

THE Energy Council News

WINTER

2024

Energy and Environmental Issues Dominate at The Energy Council's first-ever conference in Utah

The Energy Council's Global Energy and Environmental Issues conference was held December 5-7 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Texas Representative Drew Darby, Chairman of The Energy Council, led the conference on Friday. Kansas Representative Kyle Hoffman, a member of The Energy Council's Executive Committee assisted with leadership duties for the conference. Utah Senate President Pro Tempore and Vice President of the Global Conference Wayne Harper welcomed attendees to his state. Louisiana Representative Chris Turner, Vice-Chairman of The Energy Council, presided over the conference on Saturday. Utah Governor the Honorable Spencer Cox provided the Opening Address.

"Carbon Capture Utilization and Sequestration (CCUS)" was the subject of Friday's first panel discussion. First to speak, was Mr. Bret Estep, Vice President of Development for Tenaska. According to Mr. Estep, energy markets across the United States are experiencing unprecedented growth rates and new project demands. States, governments, and nations that solve the inherent tradeoffs will be the most successful in protecting the rates and services of consumers and citizens while attracting new economic growth. The interplay of CO2 storage and gas-fired generation development is key to long-term, flexible, adaptable energy policy, Mr. Estep concluded.



Utah Governor the Honorable Spencer Cox gave an Opening Address as he welcomed attendees and guests at The Energy Council's 2024 Global Energy and Environmental Issues Conference. Texas Representative and Energy Council Chairman, Drew Darby (seated) looked on as the Governor shared his insights on Utah's energy outlook.

Ms. Jaclyn Presnal, Vice President, of New Energy Ventures for Williams, spoke next on the topic.

Electricity demand is projected to grow by one percent per year through 2030 — fueled, in part, by data centers and other large loads. The pace of growth in electricity usage accelerates further as electrification intensifies in the 2030s, with growth averaging 1.3 percent per year 2030-2040 across the U.S. Lower 48, Ms. Presnal said. Electrification and renewables will drive higher demand for natural gas pipelines and storage capacity, and growing renewables requires reliable natural gas as a firming backstop.

In conclusion, Ms. Presnal said that Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) projects are challenged by undefined and uncertain state-level policies. Permit reform would catalyze the development of the CCS economy giving developers a clear path to success.

Mr. Todd Parfitt, Director of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) covered "Class VI Well Primacy." Mr. Parfitt noted that there is a great deal of interest in Carbon Capture and Sequestration (CCS) resulting in States with interest in obtaining primacy for the Underground



The Energy Council

The Energy Council News is the official publication of the Energy Council, a legislative organization comprised of 14 states and two international affiliates, drawn from the major energy producing regions of the United States and Canada. The Energy Council provides a forum for discussing government policies regarding energy and the environment.

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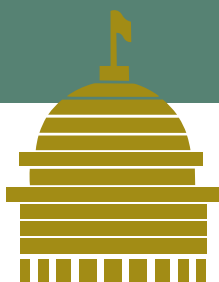
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Tell us what you think!

We welcome your suggestions and feedback. Please email erichards@theenergycouncil.org.



Meet us in Washington, D.C.

The Energy Council's 2025 Federal Energy and Environmental Issues Conference will take place at the Hilton Washington DC on Capitol Hill on June 5-6.

Leadership responsibilities for the conference will be shared by Texas Representative Drew Darby, The Energy Council Chairman, and Oklahoma Representative Ken Luttrell, Chairman of the Center for Legislative Energy and Environmental Research (CLEER).

The conference will begin on Thursday evening, June 5, with a welcome reception and conclude on Saturday, June 7, with The Energy Council and CLEER Business Sessions, and the CLEER Program Advisory Board Planning Session.

Topics Being Considered for Discussion:

- **Federal Environmental Regulatory Update**
- **Permitting Reform**
- **Electric Vehicle Directives and Transportation Infrastructure**
- **SCOTUS Update and Impact of the Reversal of Supreme Court Decisions**
- **Interregional Planning/Operational Coordination**
- **UAB Seminar – Impact of Natural Disasters on Energy Production**
- **The Future of Nuclear Power**
- **National Electric Grid Trends**
- **Grid Reliability and Affordability**
- **Battery Storage Life Cycle**
- **ESG – State Policy Highlights**

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Injection Control (UIC) Class VI CCS. He confirmed that three states, North Dakota, Wyoming, and Louisiana, have received primacy from the Environmental Protection Agency. Mr. Parfitt feels there are many lessons learned in the process of obtaining Class VI primacy that can benefit other States as they pursue primacy from EPA.

Next on the agenda was a discussion moderated by Mr. Brook Simmons, President of the Petroleum Alliance of Oklahoma, "Electric Markets Redesign and Performance-based Rates." Dr. David Dismukes, Professor Emeritus, Center for Energy Studies, Louisiana State University, addressed recent changes in electric power markets. He explained how the proposals for alternative regulation and the energy transition impact certain customer classes, particularly the larger customer classes that the oil and gas industry would typically consume. Dr. Dismukes also covered electricity rates, service provision impacts, and the importance of the health of all aspects of the oil and gas industry.

Mr. Dusty Monks, Deputy Director, Policy & Research, Utah Office of Energy Development addressed "Consumer Focus Energy Systems." Mr. Monks feels that national and regional policy decisions are distorting energy markets by overshadowing consumer voices. He further stated that this has led to a misalignment with the fundamental purpose of energy production, which serves the needs of the people.

Dr. Rob Sowby, Assistant Professor at Brigham Young University presented the topic "Energy-Water Nexus." According to Dr. Sowby, water and energy are critical to national security, public health, and economic prosperity. "We have treated them like they are independent resources when in fact they depend on each other," Dr. Sowby said. The future of both

depends on the water-energy nexus: how much energy we use to produce water, and how much water we use to produce energy, he concluded.

Mr. Manuel Camargo Jr., Principal Manager, Strategic Planning at Southern California Edison Company reported on "Spent Fuel Challenge" along with Mr. Tom Isaacs, Advisor to Southern California Edison for Nuclear Waste at the Southern California Edison Company.

Mr. Camargo stated that federal law required the Department of Energy to begin disposing of spent nuclear fuel in a deep geologic repository by 1998. Despite \$46 billion (including interest income) in contributions to the Nuclear Waste Fund, no federal facility is available to accept spent fuel that remains stranded at 76 sites in nuclear energy-producing states. The lack of federal solutions to the back end of the fuel cycle impedes the deployment of next-generation, small modular reactors. Southern California Edison Company, the decommissioning agent for the shuttered San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS), partnered with local governments to form the Spent Fuel Solutions coalition that advocates for policy reform. The Energy Council is in a position to help effect change.

The next set of panelists spoke on the topic of "Geothermal Energy." Dr. Joseph Moore, Research Professor, Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering and Managing Principal, University of Utah, and Mr. Steve Emmen, Policy Advisor, Western Governors' Association, presented.

Dr. Moore gave attendees a high-level overview of Utah's Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Energy (FORGE). He noted the role of FORGE is de-risking the tools and technologies needed for Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS) development. Utah FORGE is

a U.S. Department of Energy-funded project located in Beaver County in southwestern Utah. The site of the full-scale field laboratory is located approximately 10 miles northeast of the town of Milford, with a population of some 1700 residents.

Mr. Steve Emmen spoke next and reported that, in June of 2023, the Western Governors' Association released the Heat Beneath Our Feet Chair initiative report, which examined the development and deployment of geothermal technologies in the West. The report includes recommendations for policymakers to accelerate the adoption of geothermal technologies. Mr. discussed these recommendations and highlighted actions taken to implement them under the current administration and Congress.

"Energy and Water Needs of the Coming Digital Age," was covered by Ms. Emy Lesofski, Director of the Utah Office of Energy Development (OED), Utah Department of Natural Resources, and Mr. Jason De La Cruz, Manager of Intergovernmental Affairs, Dominion Energy. In her presentation, Ms. Lesofski explored the critical intersection of energy and water resources in Utah. "As the state pursues a technology-driven future, it must also optimize the use of its water supplies while also pursuing energy projects that ensure consumers have access to reliable, adequate, affordable, and sustainable energy," Ms. Lesofski said.

The closing business session topic of "Super Capacitors" was covered by Mr. Joe Ross, CEO of ROW Energy. Mr. Ross discussed supercapacitors how they differ from standard energy batteries and how this new technology is being used across the globe for energy storage, microgrids,

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Congratulations to The Energy Council's Executive Committee Members



Garlan Gudger
Alabama Senator

Alabama Senator Garlan Gudger ascends to the top leadership position in the Senate as the new Senate President Pro Tempore. He represents District 4 in the Alabama State Senate. Senator Gudger was elected to the Alabama Senate in 2018 and re-elected in 2022. He serves on committees for Finance and Taxation Education, Confirmations, Governmental Affairs—local, Education Policy, and Tourism. He has served as a full council CLEER Board member since 2021.



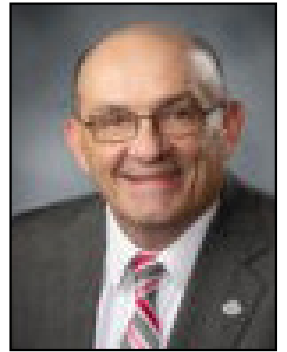
Ken Luttrell
Oklahoma Representative

Oklahoma Representative and CLEER Chairman, Ken Luttrell, has been appointed as Chair of the House Appropriations & Budget Subcommittee on Select Agencies. This is Luttrell's second term chairing the committee, which oversees regulations, budgets and performance for 54 state agencies and commissions, including the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation, Oklahoma Turnpike Authority and Oklahoma Aeronautics Commission.



Drew Darby
Texas Representative

Texas Representative and The Energy Council Chairman, Drew Darby was named Chairman of the House Committee on Energy Resources. The House Committee on Energy Resources oversees a wide range of energy policies in Texas, including alternative energy sources such as nuclear — a key priority for Governor Greg Abbott during this session. Chairman Darby is eager to tackle innovative legislation to maintain Texas' dominant energy status.



Randy Smith
West Virginia Senator

West Virginia Senator Randy Smith, a retired coal miner, was elected by his peers to lead the chamber this legislative session. Smith, who has represented a sprawling district around Preston County, most recently has served as the Energy Committee Chairman. He was first elected to the House of Delegates in 2012 and then won election to the Senate in 2016.

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data centers, and off-grid renewable infrastructure. Mr. Ross briefly discussed the architecture of the supercapacitors and how the graphene works/enables the infrastructure it is being used on to capture energy at faster rates than it is being dispensed allowing for continuous energy continuity.

On Saturday afternoon, The Energy Council and CLEER Business meetings were held. The CLEER Program Advisory Board Planning Session, which gathered input for the 2025 Federal Energy and Environmental Matters Conference, followed the Business Sessions.



Teaming up and Giving Back! Thank you to our winners above who showed off their creativity at An Enchanting Evening Masquerade Ball and Dinner at The Energy Council's 2024 Global Energy and Environmental Issues Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. We also thank those who gave an extra donation to Utah's First Lady, Abby Cox's Show Up Initiative. A donation was made in the names of the winners to the First Lady's charitable causes on behalf of The Energy Council.

Of Special Interest

New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham appointed former state Senator Greg Nibert to the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission for a six-year term beginning January 1, 2025.

A former state legislator and community leader, Nibert has served in the New Mexico Senate and House of Representatives, earning recognition for his legislative and public service. Nibert was appointed to the CLEER Board in 2017 and appointed as a full council member to The Energy Council's Executive Committee in 2019 where he served until 2024.



Greg Nibert
Former New Mexico Senator

The Energy Council turns 50 This Year!



The Energy Council turns 50 This Year! We are excited as we enter our 50th year of serving our membership. We are working on building substantive business agendas for each conference, to include energy experts from the private sector, academia, and the current Federal Administration. We are also working on networking and closing night events to punctuate our business sessions. Please mark your calendar to join us in Anchorage, Alaska in September, where we plan to hold our celebration.

In the upcoming weeks, we will send out a "Call to Sponsor." As you know, we can't do what we do, without you, and your ongoing financial support. We will offer various sponsorship tier levels with corresponding benefits.

We would be thrilled to discuss sponsorship opportunities with you today and further explore how we can collaborate for mutual benefit. Thank you in advance for considering our "Call to Sponsor" so that we can make our 50th year, one of our best!



THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR SPONSORS



SAVE THE DATES

THE ENERGY COUNCIL'S 2025 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Federal Energy and Environmental Matters Conference

Thursday, June 5 – Saturday, June 7
Hilton Washington DC Capitol Hill Hotel
Washington, DC

Annual Meeting

Thursday, September 18 – Saturday, September 20
Hotel Captain Cook
Anchorage, Alaska

Global Energy and Environmental Issues Conference

Thursday, December 4 – Saturday, December 6
Centennial Plaza
Gulfport, Mississippi

The Energy Council's 2024 Global Energy and Environmental Issues Conference

December 5-7, 2024

*Grand America Hotel
Salt Lake City, Utah*

Opening Breakfast and Welcome Remarks

The Honorable Drew Darby
Texas House of Representatives
and Chairman, The Energy Council

The Honorable Kyle Hoffman
Kansas House of Representatives
and Member, The Energy Council

The Honorable Wayne Harper
Utah Senate President Pro Tempore
and Vice President, Global
Conference

Opening Address

The Honorable Spencer Cox
Utah Governor

Carbon Capture Utilization and Sequestration (CCUS)

Mr. Bret Estep
Vice President of Development
Tenaska

Ms. Jaclyn Presnal
Vice President, New Energy
Ventures
Williams

Class VI Well Primacy

Mr. Todd Parfitt
Director
Wyoming Department of
Environmental Quality

Electric Market Redesign and Performance-based Rates

Mr. Brook A. Simmons, *Moderator*
President
The Petroleum Alliance of
Oklahoma

Dr. David Dismukes, *Presenter*
Professor Emeritus, Center for Energy
Studies
Louisiana State University

Consumer Focus Energy Systems

Mr. Dusty Monks
Deputy Director, Policy & Research
Utah Office of Energy Development

UAB Seminar: The Energy-Water Nexus

Dr. Kevin Whitty, *Moderator*
Associate Dean for Research, College
of Engineering
The University of Utah

Dr. Rob Sowby, *Presenter*
Assistant Professor
Brigham Young University

Spent Fuel Challenge

Mr. Manuel Camargo Jr.
Principal Manager, Strategic Planning
Southern California Edison Company

Mr. Tom Isaacs
Advisor to Southern California Edison
for Nuclear Waste
Southern California Edison Company

Geothermal Energy

Dr. Joseph Moore
Research Professor, Dept. of Civil &
Environmental Engineering
Managing Principal Investigator, Utah
FORGE
University of Utah

Mr. Steve Emmen
Policy Advisor
Western Governors' Association

Energy and Water Needs of the Coming Digital Age

Ms. Emy Lesofski
Director of Utah Office of Energy
Development
Utah Department of Natural
Resources

Mr. Jason De La Cruz
Manager of Intergovernmental
Affairs
Dominion Energy

Super Capacitors

Mr. Joe Ross
CEO
ROW Energy

The Energy Council and CLEER Business Meetings and CLEER Program Advisory Board Meeting