of the electric power industry," Kuhn said. (Read about all the finalists in [Electric Perspectives](#) and watch [videos](#) showcasing the finalists' projects.)

Following Superstorm Sandy in 2012, PSE&G, New Jersey's largest electric company, launched and executed its historic infrastructure modernization programs, which called for investing nearly \$4.8 billion to fortify New Jersey's electric and natural gas infrastructure against future storms. In 2021, PSE&G announced it would invest an additional \$842 million through 2023 to further strengthen its statewide electric and natural gas systems to better withstand storms, improve reliability, and significantly enhance resilience. The benefits of this historic infrastructure investment were apparent when the remnants of Hurricane Ida arrived in New Jersey in September 2021 causing deadly flash floods and a rare Category 3 tornado. During the storm, none of PSE&G's substations experienced service interruptions due to flooding, compared to the 29 substations that experienced service interruptions due to flooding during Hurricane Irene in 2011 and Superstorm Sandy in 2012.

"Delivering resilient clean energy to our customers and to our communities always is the top priority for EEI and for our member companies," Kuhn said. "After Superstorm Sandy hit a decade ago, PSE&G's forward-thinking Energy Strong program has reinforced its commitment to making the investments needed to enhance energy grid reliability and resilience. PSE&G is exceptionally deserving of this prestigious recognition, and I congratulate them for being named this year's Edison Award winner."

"This is an industry that has a tremendous amount to be proud of," said Public Service Enterprise Group (PSEG, parent company of PSE&G) Chairman, President, and CEO **Ralph Izzo**, accepting the award at EEI 2022. "It's an incredible honor to be selected for the Edison Award. And, thank you to the employees of PSEG."

National Grid received the International Edison Award for its North Sea Link (NSL) project. NSL allows the United Kingdom (UK) and Norway to share renewable energy across the longest subsea electricity interconnector in the world. A joint venture between National Grid and TSO Statnett of Norway, the €1.6-billion (approximately \$1.7 billion USD) project started commercial operations on October 1, 2021, marking a major milestone in the UK's and Norway's journeys to net zero. By enabling the trade of renewable energy between the two countries for the first time, NSL will help the UK to avoid an estimated 23 million tons of carbon emissions by 2030, and will provide enough clean electricity to power 1.4 million homes.

"Across the globe, EEI and our member companies are focused on getting the energy we provide as clean as we can as fast as we can, without compromising on the reliability or affordability that are essential to the customers and the communities we serve," Kuhn said. "Because of the NSL, multiple countries are able to take the next step toward powering a net-zero economy. I applaud National Grid for its leadership and congratulate them for winning this prestigious award for this engineering marvel."

"National Grid is honored to receive the prestigious International Edison Award from EEI," said National Grid CEO **John Pettigrew** in a video for EEI 2022. "North Sea Link is an amazing, world-record setting engineering project. But that's not what makes it unique. What makes it unique is how it has brought together companies, countries, and dedicated and passionate professionals to build a link that will deliver clean, reliable, and affordable energy to consumers across the UK and Norway for decades to come."



Above: Famed historians Doris Kearns Goodwin and Mark Updegrove provided

fascinating after-dinner remarks at EEI 2022.

"Presidential Power and the People": Edison Awards Dinner Keynote

One of the highlights of EEI 2022 was Tuesday evening's dinner keynote, which followed the presentation of the Edison Awards. The evening featured a thought-provoking dialogue between two legendary authors and historians: presidential historian and Pulitzer Prize-winning author **Doris Kearns Goodwin** and **Mark Updegrove**, CEO of the LBJ Foundation and presidential historian for ABC News.

The two scholars offered insights into the influence of past social movements on the U.S. presidency and their relevance to today in a fireside chat that they called "Presidential Power and the People." Their conversation focused on crucial eras in American history: the political courage of Abraham Lincoln in the Civil War; the oratory of Franklin Delano Roosevelt during the Great Depression and Second World War; and the leadership of John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson during the civil rights movement of the 1960s.

"I've loved history since I was a little girl," Kearns Goodwin said. "It lets you find perspective and solace and hope. We've been through very tough times before—the Revolution, the Civil War, the Great Depression. The people in those times didn't know the end of the story. Fear can be matched by hope—we still can write the next chapters of our story."

"The hallmarks of our democracy are free and fair elections, and the peaceful transition of power—both have been under attack here recently," Updegrove observed. "We have to remember that there have been far darker chapters."

He suggested that Lincoln's leadership reflected "the importance of strength along with compassion—finding common ground with others' points of view."

Kearns Goodwin concluded, "What we need is a political movement for democracy. People have to realize this is not something abstract."



Above: Former Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms speaks with Georgia Power Chairman, President, and CEO Chris Womack.

Luncheon Keynote: Exploring DEI

Diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) is a central part of the vision EEI's member companies have for the future of energy. The industry's focus on advancing DEI and confronting larger issues of injustice and inequality in society were the focus of the concluding general session at EEI 2022.

"When I became the first female chair of EEI, I tried to achieve something personally meaningful and also important to our member companies: making our industry more diverse and inclusive," said PNM Resources Chairman and CEO **Pat Vincent-Collawn** while opening the session. "We had a unique opportunity to build on our record of advancing DEI. Working for our companies and our industry should be at the top of the list for those starting or changing their careers. EEI's industry-wide DEI commitment is building on already-ongoing efforts at companies across the country."

The centerpiece of this session was a dialogue between Georgia Power Chairman, President, and CEO **Chris Womack** and former Atlanta Mayor (and recently announced White House Director of the Office of Public Liaison) **Keisha Lance Bottoms** about the need for continuing to pursue conversations around race in companies and communities.

"The racial and social reckoning after the killing of George Floyd in 2020 was something we dealt with as a company," Womack said. "We have to get comfortable

having uncomfortable conversations.... We see that race still is a critical part of our country and our history."

"For as much progress as we have made, in many ways it still feels like we are stuck," Lance Bottoms observed. "We're had so much success by working with the business community. Mayors only serve four years, and businesses are used to getting things done quickly."

A DEEPER DIVE

Wednesday's Breakout Sessions

Hydrogen on the Rise as a Clean Fuel

Hydrogen's time as a fuel to generate clean electricity has arrived. EEI's member companies are at the forefront, working with technology partners on pilot projects to use a hydrogen/natural gas blend at power plants, with plans to move eventually to 100-percent hydrogen. Hydrogen produced with renewable energy has the potential to help produce electricity 24/7 with virtually no greenhouse gas emissions. To reach hydrogen's full potential, technical and logistical challenges must be solved.

The panelists in this discussion are in the vanguard and offered guidance on the path forward. Entergy Executive Vice President and COO **Paul Hinnenkamp** moderated this dialogue with Florida Power & Light Executive Director of Development Programs **Sunanda Behara**; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Deputy Assistant Administrator for Stationary Sources **Tomás Carbonell**; and GE Power Chief Marketing Officer **Brian Gutknecht**.

"EPA's work intersects with other agencies to expand the market potential for hydrogen," Carbonell said.

"Hydrogen is our way to decarbonize our fleet, and, we believe, other parts of the industry as well," noted Beharra. "Ultimately, our objective is to manage a clean, reliable portfolio, and keep it affordable for customers."

IIJA and Justice40: A Generational Transformation

IIJA and the Justice40 Executive Order together present a historic opportunity to accelerate the drive to clean energy and grid resilience, promote economic opportunity in disadvantaged communities, and support DEI efforts. Panelists discussed the new federal infrastructure funding and offered ideas on what successful IIJA and Justice40 implementation looks like.

Accenture Business Strategy Manager **Patrick Bourke** moderated this panel, which included insights from American Association of Blacks in Energy President and CEO

Ralph Cleveland; Exelon Corporation Vice President and Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer **Robert Matthews**; and Energy Impact Partners Managing Partner, Elevate Future Initiative **Anthony Oni**.

"If there is anything we have seen during the pandemic, and now through supply chain shortages, it's that supply chains actually have more resilience when you have more participation from diverse suppliers," Cleveland said. "A program like Justice40 allows real focus on this area. If you leverage it strategically, you can grow more resilient, responsive supply chains."

"What the federal government is doing by connecting this conversation about DEI and the capital available, is causing a greater conversation, in which we understand that as companies we have to have an equity lens," Matthews said.

Meeting Energy Resilience Needs of Corporate, Military Customers

Energy resilience has emerged as a top concern for corporate and military customers, which are looking to partner with electric companies on comprehensive strategies to continue critical operations in the event of increasingly likely high-impact events. This panel highlighted examples of electric company/customer energy resilience partnerships and discuss what's needed to foster more collaborations.

Entergy Corporation Group Utility President **Rod West** moderated the discussion, which included Walmart Director of Energy Resilience **Jeremy Houchin**; Executive Director, Office of Energy Initiatives, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Energy and Sustainability **Robert Hughes**; and Enchanted Rock Chief Commercial Officer **Allan Schurr**.

"When we think about the value chain, it's been constant for the last decade," West said. "And, as long as we continue to optimize the system, the benefits to customers will be delivered."

The New Geopolitics and Geoeconomics of Energy and Climate

The war in Ukraine and COVID-19 are the latest illustrations of how energy and climate issues are linked inextricably to global politics and economics. Policy responses to local or regional events can have effects that ripple across the world, and business leaders face new risks about the energy future.

EEl Vice President of International Programs **Dr. Lawrence Jones** moderated this discussion, which also included Terna Plus (Italy) CEO and Director of Major Projects and International Affairs **Giacomo Donnini**; Fortis TCI (Turks & Caicos) President and CEO **Ruth Forbes**; energy futurist and former Ergon Energy CEO **Ian McLeod**; and Black & Veatch President of Operations and Incoming President of Energy and Process Industries **Laszlo von Lazar**.

"We are living in a transition period. We have volatility and turbulence, and also the war in Ukraine. What is important is that we go ahead with the policies and targets we have," Donnini said.

"All the Caribbean islands have been impacted severely by the geopolitical and geoeconomics situation," Forbes remarked. "We are seeing inflationary prices for fuel and other commodities, and, frankly, we're at the mercy of larger countries that have access to resources and are self-sufficient. We are looking for more support for climate challenges from the international community."

"Safety is always the number-one concern," von Lazar said. "It's not just physical safety, it's mental safety. We've all gone through the pandemic, supply disruptions, disruptions in the markets, and a very scary war. We all work on teams, and you have to make sure the people on your team are dealing with mental safety."

GET SOCIAL

Wednesday's Tweet of the Day



FINAL THOUGHTS

Thank You for Attending EEI 2022

EEI 2022 truly has been an energizing and enlightening event, and I thank all of you for making these three days in Orlando so incredible. We heard from inspiring keynote speakers, riveting industry experts, and revolutionaries in our field. Our outstanding breakout sessions explored the intricacies of all the top issues affecting our industry's future. And, EEI 2022 provided the backdrop to invaluable networking and relationship building that, like the insights of our speakers and panels, will pay dividends long after we've returned to our homes and businesses.

I extend my sincere thanks to Duke Energy, host company of EEI 2022, and to all the speakers, panelists, EEI member company executives, partners, and attendees who shared their perspectives, knowledge, and commitment to the industry, both in person and online with the [#EEI2022](#) hashtag. You can find all the highlights from the last three days [here](#).

I also thank our sponsors who took part in EEI 2022. Your support helped to make this conference a success.

I look forward to seeing you next year in Austin, Texas!

Tom Kuhn
EEI President



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