



Edison Electric
INSTITUTE

Energy **Talk**

Your Monthly Energy News Digest

January 2022

This issue of Energy Talk is brought to you by Bidgely.

YOUR SMART METER IS THE KEY TO A WINNING STRATEGY
Engagement | Detection | Managed Charging

The banner features the Bidgely logo on the left, which includes a stylized bar chart and the word 'bidgely'. The main text is in a light blue, sans-serif font. On the right side, there are several icons: a smart meter, a car with a charging plug, a battery, and a plug.

TOP STORY

EEI President Tom Kuhn Outlines 2022 Priorities at USEA

At the United States Energy Association's 18th annual State of the Energy Industry Forum, held virtually on January 20, EEI President Tom Kuhn joined trade association leaders from across the energy industry to recap last year's accomplishments and look ahead to the opportunities of 2022.

Kuhn began by outlining the vision embraced by EEI and our member companies—the nation's investor-owned electric companies: "Electricity is vital to nearly everything we do, and EEI and our members know that delivering a carbon-free energy future is perhaps the defining challenge of our time," he said. "Fortunately, we never back down from a challenge. For us, the path forward is clear—and the path forward is clean."

"Working to shape a public policy environment that supports our resilient, clean energy vision is central to our mission and to our vital advocacy efforts inside the Beltway and in the states," Kuhn said. "Last year, we were strong and successful advocates for many key provisions—on critical energy infrastructure, electric transportation, carbon-free technologies, middle-mile broadband, cyber and physical security, and more—that were included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act."

"While the infrastructure law was a down payment on transformational change for America's infrastructure, much more is needed to achieve our shared vision," Kuhn continued. "We remain hopeful that Congress can reach agreement on additional legislation that incorporates forward-thinking actions to address climate change, including a robust clean energy tax package."

"Our efforts on all these issues shape our larger industry vision—and our commitment to delivering the resilient clean energy future our customers expect and deserve," Kuhn concluded. "Fulfilling this commitment—and reaching a clean energy, net-zero carbon future—is not just a goal. It is the opportunity of our lifetimes—as well as a great challenge. And, in the words of President Kennedy, this challenge is 'one we intend to win.'"

Watch Kuhn's full remarks on [USEA's YouTube channel](#).



NEWS FROM THE HILL

EEI Urges Congress to Continue Its Work on Climate and Clean Energy Tax Legislation

EEI is strongly advocating that Congress continue its work to pass legislation that incorporates forward-thinking actions to address climate change, including a robust clean energy tax package, that will deliver significant long-term benefits for electricity customers. In a January 4 statement, EEI President Tom Kuhn said:

“EEI and our member companies believe it is essential to take action to tackle climate change, while also delivering the reliable and affordable energy that powers our nation’s economy and our way of life.

“Today, 40 percent of our electricity comes from clean, carbon-free sources, and EEI’s member companies are making significant progress in reducing their carbon emissions. In fact, carbon emissions from the electric power sector are at their lowest level in more than 40 years and will continue to fall.

“We strongly believe that we can accelerate to a cleaner energy future faster if the right tax policies are in place, allowing electric companies to achieve even deeper carbon reductions while preserving electric reliability and affordability for the customers and communities they serve.

“To that end, we urge Congress to support technology-neutral tax policies and to pass legislation that provides optionality in choosing between the production tax credit (PTC) and investment tax credit for solar; alternatives to normalization for regulated electric companies; 100-percent direct pay for the clean energy credits; a nuclear PTC for existing facilities; new tax credits for storage, transmission, and hydrogen; and expansion of the EV tax credit/EV infrastructure credit.

“In addition, including 100-percent direct pay as an option for all the credits recognizes the importance of delivering these technologies to customers in an affordable way. They also would mean union work and union jobs.

“EEI and our member companies are well-positioned to be part of the climate change solution, and we remain committed to working with Congress to advance the policies that we need to get this done.”

Read the [full statement](#).



INDUSTRY LEADERSHIP

Recognizing Distinguished Leadership, Safety, and Innovation

On January 11, the EEI Board of Directors presented several distinguished awards for leadership and accomplishment in the electric power industry.

Named after former Dominion Energy Chairman, President, and CEO Tom Farrell, who passed away in April 2021, the Thomas F. Farrell, II Safety Leadership and Innovation Award recognizes the contributions of leadership and innovation to the advancement of safety in the energy industry. Recipients of the award are selected by a panel consisting of leadership from the labor, contractor, and academic communities; regulatory agencies; and EEI senior leadership.

The recipients were selected for the following achievements across five categories:

- **Member Company Executive category:** Southern Company Gas Chairman, President, and CEO Kim Greene, for leading industry efforts on transforming the approach to serious injury and fatality prevention through EEI's CEO Task Force on Safety.
- **Member Company Employee Leader category:** Ameren Corporation Manager for Corporate Safety and Health Tom Dyson, for his multiple contributions to address longstanding safety issues and challenges.
- **Academic/Thought Leader category:** University of Colorado's Dr. Matthew Hallowell, for developing the EEI Safety Classification and Learning Model, which serves as an incident classification system that allows EEI member companies to track incidents with the potential to cause serious injuries and fatalities.
- **Member Company Project category:** Idaho Power Company, for its nontraditional approach of combining psychological safety and behavioral safety with practical application of human performance principles.
- **Contractor Project category:** Quanta Services for its Capacity Model, which approaches industry safety challenges by actively addressing serious injuries and fatalities through controls and employee engagement.

Read [EEI's statement](#) for more.

"Tom Farrell was an exceptional leader and a visionary for our industry, whose many priorities included health and safety policies and technological innovation," said EEI

President Tom Kuhn. “Tom shaped the future of our industry through his unwavering commitment and dedication to the well-being of all Americans, and by helping lead the industry’s transition to a clean energy future that will benefit our customers and our communities. The winners are tremendously deserving of this prestigious award, which honors a titan of our industry and a dear friend.”

Farrell served as Dominion Energy’s chairman, president, and CEO from 2007 to 2020 and as EEI chairman from 2011 to 2012.

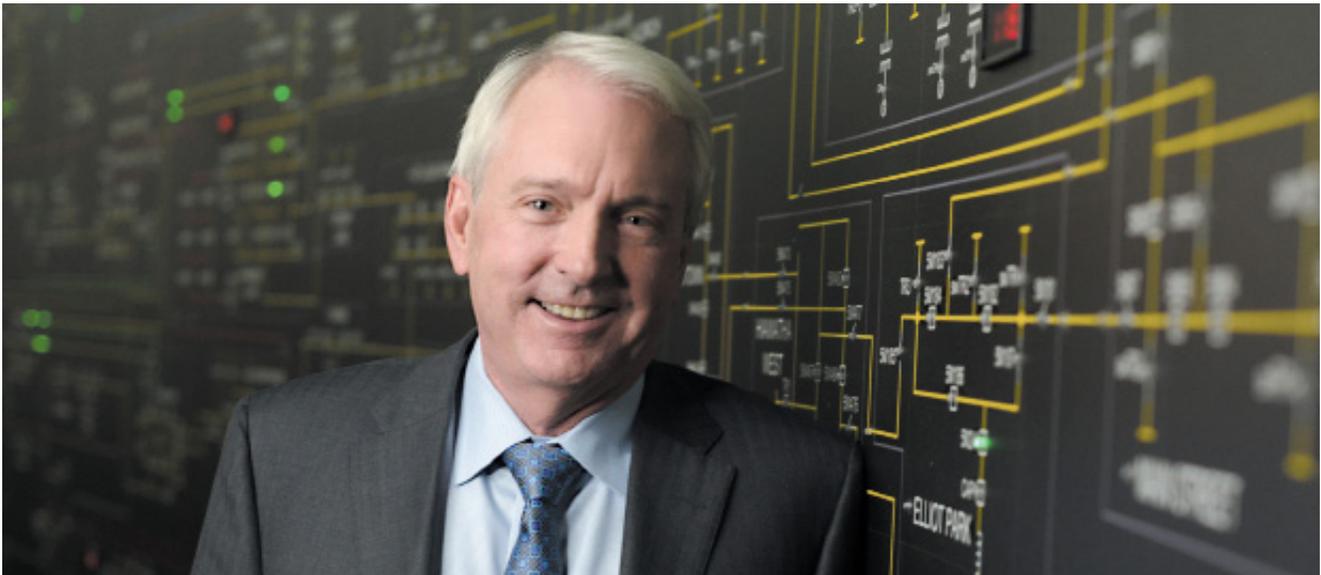


Photo: Courtesy Xcel Energy.

IN THE NEWS

Xcel’s Fowke Receives Distinguished Leadership Award

The EEI Board of Directors has presented Ben Fowke, who served as EEI chairman from June 2020 to June 2021 and retired from Xcel Energy as its executive chairman at the end of December, with EEI’s [Distinguished Leadership Award](#). This award recognizes the commitments, contributions, and individual achievements of investor-owned electric company leaders. Recipients are chosen by their peers.

“Ben is an exceptional leader for our industry and a true champion of the clean energy

transformation,” said EEI President Tom Kuhn. “He set bold visions for the future and has played a key role in shaping major energy policies that will continue to directly benefit electricity customers throughout the country.”

“Despite the challenges we faced as a nation and as an industry in responding to the coronavirus, Ben focused his EEI chairmanship on advancing our industry’s clean energy goals and on establishing an industry-wide initiative to advance racial and social justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion,” Kuhn added. “We know we have a lot of work left to do, but we made tremendous progress under Ben’s leadership. We are honored to present him with this prestigious award.”

Under Fowke's leadership, Xcel Energy made a commitment to be net-zero by 2050. Today, nearly 50 EEI member companies have followed with bold commitments for the future. Fowke also has been a strong advocate for investing in the new, 24/7 carbon-free technologies that EEI's members will need to achieve their carbon reduction goals.

In the May/June 2021 issue of [Electric Perspectives](#), Fowke reflected on his chairmanship. "If there is one thing I know, it's that when our industry moves in one direction with one voice, we accomplish amazing things," Fowke said. [Read more.](#)



DESIGN Scalable, Cost-Effective
ELECTRIC VEHICLE LOAD SHIFT PROGRAMS

bidgely

READ THE WHITEPAPER



WHAT WE'RE READING

Shaping Our Energy Future

EEl's member companies are leading a profound transformation that is building a cleaner, smarter, and stronger energy future for every customer and every community we serve.

In the latest issue of [Electric Perspectives](#), EEl Chairman Gerry Anderson, executive chairman, DTE Energy, said that this transformation involves much more than developing and deploying new energy resources or smarter infrastructure: it is a recalibration of the industry's mindset across electric companies, their workers, and their leadership.

"We want to reach our clean energy and carbon reduction goals as fast as we possibly can," Anderson said. "We need to do that affordably and reliably.... Over the next decade, affordability will be the mechanism that sets the pace, and that's why the Build Back Better Act is so critical. It includes tax provisions that will help us on the affordability front."

[Read more.](#)



TRANSPORTATION ELECTRIFICATION

National EV Charging Summit Highlights Carbon Reduction Efforts

On January 20, the National EV Charging Summit brought together business leaders, clean energy advocates, and government officials to discuss transportation electrification and partnerships to build a national network of public electric vehicle (EV) charging stations to help decarbonize the transportation sector.

“We are committed to getting the energy we provide as clean as we can as fast as we can. And the transportation sector is essential to any effort to reduce carbon emissions economy-wide,” EEI President Tom Kuhn said. “The biggest barrier to EV adoption is not a lack of EVs. There is a lack of access to charging infrastructure that is convenient, affordable, equitable, and reliable.”

Kuhn explained that EEI’s recently announced [National Electric Highway Coalition](#) is one example of how electric companies are addressing the need to build a network of EV charging stations.

EEI Vice Chairman Pedro J. Pizarro, president and CEO, Edison International, said, “At our company, we have been focused on leading the path to a clean energy future that is inclusive and affordable for all of our communities. To do that, we need to achieve economy-wide electrification, a major component of which is transportation.” He noted

Edison International subsidiary Southern California Edison's Charge Ready program and involvement in EV charging networks including the NEHC.

Partnerships among electric and technology companies, communities, government agencies, and others are crucial to installing and supporting more EV charging infrastructure, emphasized Brian Wolff, chief strategy officer and EEI executive vice president of public policy and external affairs. "For electric companies, we don't need to go this alone. We all need to do this together," he said.

NV Energy President and CEO Doug Cannon discussed his company's partnership with the Nevada Office of Energy to build the Nevada Electric Highway (NEC). The NEC ensures there are chargers available to allow EV drivers to travel long distances. "It's critically important that we have community partners ... who are committed to seeing a new energy economy born here in the state of Nevada," Cannon said.



LESSONS OF LEADERSHIP

Connie Lau Reflects on Her Accomplished Career

Constance "Connie" Lau retired January 1, 2022, after 15 years as the leader of Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc. (HEI), the parent company of Hawaiian Electric and community bank American Savings Bank. She offered lessons from her accomplished career in the latest issue of [*Electric Perspectives*](#).

"Even though you may be in charge and have command of thousands of people and

resources, you need to listen,” Lau said. “I also learned that people on the other side of an issue believe as fervently as I do that they are right—that they have the higher calling, the higher purpose.”

“It’s crucial to understand each person’s perspective and to have respect for their beliefs, even when they are quite different from your own,” she continued. “Only then can you hope to have the chance for a resolution that may not satisfy everyone but is one that people can understand, respect, and live with.”

[Read more.](#)



SAVE THE DATE

EEI’s National Key Accounts Workshops

EEI’s semi-annual National Key Accounts Workshops are the venues where national corporate energy users can explore the latest industry trends and discuss best practices for tackling all of their energy-related needs. The Spring Workshop will be held March 20-23, 2022, at the Hyatt Regency New Orleans, while the Fall National Key Accounts Workshop is scheduled for October 23-26, 2022, at JW Marriott Indianapolis.

Benefits of attending EEI’s National Key Accounts Workshops include:

- Face-to-face dialogue with electric company representatives, corporate customer peers, technology companies, and industry suppliers to support energy management needs.
- Communication and discussion of best practices for achieving corporate clean energy and sustainability goals.
- Discovering ways to manage corporate energy expenses.
- Exploring existing or custom energy efficiency or electric transportation incentive opportunities across the U.S.
- Conveying company plans for building new locations or retrofitting existing facilities.

[Learn more and register now.](#)

SPONSORED CONTENT

Design Scalable, Cost-Effective EV Programs

Advancements in artificial intelligence give electric companies the behind-the-meter intelligence to detect EV owners (with more than 90 percent accuracy), and insights needed to engage, influence behavior, and create enduring relationships with customers. Find out how a leading electric company achieved a 73-percent reduction in on-peak charging using smart meter analytics in the latest white paper.

[Read more.](#)



NOW PLAYING

Investing in a Resilient, Hardened Energy Grid

The reliability and resilience of the nation's energy grid are top priorities for electric companies. As the frequency and intensity of storms, wildfires, and other extreme weather events continue to increase, and as cyber-attacks become more sophisticated, increasing capital investment in adaptation, hardening, and resilience is vital.

On one recent episode of the [Electric Perspectives Podcast](#), hear from Richard McMahon, EEI senior vice president of energy supply and finance, who opens the conversation by highlighting the types of investments EEI's member companies are making in adaptation, hardening, and resilience. Then, hear more from a distinguished panel that includes Jim Schaefer, senior managing director at Guggenheim Partners; Maria Rigatti, executive vice president and chief financial officer, Edison International; and Drew Marsh, executive vice president and chief financial officer, Entergy Corporation.

[Listen now.](#)



POLICY PERSPECTIVES

The Imperative of Electric Transmission

The transmission system is key to integrating more clean energy resources into the energy grid. It enhances the resilience of the grid, powers electric transportation, and facilitates the adoption of a broad array of smart technologies to better serve customers. EEI's member companies are vital to transmission development, and, collectively, they invest more than \$120 billion each year to make the energy grid stronger, smarter, cleaner, more dynamic, and more secure.

On January 28, the United States Energy Association sponsored a virtual press briefing to discuss DOE's "Building a Better Grid" initiative, which would expand the nation's energy grid through upgrades and new transmission lines. Phil Moeller, EEI executive vice president, business operations group and regulatory affairs, participated in the dialogue.

"Transmission is going to be the key to unlocking cleaner resources," Moeller said. "It's an extraordinarily complex bit of infrastructure to build. We're encouraged that there's a lot more talk about the need for transmission in Washington, with the bipartisan infrastructure bill having some focus on increasing the planning related to it, and making sure more stakeholders are involved in planning."

“What you are will show
in what you do.”

—THOMAS ALVA EDISON



INSIDE EEI

EEI Announces Key Leadership Changes

The EEI Board of Directors has named Executive Vice President of Public Policy and External Affairs Brian Wolff as [chief strategy officer](#) in recognition of his demonstrated leadership, political acumen, and the creative and focused approach he takes to advancing EEI’s public policy priorities on behalf of America’s investor-owned electric companies.

“By approving this expansion of Brian’s role and his responsibilities, EEI’s Board has recognized the ongoing value that Brian delivers on behalf of EEI’s member companies,” said EEI President Tom Kuhn. “Brian is at the forefront of promoting our industry’s clean energy transformation, and recently he led a delegation of member company executives in Glasgow, Scotland, during the COP26 climate change meetings. He has helped to strengthen the issue management process and advocacy efforts of EEI through his work to advance our strategic priorities and to meet the growing opportunities and challenges facing our industry and the customers and communities we serve,” added Kuhn.

Additionally, the EEI Board approved promotions of three key EEI leaders: Scott Aaronson to senior vice president, security and preparedness; Stephanie Voyda to senior vice president, communications and member engagement; and Eric Grey to vice

president, government relations. Voyda assumed new member engagement responsibilities following the retirement of EEI Vice President of Membership and Meeting Services Jim Owen on November 30; Grey succeeds Kathy Steckelberg following her retirement from EEI on December 31.

In other EEI personnel news, EEI General Counsel, Corporate Secretary, and Senior Vice President of Clean Energy Emily Sanford Fisher assumed responsibility for EEI's environment team on January 1, following the retirement of Quin Shea on December 31.

"I am tremendously thankful to Jim, Kathy, and Quin for their dedicated years of service to EEI and our member companies," said Kuhn. "They each played a pivotal role in our success over the years, and I congratulate them on their distinguished and exemplary careers. I wish them well in retirement."

"I also am pleased to announce the promotions of Scott, Stephanie, and Eric," added Kuhn. "Each is a major contributor to EEI's success and manages portfolios and teams that are vital to our mission of serving America's investor-owned electric companies by delivering Power by Association. As our industry continues its major clean energy transformation, they will play a critical role in advancing EEI's strategic and public policy goals and providing value to EEI's member companies and the customers and communities that we all so proudly serve."

Read more in [EEI's press release](#).



LEADING THE NEWS

Media Coverage of America's Electric Companies

Check out these examples of the latest media coverage of EEI and our industry:

- [Climate Change Is 'Biggest Challenge' for U.S. Power Industry, EEI's Kuhn Says](#)
(S&P Global)
 - [DOE, DOT Scramble to Hire 'Energy Corps,' Roll Out EV Charging Network](#)
(Utility Dive)
 - [Extremists See U.S. Power Grid as Target, Government Report Warns](#)
(AP News)
-



SAFETY FIRST

Electric Companies Urge Everyone to Be Aware of Carbon Monoxide

Each year, more than 400 Americans die from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, and more than 20,000 are hospitalized. CO is referred to as the “Invisible Killer,” because you can’t see this odorless, tasteless gas.

As the weather grows colder and families spend more time indoors, now is a great time to learn how to keep you and your family safe by preventing CO exposure and knowing the signs of CO poisoning. Read more on [EEI's website](#).

GET SOCIAL

Expanding Electric Transmission

