



Edison Electric
INSTITUTE

Energy Talk

By Julia Slattery • May 29, 2026

Smart Brevity® count: 4 mins ... 1058 words

In this edition of Energy Talk:

- EEI released a snapshot of large load projects that are protecting customers.
- Register for the EEI-sponsored POLITICO Energy Summit on June 10.
- EEI President and CEO Drew Maloney discussed electricity demand and grid innovation on top industry podcasts.
- EEI announced the 2026 Edison Award finalists, to be presented next month.
- Tune into the *Electric Perspectives* podcast for talks on permitting reform and energy grid investment with key legislators.

Let's dive in!

 Copy link



VacuFuse® II Self-Resetting Interrupter
THIS IS RESILIENT



[Copy link](#)

EEI Members Are Protecting Customers



EEI members are at the forefront of powering the industries of tomorrow, ensuring that large-load projects serve both customers and their communities.

Why it matters: These projects are crucial for economic growth and sustainable development.

- \$900 billion in investments to build out data center and other large-load projects.

- More than 55 gigawatts of connected load are being managed.

[Read more.](#)

[Copy link](#)

EEI Sponsors Upcoming POLITICO Energy Summit



Join EEI and POLITICO on Wednesday, June 10, for the POLITICO Energy Summit.

Why it matters: This event will feature crucial discussions on the future of the nation's energy agenda, featuring insights from top industry and government leaders.

- Entergy Chair and CEO **Drew Marsh** will share his executive perspective, as will EEI President and CEO **Drew Maloney**.
- **Additional speakers include:** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Chair Laura Swett, Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chair

Ho Nieh, and National Energy Dominance Council Executive Director Jarrod Agen.

[Secure your spot here.](#)

[Copy link](#)

New Podcasts: Drew Maloney Discusses Grid Innovation, Investment, Affordability



EEI President and CEO **Drew Maloney** shared insights on electricity demand and grid innovation on *The Deciders* podcast.

Why it matters: “75 percent of Americans get their electricity from EEI members,” said Maloney.

- Maloney highlighted investment strategies to meet demand growth and to provide reliable and affordable energy.

The conversation: Maloney joined Pulitzer Prize-winner Brody Mullins and strategist Lisa Camooso Miller.

- They also discussed the challenges in the PJM Interconnection market and responsible data center growth.

[Listen to the episode here.](#)

Maloney also recently joined *The Energy Gang* podcast, where he highlighted the pressing need for increased grid investment amid surging electricity demand.

- He also underscored the need for permitting reform and responsible data center expansion.

Listen to the episode on the [Electric Perspectives website](#).

 Copy link

Edison Award Finalists Highlight Innovation in Grid Operations

2026 EEI
**Edison
Award**
FINALISTS



The AES Corporation, Baltimore Gas and Electric, and Duke Energy are finalists for the 98th Edison Award, set to be announced at EEI 2026 in Las Vegas.

Why it matters: These companies exemplify the commitment to advancing grid reliability while reducing costs.

What they're saying: “Our members are meeting this critical moment in our industry through smart investments and a continued focus on powering everyday life for the customers and communities we serve,” says EEI President and CEO Drew Maloney.

Go deeper: Learn more and watch a video about each finalist on [the Electric Perspectives website](#).

 Copy link

Electric Perspectives Podcast Highlights



Bipartisan efforts in energy: House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Bruce Westerman (R-AR) and Representative Scott Peters (D-CA) discussed initiatives to pass permitting reform and bolster America’s energy infrastructure.

- “It takes a long time to build things here in America,” said Chairman Westerman. “Permitting affects so many different parts of our lives. ... There’s a way we can do this...and build things again.”
- “There’s a remarkable consensus that data centers should pay for their costs and assume their risk,” said Representative Peters. “If you have more energy on there, more people paying, it actually could have a resulting benefit for customers.”

Electric Perspectives
PODCAST

Driving Grid Reliability and Innovation



EDF Director
Gregory A. Beard

Brian Reil

[DOE's focus on grid modernization](#): Gregory A. Beard, Director of the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Dominance Financing, talked about large-scale energy financing and efforts to accelerate grid modernization.

- “We've got about \$75 billion left to lend to utilities to help with additional generation, to do reconductoring, to help keep assets online that would otherwise need to be decommissioned,” said Director Beard.

[Listen to the episodes here.](#)

[Copy link](#)

Sponsored Content: The Resilience Gap Is Growing—And Laterals Are Where It Shows



Year after year, SAIDI including major events ticks upward, and the gap between performance on “blue-sky” and storm days stretches wider. Caught in that resilience gap are customers who rely on dependable power more than ever.

With up to 80 percent of faults happening on overhead distribution laterals, electric companies incorporating lateral automation into their protection strategies are successfully narrowing the gap.

Single-phase reclosers are driving these improvements. These devices automatically restore power for temporary faults and contain permanent faults to minimize outage impact and speed restoration. Electric companies that have deployed single-phase reclosers have seen fast improvements in SAIDI, SAIFI, and the average number of sustained outages.

An easy entry into lateral automation is adopting field-proven technology like S&C's [TripSaver® II Cutout-Mounted Recloser](#), which is now joined by the new [TripSaver® FXR Recloser](#) for broader coverage and feature options.

The resilience gap doesn't have to keep widening. Closing it is the next deployment away.

[Copy link](#)

EEI 2026: Still Time to Register

The graphic features a dark blue background with a grid pattern. On the left, the text reads 'EEI 2026' in large white letters, followed by 'Keynote Speakers' in white and 'ANNOUNCED' in yellow. Below this, it says 'JUNE 2-4' and 'Fontainebleau Las Vegas'. On the right, there are two rows of four speaker portraits each. Each portrait is accompanied by the speaker's name and their title and company.

| Speaker | Title | Company |
|---------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| Dr. Christian Bruch | President and CEO | Siemens Energy AG |
| Gov. Katie Hobbs | Arizona Governor | |
| Gov. Brian J. Kemp | Georgia Governor | |
| Ruth Porat | President and Chief Investment Officer | Alphabet and Google |
| Andy Power | President and CEO | Digital Realty |
| Dr. Varun Sivaram | CEO and Founder | Emerald AI |
| Marc Spieler | Senior Managing Director | Global Energy Industry NVIDIA |
| Mike Tirico | NBC Sports & Olympics Lead Host & Play-by-Play Announcer | |

There's still time to register for EEI 2026 — from June 2-4 at Fontainebleau Las Vegas. Hear from leading voices in the energy and tech industries, AI pioneers, policymakers, and regulators.

- **Who to expect:** Alphabet and Google's Ruth Porat, Siemens Energy's Dr. Christian Bruch, NBC Sports' Mike Tirico, Emerald AI's Dr. Varun

Sivaram, the White House National Energy Dominance Council's Nick Elliot, and more

- **Get involved:** [Register now, and explore the full agenda and speaker list.](#)

[Copy link](#)



[Copy link](#)

Energy News Across America



[Data Center Industry Confronts the Affordability Debate](#)

New research conducted by the Data Center Coalition shows that data center

development has not driven up electricity costs for other customers, and, in some cases, has lowered prices.

[Don't Let Short-Term Politics Risk Reliability in New York](#)

EI President and CEO Drew Maloney outlines how New York Governor Kathy Hochul's legislative budget proposals could introduce costly and unnecessary barriers to how electric companies invest in the grid.

 Copy link

Key Takeaways: House Energy & Commerce Hearing



Permitting, investing in, and upgrading the energy grid were the central themes at the House Energy & Commerce Committee's recent hearing on the energy grid's transmission network.

What they're saying: Southern Company SVP, **Clay Rikard**, highlighted the rapid growth in load demand and the push for reliable and affordable energy.

- Rikard emphasized the urgency for swift electric company responses.

The bottom line: For full details and the hearing recording, visit [the Electric Perspectives website](#).

[Copy link](#)

Get Social: The Energy of Every Day

 **EEI** 
@Edison_Electric



Electricity powers nearly every moment of our lives—from the lights and devices in our homes to the hospitals, schools, and businesses our communities depend on.

Behind that power are America's electric companies. Governed by clear standards, accountable to our communities, and committed to our customers, we are working closely together to safely, responsibly, and reliably provide the energy of every day.

Learn more at: energyofeveryday.com

