



Edison Electric
INSTITUTE

Energy Talk

By Julia Slattery • Oct 12, 2026

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In this edition of Energy Talk:

- EEI's new report highlights how electric companies are supporting customers and helping families manage energy costs.
- America's electric companies continue to work around the clock to restore power to those impacted by Hurricane Isaias.
- Key takeaways from the EEI-Axios Live event underscore the need for permitting reform and large-load agreements that protect customers.
- Fourteen grid-improvement projects led by EEI member companies to receive funding from the U.S. Department of Energy's SPARK initiative.

Let's dive in!

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Building tomorrow's grid
from the community up

Successful projects
start with community trust

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New EEI Report Highlights Customer Support Initiatives



EEI's newly released report showcases how investor-owned electric companies are supporting customers with bill assistance, energy-saving programs, and affordability initiatives.

Why it matters: Electric companies are putting affordability programs into action by providing financial relief, helping customers lower and manage their energy use, and bringing assistance directly into communities.

The big picture: EEl and its members are also working to address the factors driving higher energy costs.

- Efforts include advocating for permitting reform, investing in a more resilient grid, and ensuring new electricity users contribute their fair share to infrastructure needs.

[Read more on EEl's website.](#)

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Hurricane Isaias: Power Restoration Efforts Continue



Hurricane Isaias



EEI

Electric companies mobilized rapidly when Hurricane Isaias made landfall as a Category 2 storm near Destin, Fla. Their swift action, supported by emergency response plans and strategic coordination with federal, state, and local partners, ensured equipment and crews could begin restoring power as soon as it was safe to do so.

Why it matters: The proactive measures resulted in power restoration to more than 780,000 customers within three days, despite the storm affecting more than 900,000 customers.

- This highlights the importance of year-round planning and investments in grid resilience.

The big picture: More than 25,000 workers from 25 states participated in the restoration efforts.

- EEI President Drew Maloney emphasized the success of preparation efforts, underscoring the commitment to restoring power quickly and safely.

“Electric companies were ready before Isaias made landfall, and that preparation is paying off for customers,” said Maloney.

What’s next: Crews continue to work tirelessly to restore power to all affected customers who can safely receive it.

- [Read more on EEI’s storm center.](#)

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Key Takeaways from EEI-Axios Live



Last month, EEI and Axios Live hosted an event exploring the policy solutions and infrastructure investments needed to protect customers, meet rapidly growing electricity demand, and maintain grid reliability.

Key takeaways included:

- [Reliable and affordable electricity powers the energy of every day.](#)
 - Duke Energy's Harry Sideris emphasized the crucial role of electricity in supporting customers and economic growth.
- [Large-load customers should pay their fair share.](#)
 - Discussion highlighted the importance of large-load customers, like data centers, paying their own infrastructure costs to protect existing electricity customers.
- [Permitting reform is critical to meeting growing demand.](#)
 - Representative Bob Latta (R-OH) said that permitting reform is *"absolutely essential."*

[Read more takeaways on EEI's website.](#)

DOE Announces SPARK Initiative, Multiple EEI Member Company Projects Selected



The U.S. Department of Energy's recently announced SPARK initiative will provide funding for 31 grid improvement projects implemented across 26 states, including projects led by 14 EEI member companies.

Why it matters: These investments will expand grid capacity, accelerate infrastructure upgrades, and deploy advanced transmission technologies that will benefit approximately 100 million Americans.

- **EEI member companies selected:** Alabama Power, American Electric Power, CenterPoint Energy, Duke Energy Carolinas,

Duquesne Light Company, Entergy Mississippi, Eversource Energy, National Grid, NorthWestern Energy, Pacific Power, PNM, PPL, Puget Sound Energy, Rocky Mountain Power

Read more on [the *Electric Perspectives* website](#).

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Sponsored Content: Successful Partnerships Start with Community Trust



Communities support energy infrastructure projects when they feel involved and when they can see the direct and indirect ways that the project will address their needs and advance their priorities.

This is where BrightNight shines.

Our deep bench of industry leaders knows how to shepherd a project from its earliest development stages through construction and ongoing operations. We put in the time to earn community trust, and we partner locally to address concerns and invest in community aspirations. The result is projects that deliver for the grid, utilities, and host communities.

To learn more about our approach, visit
<https://brightnighpower.com/community/>

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The Electric Perspectives Podcast



Recent *Electric Perspectives* podcast episodes highlight conversations from EEI 2026 focused on the innovative strategies, investments, and partnerships shaping the future of the energy grid. Plus, EEI's Rachael Marsh spoke with Microsoft's Hanna Grene about Microsoft's new Community-First AI Infrastructure initiative and how digital solutions can enhance the grid.

Tune in:

- [Powering Growth While Delivering Value to Customers](#) with EEI and Microsoft.

- [AI and Advanced Nuclear](#), featuring experts from Energy Impact Partners and Black & Veatch.
- [Delivering Value for Customers and Grid Planning](#), featuring experts from Oracle and Quanta.

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Local Support
Makes All The Difference

ENERGY
INFRASTRUCTURE
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Our Approach

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Energy News Across America



[U.S. EPA Repeals Carbon Emission Limits for Power Plants at G20 Meeting](#)

“The Edison Electric Institute, which represents the country's largest investor-owned utilities, said it welcomed the repeal of the carbon capture and storage-based standards but said it planned to work with the agency to ensure there is regulatory certainty for the sector.”

[It's Time for Utility Bill Reform](#)

“Increasingly, a significant portion of what customers pay each month is driven not by the cost of generating and delivering electricity, but by public policies adopted in state capitals. Unfortunately, those costs are often buried within utility bills.”

[Utilities Not to Blame for Rising Electric Bills](#)

“Regional transmission organizations and independent system operators hold locational marginal pricing auctions to set the price of all electricity and, in some cases, the capacity provided by power plants. This means that regardless of how cheaply power can be provided by a particular generation facility, every power plant is paid the price at which the most expensive power plant bids and clears in the auctions. These costs get passed on to customers. Utilities do not profit from the power they must buy at these auctions, but merchant generators can profit from the power they sell into the auction.”

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Edison Electric Institute

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This fall, America's electric companies are powering the energy of everyday life. From students preparing for the new school year to gathering under the lights on game day, reliable energy helps make the moments that matter possible. 🏈🏈

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