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Energy Talk

Your Monthly Energy News Digest

August 2022

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TOP STORY

EEI Applauds Passage of the Clean Energy Tax Package

On August 16, President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) into law. This landmark legislation includes a robust clean energy tax package and will provide \$369 billion in new spending—the largest climate investment in U.S. history. Passage and enactment of the historic legislation followed more than a year of discussions among members of Congress, Administration officials, electric power industry leaders, and other key stakeholders.

EEI President Tom Kuhn applauded Congress and President Biden for enacting the legislation.

"EEI and America's investor-owned electric companies have been relentless in our efforts to drive innovation and to advance policies that will accelerate the deployment of new clean energy resources across the country, while also enabling us to continue prioritizing customer reliability and affordability," Kuhn said.

"The clean energy tax credits included in the IRA are the right policies. They will provide significant long-term benefits to electricity customers and will deliver a clean energy future and a carbon-free economy faster," Kuhn added. "This legislation firmly places the United States at the forefront of global efforts to drive down carbon emissions, especially when paired with the historic RDD&D funding included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. It also provides much-needed certainty to America's electric companies over the next decade, as they work to deploy clean energy and carbon-free technologies. The innovation that this technology-neutral legislation will unlock also will create good-paying union jobs here in America."

"The robust clean energy tax package included in the IRA also will provide significant long-term benefits to electricity customers across America," Kuhn concluded. "EEI and our member companies look forward to continuing to work with President Biden and with leaders across the Administration on the implementation of these landmark laws."



NEWS FROM THE HILL

EEl Supports GRID Broadband Act

The Grant to Rapidly Invest and Deploy Broadband, or GRID Broadband Act, introduced this month by Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Chair of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, and Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, would provide a robust new federal cost-share to drive investment in a nationwide middle-mile broadband backbone along the nation's existing energy grid.

Electric companies long have incorporated telecommunications equipment and fiber technology into their operations to support communications and to provide real-time monitoring and controls for generation and transmission operations. They also are leveraging existing and planned fiber optic networks along their rights-of-way to serve as an intermediary between major communications carriers and local internet service providers serving customers.

EEl member companies' involvement in middle-mile broadband infrastructure complements efforts at the state and federal levels to enable Americans who live in mostly rural areas to join the digital economy. It also supports EEl's commitment to advance racial and social justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion. ([Read more](#) about these ongoing efforts in the May/June 2021 issue of *Electric Perspectives*.)

"EEl commends Senators Cantwell and Capito for prioritizing fiber investments that will help close the digital divide, ultimately benefiting all Americans," EEl President Tom Kuhn said. "This act will provide resources to help accelerate the deployment of fiber that will provide additional flexibility to energy grid operators in the event of extreme weather. It also will improve cybersecurity and resilience, and will help with the further integration of renewable and energy storage technologies."

"Additionally, these fiber investments will significantly boost opportunities for electric companies to build out middle-mile broadband infrastructure, creating jobs and connecting underserved and unserved customers," Kuhn added.



SAFETY FIRST

Be Prepared When Emergencies Strike

The 2022 hurricane and wildfire seasons are underway, highlighting the importance of being prepared if—and when—extreme weather strikes. EEl's member companies constantly prepare for a wide variety of emergencies. So should you.

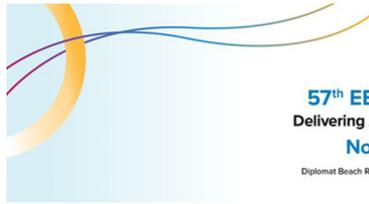
Taking common-sense steps today can make a vital difference tomorrow. During National Preparedness Month this September, EEl and our member companies will emphasize critical safety messages so that customers know what to do in the event of disasters, such as:

- [Earthquakes](#)
- [Floods](#)
- [Hurricanes](#)
- [Tornadoes](#)
- [Wildfires](#)
- [Winter Storms](#)

In addition, learn [how to prepare for a power outage](#) and what you should include in an [emergency outage kit](#).

[Ready](#), the national public service campaign that educates Americans on how to prepare for, respond to, and mitigate emergencies, has designated the theme of this year's campaign as "A Lasting Legacy. The life you've built is worth protecting. Prepare for disasters to create a lasting legacy for you and your family." The campaign's website, www.ready.gov, provides materials to help with planning.





57th EEI Financial Conference
Delivering America's Resilient Clean Energy
November 13-15, 2022

Diplomat Beach Resort Hollywood | 3555 S. Ocean Dr., Hollywood, FL 33019

SAVE THE DATE

EEI Financial Conference: Delivering America's Resilient Clean Energy

[Register now](#) for the 57th EEI Financial Conference, taking place in Hollywood, FL, November 13-15. Each year, the EEI Financial Conference is the premier industry gathering of electric company c-suite officers, investors, and members of the financial community.

This event provides a unique opportunity for delegates to discuss major issues impacting electric companies, their investors, customers, and key stakeholders. The conference fosters an interactive and engaging setting for speakers, delegates, and sponsors, with general session presentations, break-out company visit rooms, concurrent company presentations, and networking receptions. Check out the [agenda](#) and [register now](#).



WHAT WE'RE READING

Transitioning to a Sustainable World: EEI's Global Electrification Forum

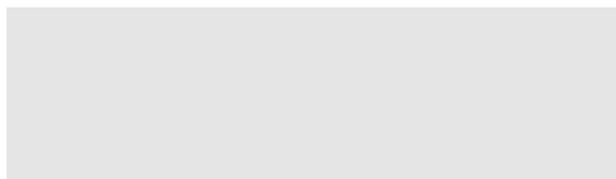
In the current issue of [Electric Perspectives](#), go inside EEI's 6th annual Global Electrification Forum (GEF), which explored the pathways that EEI's member companies in the United States and in more than 90 other countries are pursuing to realize their clean energy and climate goals—and to examine opportunities, barriers, and risks along the way.

The 2022 GEF convened more than 1,000 attendees from more than 30 countries. Read [edited excerpts](#) from the GEF's insightful conversations that highlight the efforts of EEI's member companies to create solutions that balance climate change, energy security, and affordability—all critical steps to achieving a just, sustainable transition.

In addition to the many U.S. and international electric company executives and leaders from the financial, transportation, and other sectors who participated in panels and fireside chats, the GEF included remarks from many distinguished speakers, including:

- The Honorable John Kerry, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate and former U.S. Secretary of State
- Dr. Mohamed Shaker El-Markabi, Egyptian Minister of Electricity and Renewable Energy
- Philippe Aghion, author and professor, London School of Economics
- Ian Goldin, author and professor of globalization and development, University of Oxford
- Nikos Tsafos, James R. Schlesinger chair in energy and geopolitics, Center for Strategic and International Studies

[Read more](#). Find videos of GEF sessions on the EEI International Programs [YouTube channel](#).





SPONSORED CONTENT

Building Coalitions to Spur Decarbonization

Most energy executives we speak to agree that we must continue to decarbonize and create a more sustainable economy. But how do they navigate that in the midst of uncertain government policy? Through coalitions between stakeholders, investors, customers, and suppliers, which can catalyze the energy transition. [Learn more.](#)



TUNE IN

EEI Recognizes Women's Equality Day

On August 26, EEI recognized Women's Equality Day, which commemorates the 1920 certification of the 19th Amendment, granting women the right to vote in the United States. The amendment was ratified on August 20, 1920, but was officially enacted almost a week later. This victory was the culmination of a decades-long women's suffrage and equal rights movement.

Earlier this year, an *Electric Perspectives Podcast* episode, "[Women in Leadership](#)," featured Puget Sound Energy President and CEO Mary Kipp and American Electric Power Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Lisa Barton in discussion with EEI General Counsel and Senior Vice President of Clean Energy Emily Fisher. Their dialogue was focused on their perspectives and experiences as women leaders and how companies are empowering women today. [Tune in.](#)

Learn more about our member companies' [commitment to DEI](#).



POLICY PERSPECTIVES

Urging Lawmakers to Support LIHEAP

Millions of American families struggle to afford basic necessities. For these families, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) is a vital source of aid, helping them pay their energy bills and avoid having to choose between energy and other essentials, like food or medicine. Access to affordable energy is a matter of health and safety.

Throughout August—and all year long—EEI and our member companies have emphasized the importance of supporting LIHEAP, an essential, widely supported federal program that delivers critical short-term aid to some of our nation's most vulnerable citizens. LIHEAP distributes funding to states, territories, and tribal governments, which in turn use the funds to help low-income households in their

jurisdictions with home heating and cooling costs. LIHEAP funds also are used for emergency situations and for weatherization services.

Unlike some federal assistance programs that see their funding increase with need, like Social Security or food stamps, LIHEAP funding must be appropriated annually by Congress. EEI and the [National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition](#) (NEUAC) are working together to advocate that Congress maintain—and increase—LIHEAP funding. Learn more about this vital program and its impact on American families in NEUAC's [LIHEAP Action Toolkit](#), which includes LIHEAP talking points and social media posts.

The latest episode of the [Electric Perspectives Podcast](#) features a conversation between EEI Vice President of Customer Solutions Lisa Wood and DTE Energy Customer Service Director Tamara Johnson about DTE Energy's successful collaboration with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and their efforts to significantly streamline the process of getting LIHEAP funds to households in need.

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Driving Down Carbon Emissions



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