

2026 Annual Member Meeting

Tuesday, June 30, 11 AM - 1:00 PM Pacific

Online Zoom meeting



Welcome members and guests to our 2026 Annual Member Meeting. First we'll dive into our panel discussion on how utilities, grid operators and those working to advance the grid can "navigate uncertainty". Next up we'll take care of important organizational business such as board elections. Bryce will recap highlights from the past year, preview what's coming around the corner, and share what is happening around the community working to modernize the grid. Finally we will announce the winners of the 2026 Grid Innovation Awards. We're meeting online this year, so please [RSVP](#) so we know you are attending. 'See you' then!

Agenda - pacific time

- 11:00 AM - Meeting start and welcome
- 11:05 AM - Panel: ***Navigating Uncertainty***
- 11:50 AM - Meeting call to order & annual highlights
- 12:00 PM (noon) - Vote on incoming board members
- 12:10 PM - Vote on board member extensions
- 12:20 PM - Grid Innovators Awards: Utility, Industry & Individual winners
- 12:40 PM - Closing comments and meeting adjourns

How to RSVP and Attend

[Zoom.com/join](https://zoom.us/join)
ID# 883 1334 1892
Passcode: 768172

Need help? Contact
Gerard@gridforward.org

Voting Instructions

We will be voting to elect or extend board members using a live surveying tool. The link to the survey will be posted live during the meeting. We ask that one representative per member organization vote.

Panel Discussion: Navigating Uncertainty

How to make significant decisions when your operation stands on shifting sands.

New opportunities, new challenges. Shifting policy, changing environments. It seems like everything is in motion and not just around the edges. Leaders making decisions on grid investments are having to consider many aspects shifting seemingly all at the same time. Our panel will dissect current grid pressures, decision-making frameworks, and ways to approach planning and execution to meet the continued expectations for reliable, affordable power.



Lon Huber, SVP of Integrated System Planning and Chief Planning Officer of Xcel Energy, is responsible for the planning, modeling, and design of the company's energy systems. He previously was an SVP for pricing and customer solutions at Duke Energy, and has won numerous awards for innovation in the industry.



Julia Frayer is the Managing Director at London Economics. She has worked across continents on both deregulated and regulated issues in electricity markets, gas and oil markets. She is also President and member of the Board of the NE Energy & Commerce Association



Pablo Vegas, president and CEO of ERCOT, plays a critical part in ensuring the reliable and efficient operation of the Texas electric grid, enabling its energy transition and expansion. He has held senior executive positions at NiSource Utilities, American Electric Power, PwC and Anderson Consulting.

2026 Annual Member Meeting

New Board Nominations

Please cast your ballot for any or all of these candidates.



Kaitlyn Albertoli

CEO, *Buzz Solutions*

Kaitlyn Albertoli is the CEO and Co-Founder of Buzz Solutions, where she leads the use of artificial intelligence to help electric utilities modernize how infrastructure is inspected and maintained. Buzz Solutions enables utilities to convert large volumes of inspection imagery into prioritized insights that support faster decision-making and more effective asset management.



Shawntia McNeil

Global Energy Partner Ecosystem Manager, *NVIDIA*

Shawntia is responsible for spearheading energy partner relationships to define and execute AI transformative strategies that drive growth of the global energy partner ecosystem through sustainable growth. She has also held senior positions at G&W Electric, ABB and Eaton.



Evan O'Mahoney

Chief Information Officer, *CPS Energy*

Evan O'Mahoney leads the Enterprise Information Technology (EIT) organization, overseeing Infrastructure & Operations, Enterprise Architecture, Business Solutions, Digital Experience, and Execution Excellence. He drives the development of digital and technology strategies that align with enterprise objectives and sponsors Evolve, the company's Digital Transformation program.



Raiford Smith

Global Head, Power and Energy for the Cloud, *Google*

Raiford Smith leads the fastest growing industry vertical at Google Cloud - Power and Energy. This includes all utilities (electric, gas, water), IPPs, TSO/DSOs, and oil and gas firms as well as related OEMs, EPCs, ISVs, advisory services, and products companies. He has also held senior positions at AES, Entergy, CPS Energy and Duke Energy.



[Click to learn more >](#)

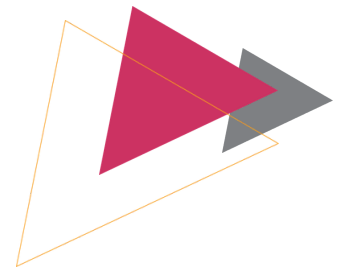
Reprioritizing Affordability

for modernizing the grid

SEPTEMBER 29-30, 2026

UTAH





2026 Annual Member Meeting

Board of Directors - Vote For Term Extensions

Members will be voting on extension of terms for these board members:

Marie Steele (chair), Vice President of Integrated Energy Services, NV Energy

Emma Steward, Chief Power Grid Scientist, Idaho National Laboratory (INL)

Other Current Directors

Lora Anguay, Chief Zero Carbon Officer, SMUD

Luis D'Acosta, Zone President, Schneider Electric

Julie Desimone, Managing Principal, Energy, Baker Tilly (Treasurer)

Elliot Hinds, Partner, Corporate Practice Group, Sheppard Mullin (Secretary)

Jennifer Potter, Faculty Energy Specialist, Hawaii Natural Research Institute, University of Hawaii

Dr. Vidya Vankayala, Fmr. Director of Smart Microgrid Applied Research Team, BCIT

Michelle Vargo, Senior Vice President of Energy Operations, Puget Sound Energy

Piper Wilder, Founder and CEO, 60Hertz Energy

Bryce Yonker, Executive Director and CEO, Grid Forward

Departing Directors

Thank you for your service to Grid Forward, our community and our industry.

Emeka Anyanwu, CEO, Lincoln Electric System

Hanna Grene, Global Power and Utilities Leader, Microsoft

Marissa Hummon (Chair Emeritus), CTO, Utilidata

Matt Piper, Global Industry Solutions Infrastructure Director, Esri

Our Expert Advisory Board

Ankush Agarwal, Exelon Utilities

Marguerite Behringer, Landis+Gyr

Stephen Boorman, Idaho Falls Power

Andy Coleman, EPRI

Jeffrey Cook, Bonneville Power Administration

Scott Corwin, American Public Power Association (APPA)

Charity Fain, Community Energy Project

Carolyn Funk, Blue Bear Capital

Matthew Futch, Black & Veatch

Cara Goldenberg, Rocky Mountain Institute

Amy Grice, Peninsula Light

Siva Gunda, California Energy Commission

Josh Hebert, MVEC

Tim Heidel, VEIR

Brian Heithoff, Trico

Allegra Hodges, Portland General Electric

Mark Hormann, Accurant International

Philip Jones, Philip Jones Consulting

Shiv Kumar, ENMAX

David Logsdon, Seattle City Light

Jessica Matlock, PNGC Power

Ann McCabe, Illinois Commerce Commission

Quinn Nakayama, PG&E

Steven Parker, EnergySec

Jeff Ressler, Clean Power Research

Adam Richins, Idaho Power

Michael Ryan, Kit Carson Electric Cooperative

Karma Sawyer, PNNL

Julia Selker, Grid Strategies

Marc Spieler, NVIDIA

Mischa Steiner, Awesense

Travis Stevenson, JTS Consulting

Mish Thadani, Rhizome

Mani V. Venkatasubramanian, WSU

Karen Wayland, GridWise Alliance

Jordan White, GridLiance

Josh Wong, ThinkLabs



2026 Annual Member Meeting

Grid Innovator Awards Finalists

Our Annual Member Meeting is also the time we announce the winners of the 2026 Grid Innovator of the Year Awards. Each year, these awards honor individuals and organizations for their exemplary roles in helping to lead the electric utility industry forward in grid modernization.

Grid Operators

Solution Providers



Heimdall Power



The 2025 Grid Innovator Award winners were Puget Sound Energy (top left), Pano AI (top right) and Rich Sedano (below).



Individual Lifetime Achievement



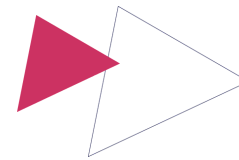
Paul Lau
CEO
SMUD



Steve Nadel
Senior Fellow,
ACEEE



Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senator
(Alaska)



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.

The members of Grid Forward drive our success! If you have questions about your membership, or wish to learn more about joining Grid Forward, contact Sam@GridForward.org.

