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
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PG&E
Pacific Northwest NATIONAL LABORATORY
World Wide Technology

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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 industy 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.



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	**Opening plenary session with NVIDIA**	
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	**Closing plenary session with PG&E, Duke Energy and NextEra Energy**	
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	**Opening plenary with the CEO of LADWP**	
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	**Conference closing plenary with NV Energy and Wood Mackenzie**	

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 Titoni
Senior V.P. and 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	***Opening plenary***  ***Marc Spieler*** *Sr. Managing Director - Energy, NVIDIA*  ***Bryce Yonker*** *Executive director and CEO, Grid Forward*
9:30 AM	**Using AI to unlock grid flexibility and capacity** *• Varun Mehra, Google • Indu Nambiar, CAISO • Stephon McCoy, Utilidata • Jim Ogle, PNNL • Jim Taylor, Siemens*
	Eyes wide open: Risks, rewards, and restructuring process and people *• Norma Grubb, LADWP • Hanna Grene, Microsoft • Matt Piper, Esri • Austin Alexander, Xylem • Kurt Sweetser, SCE*
10:30 AM	**Architecting the future: Getting data right for a strong foundation** *• Robin Lanier, Southern Company • Haresh Kamath, EPRI • Ahsan Yousufzai, NVIDIA • Josh Wong, ThinkLabs AI • Srikanth Srinivasan, Infosys*
	Using AI to predict and optimize grid maintenance *• Ted Zalucki, Engineered Intelligence • Mishal Thadani, Rhizome*
2:30 PM	**Strategic grid investment: Planning for growth, capacity and constraints** *• Rob Gramlich, Grid Strategies • Casey Cathey, SPP • NVIDIA • Hitachi*
	Orchestrating intelligence: VPPs, AI and the customer frontline *• Tanuj Deora, SparkFund • Matt Hubbard, PGE • Jeff Bladen, Verrus • Dak Liyanearachchi, NRG • Colin Gibbs, Sense*
4:00 PM	***Moderated plenary: AI impacts for a resilient grid***  ***Jason Glickman*** *EVP Engineering, Planning, and Strategy, PG&E*  ***Petter Skantze*** *Sr. VP of Infrastructure Development, NextEra Energy*  ***Bonnie Titoni*** *Senior V.P. and Chief Administrative Officer, Duke Energy*

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

AI in action 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	***Opening plenary: Fireside chat with the CEO of LADWP***  ***Janisse Quiñones*** *CEO and Chief Engineer, LADWP*  ***Bryce Yonker*** *Executive director and CEO, Grid Forward*
9:00 AM	**Optimally serving data centers: Timely and clean(er) energy** *• Brian Janous, Cloverleaf Infrastructure • Dado Slezak, QTS | Blackstone* *• Matt Futch, Black & Veatch • Aaron Bloom, NextEra Analytics*
	Regulatory Evolution: Creating policy frameworks for AI in energy systems *• Mark Kolesar, former Alberta Utilities Commission chair • Vincent Dufresne, CGI* *• A. J. Goulding, London Economics*
1:00 PM	**Using AI to accelerate the interconnection process** *• Maeve Allsup, Latitude Media • Brian Fitzsimons, GridUnity • Nadim Verani, PG&E* *• Deb Levine, CAISO • Joachim Seel, LBNL*
	Unlocking insights of visual information with AI *• Chris Ricciuti, Noteworthy AI • Sonia Kastner, Pano AI • Fiona Spruill, Overstory* *• Kaitlyn Abertoli, Buzz Solutions • Subhani Syad, Deloitte*
2:00 PM	**Advanced energy demand forecasting: Leveraging AI and machine learning** *• Alex Robart, Amperon • Enverus • Baringa • Paul Dietz, Grant PUD*
	Keeping utility service safe, reliable and affordable: AI for good *• Josh Poduska, PG&E • Tricia Yamagata, Southern California Edison* *• Craig Connelly, POWER Engineers • Evan O'Mahoney, CPS Energy • Amith Kota, Landis+Gyr*
3:00 PM	***Closing plenary: Moving forward with AI for a modern, affordable grid***  ***Ben Hertz-Shargel*** *Global head of grid edge, Wood Mackenzie*  ***Marie Steele*** *VP Integrated Energy Services, NV Energy*

Register Now

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

Don't miss the 2025 Grid Innovation Pitch Competition

GridForward

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 & Intellligence	*AI & Automation for Utility Operation*	*Asset Management & Visualization*	*Data Center Flex*	*Risk & Weather*
nexbe	ecoPhi	Magnefy	mercury	Firescape
Toumetis	PITCH AERONAUTICS	tierra CLIMATE		

This year's judges:

- **Luis D'Acosta,** *CEO, Uplight*
- **Carolin 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*

accurant international

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.

GridFWD 2025

WHO WILL WIN

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

www.GridForward.org

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	hydro one	eSmart SYSTEMS
9:55 AM	Accelerating data center interconnection with GETS and advanced power flow controls	PG&E	SMART WIRES
10:30 AM	Future-proofing the Grid: Workforce transformation for a resilient, AI-driven energy future	NY Power Authority	SIEMENS
10:55 AM	Optimizing interconnection with AI-augmented workflow automation	DUKE ENERGY	Clean Power Research

Wednesday, October 8

1:00 PM	From permit to power: Accelerating permitting and licensing with generative AI	INL Idaho National Laboratory	Microsoft
1:25 PM	Tapping into the power of residential battery flexibility	nationalgrid	EnergyHub





"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

Aalo · AiDASH · databricks · emeraldai · GRIDUNITY · Microsoft · NEXTera Analytics · OATI · Palantir · Schneider Electric · Senpilot · SPLIGHT · Utilidata

UTILITIES | WEDNESDAY OCT 8 8:30 AM

AVISTA · aws · P.U.D. CHELAN COUNTY · cps ENERGY · exelon · PACIFICORP · PSE PUGET SOUND ENERGY · PG&E · PGE · SMUD · SNOHOMISH COUNTY PUD



"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: Real-world innovation
AI for asset health: Rethinking reliability at the grid edge
AI and the dynamic operating envelope for flexible interconnection permitting
Flexible capacity options to support AI data center growth
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 the workforce
Industry collaboration to build trust in and accelerate use of AI
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: Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

Wednesday Sponsor: NVIDIA, World Wide Technology

2

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

Tuesday Sponsor: sense

Wednesday Sponsor: sense

Limited spaces available

3

Guided kayaking among the bay and mellow coastal waters.

Tuesday Sponsor: ENGINEERED INTELLIGENCE

Wednesday Sponsor: *One sponsor slot available*

4

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

Tuesday Sponsor: LA DWP Los Angeles Department of Water & Power

Wednesday Sponsor: PG&E

5

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

Tuesday Sponsor: GRID TRANSFORMATION

Wednesday Sponsor: Landis+Gyr manage energy better



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 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.

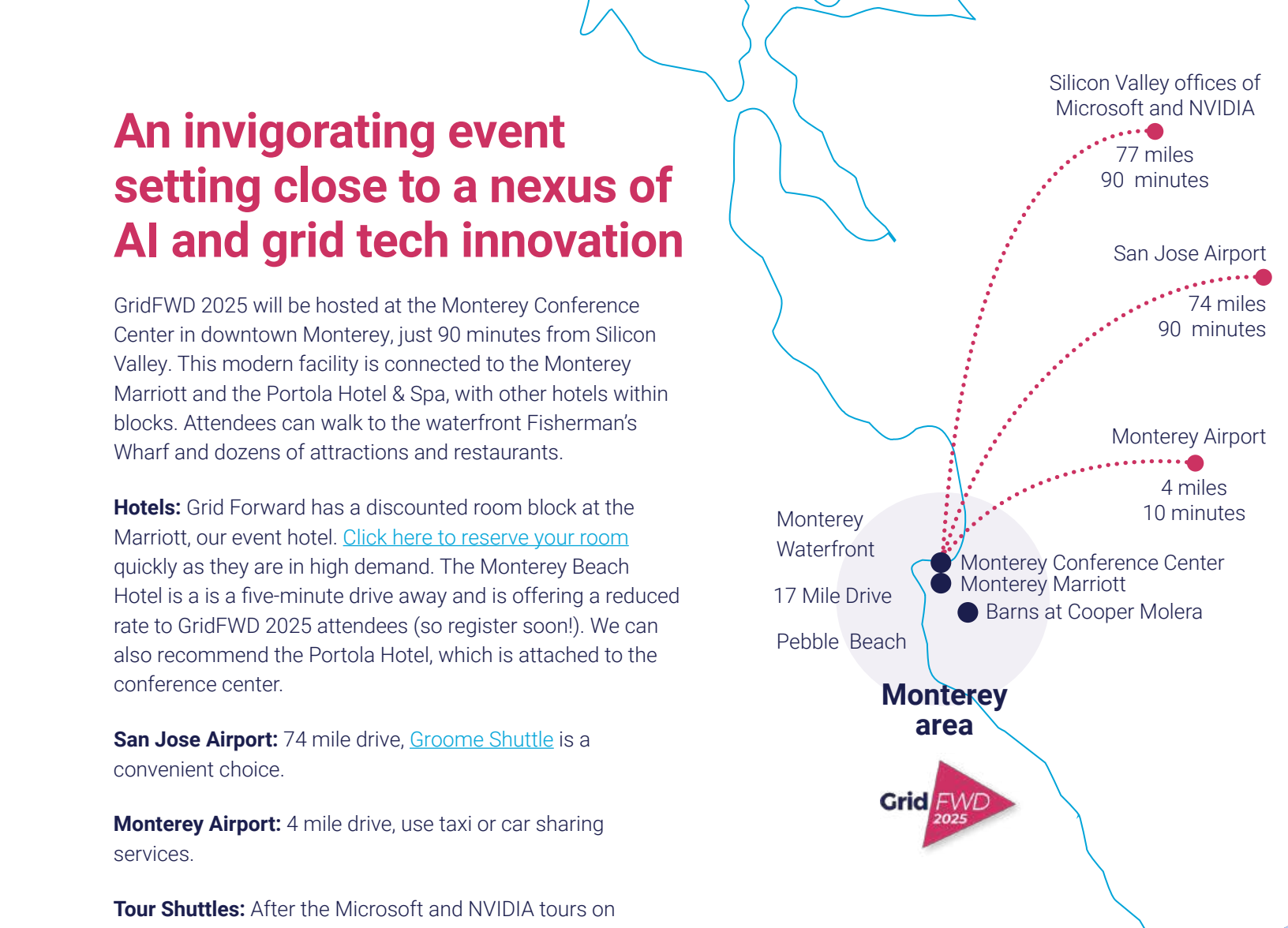
San Jose Airport: 74 mile drive, Groome Shuttle is a convenient choice.

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!

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The rising tide of new applications and demands

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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.

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

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

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

Enjoy unique and rewarding networking opportunities.

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.**