



Edison Electric
INSTITUTE

Energy Talk

Your Monthly Energy News Digest

April 2026



IN THIS ISSUE

- Four key takeaways about data centers from the EEI-Axios Live event on the future of the energy grid.
 - New analysis from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and The Brattle Group found average national retail electricity rates have largely tracked inflation in recent years.
 - Highlights from the House Energy & Commerce Committee hearing on rising energy demand and AI data centers.
 - The *Electric Perspectives* podcast explores how Duke Energy's DeBary Hydrogen Production Storage System supports energy grid reliability.
-

TOP STORY

What to Know About Data Centers From EEI-Axios Live



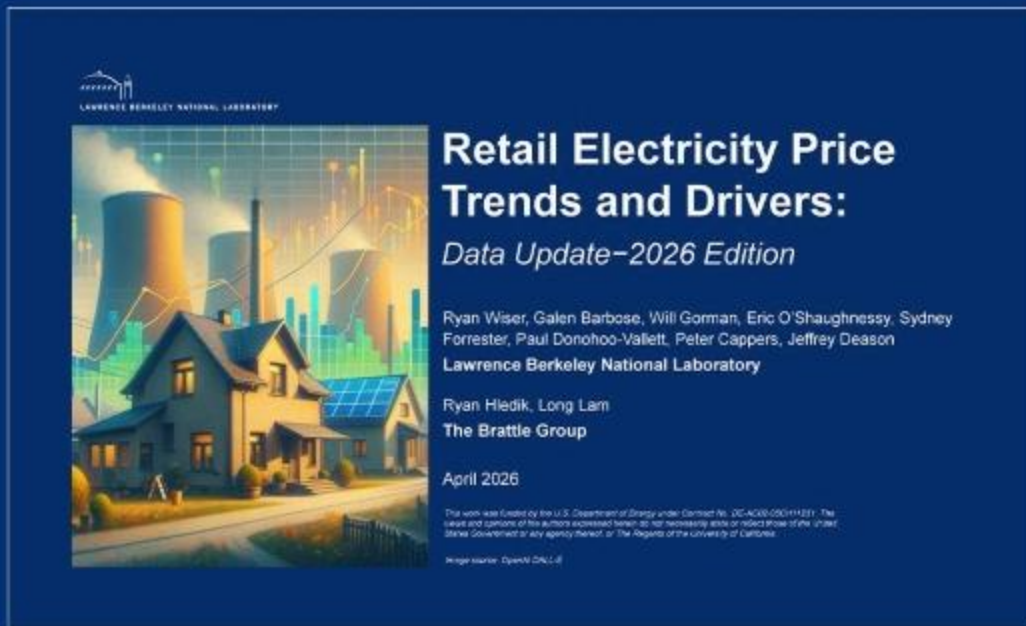
In early April, EEI and Axios Live [hosted an event](#) with industry and congressional leaders on the ways emerging technologies and widespread electrification are reshaping the energy grid. Speakers included EEI Vice Chair Chris Womack, chairman, president, and CEO of Southern Company; White House National Energy Dominance Council Director Peter Lake; and Representatives Julie Fedorchak (R-ND) and Jennifer McClellan (D-VA).

Data centers and AI were key drivers of conversation, with speakers focusing on how electric companies are working with government partners to protect residential customers and ensure data centers pay their fair share of grid costs.

Explore the four key takeaways from the event on [the *Electric Perspectives* website](#).

DATA DEEP DIVE

LBNL Report on Household Spending for Electricity



New Report from Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

DATA DEEP DIVE: HOUSEHOLD SPENDING ON ELECTRICITY

New analysis from the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) and The Brattle Group found that average national retail electricity rates have largely tracked inflation in recent years, and that household spending on electricity as a share of total spend sits near an all-time low. The report's findings align with recent analysis from Charles River Associates, which similarly found that electricity rates have remained broadly stable in most states and have generally tracked inflation over time.

Read more about the LBNL and Brattle Group analysis [on EEl's website](#).

FOCUS ON THE GRID

Highlights From House Energy and Commerce Committee Hearing on the Grid and AI



On Wednesday, the House Energy & Commerce Committee held a hearing about rising energy demand, serving data centers and large loads, and prioritizing affordability for customers.

Nelson Peeler, Duke Energy Senior Vice President for Grid Strategy, Planning, and Integration, stressed to lawmakers that “large new electricity customers, if integrated into the grid responsibly, present local economic development opportunities and can limit rate growth by spreading the fixed costs of the grid across a larger base.”

Read highlights from the hearing, and find a full recording, on [the *Electric Perspectives* website](#).

TUNE IN

The Electric Perspectives Podcast

**Powering
Innovation:
The DeBary
Hydrogen Project**



Regis Repko

Senior Vice President,
System Planning and
Construction
Duke Energy

The *Electric Perspectives* podcast features the latest trends and issues shaping the electric power industry.

On a recent episode, Duke Energy Senior Vice President of System Planning and Construction Regis Repko discussed the company's DeBary Hydrogen Production Storage System—the nation's first fully integrated project to produce, store, and use green hydrogen—and how the system supports energy grid reliability during times of peak demand.

[Listen to the episode here](#), or wherever you get your podcasts.

A promotional banner for a film. At the top, the ncta logo (a blue circle with a white 'n') is followed by the text 'ncta PRESENTS'. Below this, the title 'AFTER THE STORM' is written in large, bold, white capital letters. Underneath the title, the tagline 'REBUILDING NETWORKS. RESTORING COMMUNITIES.' is written in smaller, bold, yellow capital letters. On the right side of the banner, there is a photograph of a utility worker in a yellow safety vest and white hard hat, climbing a wooden utility pole. The background of the banner is a dark, cloudy sky. At the bottom of the banner, there is a yellow horizontal bar with the text 'WATCH THE FILM' in black capital letters. Below the yellow bar, there is a grey horizontal bar with the text 'SPONSORED CONTENT' in blue capital letters.

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 why stronger coordination can reduce delays and accelerate 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.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Three Keynote Speakers Announced for EEI 2026



EEI 2026 Keynote Speakers
JUNE 2-4 • Fontainebleau Las Vegas **ANNOUNCED**

		
Dr. Christian Bruch	Ruth Porat	Mike Tirico
President and CEO Siemens Energy AG	President and Chief Investment Officer Alphabet and Google	NBC Sports & Olympics Lead Host & Play-by-Play Announcer

Three keynote speakers will be joining the mainstage at EEI 2026, our premier annual thought leadership conference. Hear from:

- Dr. Christian Bruch, president and CEO of Siemens Energy, on the company's \$1 billion investment in domestic grid production
- Ruth Porat, president and chief investment officer of Alphabet and Google, on the rapid growth of advanced computing, AI, and digital infrastructure
- Mike Tirico, NBC Sports and Olympics lead host and play-by-play announcer, on his expansive career covering primetime sporting events like *Sunday Night Football* and the *NBA on NBC*

Join us at the Fontainebleau Las Vegas from June 2-4 to hear from these influential speakers and to explore the forces defining and shaping the electric power industry.

[Register now](#) to take advantage of early-bird rates.



AMERICA250

A Timeline of Powering Progress Across the United States



America's investor-owned electric companies have powered innovation and economic growth throughout America's 250 years. On the *Electric Perspectives* website, [journey through a timeline](#) of the most significant moments in the electric power industry's long, rich history of powering progress in the United States.

GET SOCIAL

EEI Educates Congressional Staff on Transmission



Edison Electric Institute

38,306 followers

3d •

Earlier this week, EEI's [Kevin Huyler](#) joined [Chris Loranger](#) and the Western Caucus for a "Transmission 101" briefing to educate congressional staff on the complexities of the U.S. grid.

Alongside [Brett White](#) (American Clean Power Association (ACP)) and [Tim Mastrogiacono](#) with member company [Xcel Energy](#), the panel discussed the critical need for new transmission infrastructure to power our economy and our communities.

Thank you to the Western Caucus for hosting this important conversation on strengthening the grid.

