

# AI and the Grid

The rising tide of new applications and demands

October 6-8, 2025

Monterey Conference Center

Monterey, CA

Grid **FWD**  
2025

## Updated Program

August 2025

Presented by:  **GridForward**

### Key Sponsors

 **ENGINEERED INTELLIGENCE**

 Los Angeles Department of Water & Power

 **NVIDIA**

 **PG&E**

  
**Pacific Northwest**  
NATIONAL LABORATORY

 **World Wide Technology**

[Register Now](#)



# AI and the Grid: The rising tide of new applications and demands

AI data centers need massive amounts of power. The electric system needs massive amounts of modernization. GridFWD 2025 brings together all the actors working in this dynamic interplay of revolutionary new applications and unprecedented demand for more grid capacity, flexibility and resiliency.

**This preeminent AI gathering for the electric grid industry will present a 360° view of how AI apps can accelerate grid advancements that in turn can meet the demands of huge new data centers.**

**Managing change:**  
risks & rewards of  
restructuring process  
and people

**Revolutionizing  
asset management**  
with predictive analytics  
and visualization

**Data for  
innovation:**  
getting it right,  
seeing it better

**AI and  
industrial loads:**  
forecasting and closing  
the generation gap

**Orchestrating  
the grid** for next-level  
flexibility, resiliency  
and equity

**Responsible AI:**  
building trust through  
governance, guardrails  
and security

**New policy  
and regulation**  
to keep up with AI



Photo credit: 'Noteworthy AI'



Photo credit: Chad Davis, Wikimedia Creative Commons



Photo source: Greg Goebel



Photo credit: Envello

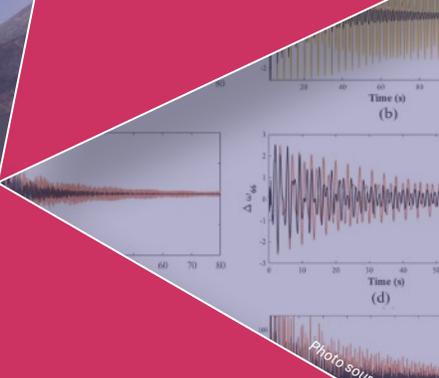


Photo source: PNNL

# GridFWD 2025 Agenda at a Glance

Two incredibly valuable days of learning, sharing and connecting at the inviting Monterey Conference Center.

Monday October 6		
1 – 3 PM	NVIDIA facility tour	Microsoft facility tour
3 PM	Shuttles from facility tours to Monterey	
4 PM	Registration Opens	
Tuesday October 7		
7 AM	Registration and light breakfast	
8 – 9:15AM	<b>Opening plenary session with NVIDIA</b>	
9:30 – 11:20 AM	Four (4) conference sessions	Four (4) case study sessions
11:30 AM – noon	Six (6) small-group huddle discussions	
12:10 – 1PM	Lunch session: AI basics for utilities	Grid Innovation Pitch Competition Round 1
1 – 2:30 PM	Conference Connectors: Sponsored activities around Monterey	
2:30 – 3:20 PM	Two (2) conference sessions	Innovation Pavilion: Live demos with tech providers
3:30 – 4 PM	Six (6) small-group huddle discussions	
4 – 4:30 PM	<b>Closing plenary session with PG&amp;E, Duke Energy and NextEra Energy</b>	
5 – 7:30 PM	Networking reception at the Barns at Cooper Molera	
Wednesday October 8		
7:30 AM	Light breakfast and networking	
8 – 8:30 AM	<b>Opening plenary with the CEO of LADWP</b>	
8:30 – 10 AM	Two (2) conference sessions	Innovation Pavilion: Live demos with utilities
10 – 10:30 AM	Six (6) small-group huddle discussions	
10:30 AM – noon	Conference Connectors: Sponsored activities around Monterey	
Noon – 1PM	Lunch session: AI in China	Grid Innovation Pitch Competition Final Round
1 – 2:50 PM	Four (4) conference sessions	Two (2) case study sessions
3 – 3:30 PM	<b>Conference closing plenary with NV Energy and Wood Mackenzie</b>	

▾ Plenary and Conference 
 ▾ Case Studies 
 ▾ Huddles 
 ▾ Pitch Competition 
 ▾ Innovation Pavillion



"AI will play a transformative role in modernizing the electric grid by enabling smarter, more efficient, and resilient energy systems. GridFWD 2025 will be a key gathering for industry leaders to explore and tackle the pressing challenges and opportunities that AI brings to grid innovation. The event will foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing to drive the future of energy forward." **Marc Spieler, Sr. Managing Director - Energy, NVIDIA**

# Partial list of speakers and discussion leaders

Here are some of the confirmed speakers of the over 100 AI, data center and grid experts you can interact with at GridFWD 2025.



**Ankush Agarwal**  
Director of Innovation,  
Technology and R&D,  
Exelon



**Kaitlyn Albertoli**  
CEO and Co-founder,  
Buzz Solutions



**Maeve Allsup**  
Reporter,  
Latitude Media



**Aaron Bloom**  
Executive Director,  
Transmission Fundamentals,  
NextEra Analytics



**Ian Fitzgerald**  
CTO,  
Chelan PUD



**Brian Fitzsimons**  
CEO,  
GridUnity



**Colin Gibbs**  
VP of Energy Services,  
Sense



**Jason Glickman**  
EVP Engineering,  
Planning & Strategy,  
PG&E



**Hanna Grene**  
Global Power and  
Utilities Leader,  
Microsoft



**Brian Janous**  
Co-Founder,  
Cloverleaf  
Infrastructure



**Haresh Kamath**  
Director Cross-Cutting  
Technologies &  
Solutions, EPRI



**Varun Mehra**  
Technical Lead,  
Google



**Indu Nambiar**  
Principal,  
IT Architecture,  
CAISO



**Janisse Quiñones**  
CEO and Chief Engineer,  
LADWP



**Fiona Spruill**  
CEO,  
Overstory



**Subhani Syed**  
Senior Manager,  
Deloitte



**Jim Taylor**  
VP Energy Solutions,  
Siemens



**Bonnie Titone**  
Executive V.P. & Chief  
Administrative Officer,  
Duke Energy



**Josh Wong**  
CEO,  
ThinkLabs AI



**Ahsan Yousufzai**  
Global Director Energy  
Surface, NVIDIA

## Help define the direction of AI and the grid

At GridFWD 2025, all members of the grid ecosystem will come together to explore the potential and pitfalls of the joint evolution of AI and the grid.

• **Utility and energy executives** - Learn and share AI use cases for planning, building and managing resilient, flexible and sustainable energy systems.

• **AI and data center leaders** - Collaborate with AI and utility experts on defining grid apps and meeting energy demand.

• **Regulators and government officer** - Help to advance regulations and policies to meet evolving expectations of communities and the industry.

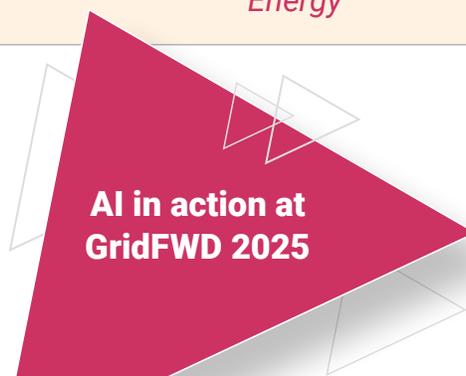
• **Solution providers** - Join customers and other stakeholders as we take steps to advance AI and the grid together.

• **NGOs and advocates** - Learn where AI is really making an impact, and help build the roadmap to an AI-enhanced grid.

# October 7 sessions and speakers

Tuesday, October 7	
8:00 AM	<p><b>Opening plenary</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Marc Spieler</b> Sr. Managing Director - Energy, NVIDIA</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Bryce Yonker</b> Executive director and CEO, Grid Forward</p> </div> </div>
9:30 AM	<p><b>Using AI to unlock grid flexibility and capacity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Varun Mehra, Google • Indu Nambiar, CAISO • Stephon McCoy, Utilidata • Jim Ogle, PNNL</li> <li>• Jim Taylor, Siemens</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Eyes wide open: Risks, rewards, and restructuring process and people</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Norma Grubb, LADWP • Hanna Grene, Microsoft • Matt Piper, Esri • Austin Alexander, Xylem</li> <li>• Kurt Sweetser, SCE</li> </ul>
10:30 AM	<p><b>Architecting the future: Getting data right for a strong foundation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robin Lanier, Southern Company • Haresh Kamath, EPRI • Ahsan Yousufzai, NVIDIA</li> <li>• Josh Wong, ThinkLabs AI • Srikanth Srinivasan, Infosys</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Using AI to predict and optimize grid maintenance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ted Zalucki, Engineered Intelligence • Mishal Thadani, Rhizome</li> </ul>
2:30 PM	<p><b>Strategic grid investment: Planning for growth, capacity and constraints</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rob Gramlich, Grid Strategies • Casey Cathey, SPP • NVIDIA • Hitachi</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Orchestrating intelligence: VPPs, AI and the customer frontline</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tanuj Deora, SparkFund • Matt Hubbard, PGE • Jeff Bladen, Verrus • Dak Liyanearachchi, NRG</li> <li>• Colin Gibbs, Sense</li> </ul>
4:00 PM	<p><b>Moderated plenary: AI impacts for a resilient grid</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Jason Glickman</b> EVP Engineering, Planning, and Strategy, PG&amp;E</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Petter Skantze</b> Sr. VP of Infrastructure Development, NextEra Energy</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Bonnie Titone</b> Executive V.P. &amp; Chief Administrative Officer, Duke Energy</p> </div> </div>

We will be using AI to enhance the event experience. Come see AI at work at GridFWD 2025



- Answering some moderator questions
- Rating the pitch competitors
- Generating summaries

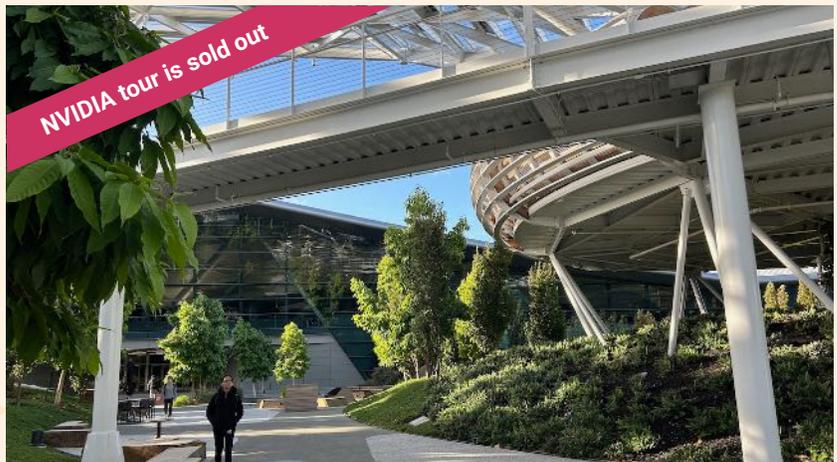
# Tour nearby Microsoft and NVIDIA AI facilities

GridFWD 2025 attendees have the opportunity to visit Microsoft and NVIDIA facilities in Silicon Valley and hear directly about their AI work.

Tours start at 1PM on Monday, October 6. Afterwards, a shuttle bus will transport attendees to Monterey.

Registered attendees will get more details about the tours.

**Spots on the tours are available on a first-come limited basis, so complete your registration soon.**



## Join all the speakers and attendees at our Tuesday night reception

When our first day ends, all GridFWD 2025 attendees are encouraged to walk a few blocks to our networking reception at the Barns at Cooper Molera. We'll enjoy drinks, food and great company as we wind down in this unique and historical setting right in the heart of downtown Monterey.



# October 8 sessions and speakers

Wednesday, October 8	
8:00 AM	<p><b>Opening plenary: Fireside chat with the CEO of LADWP</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Janisse Quiñones</b> CEO and Chief Engineer, LADWP</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Bryce Yonker</b> Executive director and CEO, Grid Forward</p> </div> </div>
9:00 AM	<p><b>Optimally serving data centers: Timely and clean(er) energy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brian Janous, Cloverleaf Infrastructure • Dado Slezak, QTS   Blackstone</li> <li>• Matt Futch, Black &amp; Veatch • Aaron Bloom, NextEra Analytics</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Regulatory Evolution: Creating policy frameworks for AI in energy systems</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mark Kolesar, former Alberta Utilities Commission chair • Vincent Dufresne, CGI</li> <li>• A. J. Goulding, London Economics</li> </ul>
1:00 PM	<p><b>Using AI to accelerate the interconnection process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maeve Allsup, Latitude Media • Brian Fitzsimons, GridUnity • Nadim Verani, PG&amp;E</li> <li>• Deb Levine, CAISO • Joachim Seel, LBNL</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Unlocking insights of visual information with AI</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chris Ricciuti, Noteworthy AI • Sonia Kastner, Pano AI • Fiona Spruill, Overstory</li> <li>• Kaitlyn Abertoli, Buzz Solutions • Subhani Syad, Deloitte</li> </ul>
2:00 PM	<p><b>Advanced energy demand forecasting: Leveraging AI and machine learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alex Robart, Amperon • Enverus • Baringa • Paul Dietz, Grant PUD</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Keeping utility service safe, reliable and affordable: AI for good</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Josh Poduska, PG&amp;E • Tricia Yamagata, Southern California Edison</li> <li>• Craig Connelly, POWER Engineers • Evan O'Mahoney, CPS Energy • Amith Kota, Landis+Gyr</li> </ul>
3:00 PM	<p><b>Closing plenary: Moving forward with AI for a modern, affordable grid</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Ben Hertz-Shargel</b> Global head of grid edge, Wood Mackenzie</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><b>Marie Steele</b> VP Integrated Energy Services, NV Energy</p> </div> </div>

[Register Now](#)

Grid Forward events regularly sell out.  
Register today to reserve your spot.



# Don't miss the 2025 Grid Innovation Pitch Competition

This year's competition will showcase early-stage companies that apply AI to address challenges across the grid ecosystem including demand-side management, grid optimization, asset management and data management. Each company embodies a facet of our core theme: The rising tide of AI applications and demands. Don't miss the dynamic competition of where AI for the grid is heading.

Grid Analytics & Intelligence	AI & Automation for Utility Operation	Asset Management & Visualization	Data Center Flex	Risk & Weather
 	 	 		

## This year's judges:

- **Luis D'Acosta**, CEO, Uplight
- **Carolyn Funk**, Partner, Blue Bear Capitol
- **Hanna Grene**, Global Power and Utilities Leader, Microsoft
- **Mark Gustafson**, President, Avista Development
- **Mark Hormann**, Managing Partner, Accurant International
- **Quinn Nakayama**, Sr. Director, Grid Research Innovation & Development, PG&E



Lead Pitch Competition Supporter

## Catch the excitement:

- **Preliminary round**  
12:00 PM, Tuesday October 7
- **Final round**  
12:30 PM Wednesday October 8



Edo was the Grid Innovation Pitch Competition winner at GridFWD 2024 in Banff, Canada.



## WHO WILL WIN

up to **\$50,000** of Business Advisory Services and up to **\$250,000** equity investment from Accurant International?

# See the leading edge of AI for the grid in action

## Zero in on the Transition Today case studies

GridFWD 2025 will feature dedicated “Transition Today” case studies, presented by utilities and their tech partners, showing practical, real-world results of using AI across a wide range of challenges to the grid.

### Tuesday, October 7

9:30 AM	Scaling AI-powered predictive analytics to transform asset management		
9:55 AM	Accelerating data center interconnection with GETS and advanced power flow controls		
10:30 AM	Future-proofing the Grid: Workforce transformation for a resilient, AI-driven energy future		
10:55 AM	Optimizing interconnection with AI-augmented workflow automation		

### Wednesday, October 8

1:00 PM	From permit to power: Accelerating permitting and licensing with generative AI		
1:25 PM	Tapping into the power of residential battery flexibility		

“I come to GridFWD for the community and for the opportunity to have deep and meaningful conversations about where we are driving the business as well as the technology of our grid and our systems going forward. I get to learn from my peers, I get to see my customers and my partners, and I bring my team to GridFWD because of the value of learning and connecting that we get in this community.”



**Hanna Grene, Global Operations & GTM Leader, Energy & Resources Industry, Microsoft**



# Drop in on first-hand AI demos at the Innovation Pavilion

To cut through all the hype around AI, we're creating a space where attendees can see a wide range of real applications in a relaxed, up-close environment. In the GridFWD 2025 Innovation Pavilion, utilities and providers alike will be ready to show you their AI apps in action through short demos and informal small-group Q&As.

No need to make an appointment: walk up to any Tech Provider table (Tuesday afternoon) or Utility table (Wednesday morning) and engage with the person running the demo. See only the demos you want, and as many as you can fit into 90 minutes!



## TECH PROVIDERS | TUESDAY OCT 7 2:30 PM

## UTILITIES | WEDNESDAY OCT 8 8:30 AM



“We’re using AI to give utilities new capabilities to operate a clean, modern, and reliable grid that will better serve the people and businesses connected to it. At GridFWD 2025, the industry can come together to recognize its potential as well as its limitations and ensure there are proper checkpoints.” **Marissa Hummon, CTO, Utilidata**

# Bring your ideas and questions to the interactive huddle discussions

GridFWD 2025 small-group huddle discussions are facilitated by topic experts but designed to make it easy to get to your most important questions. We've organized our 18 huddles into three session times, so you have multiple chances to ask, share and engage. Here are the first confirmed huddles and some organizations leading the discussion.

**You can choose one huddle in each session time.**

## Tuesday, October 7, 11:30 AM

- Unradical transparency:** bringing the customer along on the AI journey

---

- Distributed capacity** to support AI load growth

---

- Applying AI:** What should you use it for? What should you avoid?

---

- AI sandboxing:** safe and effective progress for public power

---

- Better business:** AI applications for grid operations & maintenance

---

- Evolving cybersecurity risks** in the age of emerging AI

## Tuesday, October 7, 3:30 PM

- AI data readiness:** From messy to mission-ready

---

- AI for asset health:** Rethinking reliability at the grid edge

---

- AI and the dynamic operating envelope** for flexible interconnection permitting

---

- Industry collaboration** to build trust in and accelerate use of AI

---

- BYOP:** Bring your own power

---

- Long-Term Load Forecasting:** developing and applying new models

## Wednesday, October 8, 10 AM

- Humans in the Loop:** making AI more accessible to energy users

---

- Breaking down barriers** to large loads flexibility

---

- Let's make it real:** turning utility challenges and needs to AI best practices

---

- Managing change** as AI enters the control room

---

- Streamline regulation:** making processes routine and scalable

---

- Using AI with visual data** to transform operations



Some of the organizations leading GridFWD 2025 huddles



# Get together with GridFWD attendees, Monterey-style

One hallmark of GridFWD events is unique and region-specific activities arranged by Grid Forward.

They are scheduled before and during the event, so it's easy for you to join in the fun and camaraderie with the sponsors and attendees. Below are the kinds of adventures that you will have a chance to sign up for (on a first-come, first-served basis).

1

Learn Monterey's natural history and wildlife along the recreation trail.

Tuesday Sponsor:



Wednesday Sponsor:



2

Join the group for a guided bike ride along the coastline.

Tuesday Sponsor:



Wednesday Sponsor:



3

Guided kayaking among the bay and mellow coastal waters.

Tuesday Sponsor:



Wednesday Sponsor:



4

Grab three of your new associates and take a leisurely tour of the waterfront in a surrey.

Tuesday Sponsor:



Wednesday Sponsor:



5

Join a naturalist on a shuttle tour of the fabled 17-Mile Drive.

Tuesday Sponsor:



Wednesday Sponsor:



Limited spaces available



**Choose your preferred activity on each day.**  
**Get your tickets early to ensure your spot in your chosen activity.**

**Register now**

# An invigorating event setting close to a nexus of AI and grid tech innovation

GridFWD 2025 will be hosted at the Monterey Conference Center in downtown Monterey, just 90 minutes from Silicon Valley. This modern facility is connected to the Monterey Marriott and the Portola Hotel & Spa, with other hotels within blocks. Attendees can walk to the waterfront Fisherman's Wharf and dozens of attractions and restaurants.

**Hotels:** Grid Forward has a discounted room block at the Marriott, our event hotel. [Click here to reserve your room](#) quickly as they are in high demand. The Monterey Beach Hotel is a five-minute drive away and is offering a reduced rate to GridFWD 2025 attendees (so register soon!). We can also recommend the Portola Hotel, which is attached to the conference center.

**San Jose Airport:** 74 mile drive, [Groome Shuttle](#) is a convenient choice.

**Monterey Airport:** 4 mile drive, use taxi or car sharing services.

**Tour Shuttles:** After the Microsoft and NVIDIA tours on Monday October 6, we will have shuttles available to the Monterey Conference Center leaving around 3PM.

**Weather:** October is a great time to visit Monterey, with days in the low 70's and nights in the 50's and very little rain.

## Monterey and so much more

Enjoy all of California's central coast. In addition to the charming town, take in the famous aquarium, nearby world-class golf courses, spas, wineries, and the majesty of Big Sur and other nearby natural attractions.



# Meet the GridFWD 2025 sponsors

We thank these organizations who are providing the expertise and backing to make this event possible. Come to Monterey to see what they have to offer!

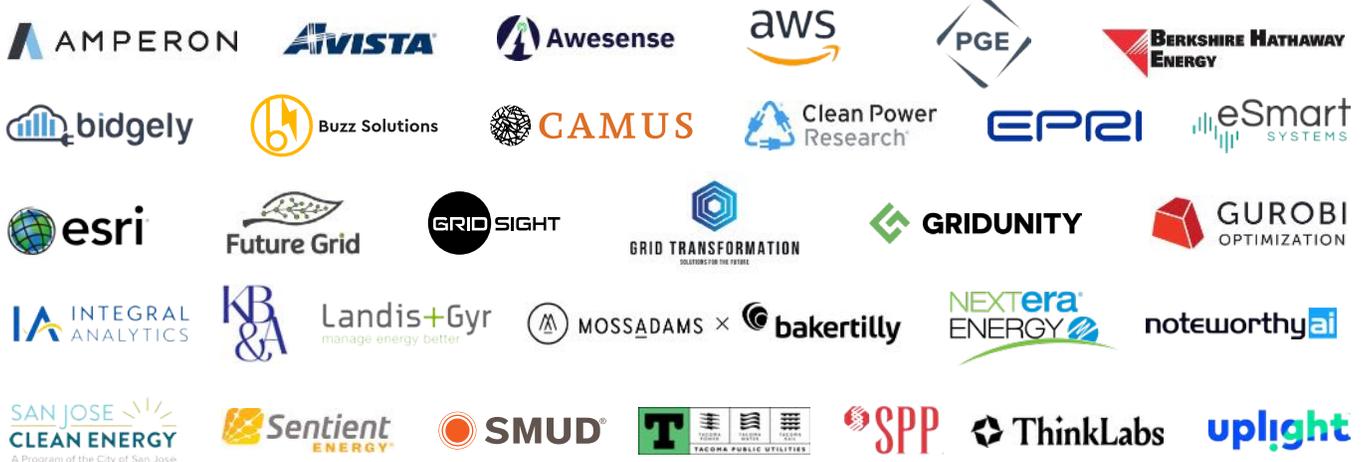
## OCEAN LEVEL SPONSORS



## BAY LEVEL SPONSORS



## TIDE AND WAVE LEVEL SPONSORS



## GRID INNOVATION PITCH COMPETITION SPONSOR



## MEDIA PARTNERS



# AI and the Grid

The rising tide of new applications and demands

October 6-8, 2025  
Monterey, CA

Grid *FWD*  
2025

## Why take part in GridFWD 2025?



**REGISTER  
NOW**

**to reserve your  
ticket: GridFWD  
events regularly  
sell out.**

### **The time is now**

AI is making huge strides in how we plan and manage our electrical grid, even as it threatens to drive up loads across the continent.

**Deep-dive small-group discussions** enhance knowledge and connections.

### **The place is here**

GridFWD events are renowned for gathering the most informative topics, presenters and discussions on grid modernization and innovation.

**Enjoy unique and rewarding networking opportunities.**

### **Collaborate with peers**

Pinpoint uses cases that make a difference now, and which ones have the best future potential.

**Support a revitalizing community gathering** in an inspiring ocean-side locale.

Grid Forward is a 501(c)(6) non-profit, member-driven trade association dedicated to promoting and accelerating innovation on the regional electric system. We deliver community, expertise and resources for leaders who are working to modernize the grid. Learn more and become a member at [GridForward.org](https://GridForward.org).