

JOIN US SEPTEMBER 29-30, 2026

Reprioritizing Affordability

for modernizing the grid

UTAH

Grid **FWD**
2026

Preliminary Program

Summit
sponsors:



Presented by: **GridForward**

Register Now



Reprioritizing Affordability for modernizing the grid

At GridFWD 2026, the full spectrum of grid stakeholders will delve into the factors pushing costs higher as well as technology, process, regulatory, policy and business measures we must take to keep electricity affordable for all.

Obsolescent infrastructure

Extreme events

Increasing demand

Stretched supply chains

Shifting policies

A spectrum of in-depth sessions

Affordability is a multi-dimensional challenge. Our rich collection of session topics will reveal the latest expert approaches to manage energy costs and maintain customer affordability. No matter where you work in today's energy ecosystem—utilities and grid operators, or engaging business and residential consumers—you'll find inspiration and practical solutions to adopt.

▾ CAPITAL EFFICIENCY

Making Hard Choices: Grid Hardening While Balancing Affordability

▾ STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS & TECHNOLOGY

Smarter Spending by Unlocking Value and Boosting Efficiency with Data

▾ LOAD GROWTH, NEW RESOURCES & FLEXIBILITY

How Flexible Interconnection Moves the Needle on Cost-Benefit Choices

▾ LOAD GROWTH, NEW RESOURCES & FLEXIBILITY

The Golden Ticket: Increasing Distributed Capacity, Grid Capacity and Data Center Engagement

▾ EFFECTIVE GRID UTILIZATION

Two for One: Lowering Costs for Utilities and Consumers Through Grid Orchestration

▾ RATE DESIGN & COST CAUSATION

Turning Rate Design into a Dynamic Affordability Tool

▾ POLICY & REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

It's the Right Call: Regulatory Alternatives for Promoting Affordability

▾ STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS & TECHNOLOGY

Creating A Practical Roadmap for Integrated Plans and Grid Investments

▾ CAPITAL EFFICIENCY

Leveraging Digital Infrastructure to Align Outcomes for Capital Investments

The electric grid ecosystem working together to ease the strain on energy prices

Grid FWD
2026

At GridFWD 2026, industry, tech and government stakeholders will convene to refocus on affordability and reliability as top priorities for grid modernization.

Utility and grid operators

Learn and share innovative technologies, emerging best practices and recent case studies for advancing the T&D grid in the direction of lower costs without sacrificing safety and reliability.

Regulators and government officers

Help to craft new ways to work with utilities and grid operators to advance the best rules and policies for long-term energy affordability.

NGOs and advocates

Expand your knowledge base and relationships to influence investments and programs that help to reduce price pressures while meeting your societal goals.

Large-scale energy users

Collaborate with energy industry leaders to deploy rapidly increasing loads as assets that help to control energy price increases across all customers.

Solution providers

Join your customers and other stakeholders to discuss and demonstrate how technology can solve tough challenges to delivering power reliably and affordably.

“As an energy provider to more than 4.3 million electric customers and end-users throughout the U.S., Berkshire Hathaway Energy remains committed to providing low-cost, safe and reliable service each day. Grid Forward plays a leading role as a voice for the industry and unifying forum for the many stakeholders working together to modernize and advance the grid.” — **Pat Reiten, Senior VP, Public Policy, Berkshire Hathaway Energy**



Experience the latest tech and tactics for affordable power

GridFWD 2026 will feature “Transition Today” case studies, presented by utilities and their tech partners, showing practical, real-world results of advanced tech and new approaches for reducing price pressures on energy.

Unlocking Hidden Capacity: Reprioritizing Affordability through Adaptive Protection

Quantifying Managed EV Charging and V2G-Based Storage as a Flexible Resource

Smarter Grid Planning to Control Energy Costs and Maximize Infrastructure Utilization

A Fresh Look at Leading Practices for Income-Qualified Programs

Using Predictive Analytics to Target Transmission Spend and Unnecessary Replacements

Restoring Inertia Without Fuel: A Lower-Cost Approach to Grid Stability



See affordability in action first-hand in the Innovation Pavilion

Back by popular demand: In the Innovation Pavilion, energy system participants will show “in the field” technical, process and business solutions, creating a strong nexus to solving current challenges to system affordability.

Enjoy short demos and discussions around innovations like these:

- Planning tools for improved grid and asset usage for efficiency, congestion reduction, and asset deferral opportunities
- Grid visibility tools that increase asset life, prioritize CAPEX to high-impact investments, and reduce total OPEX
- Connection and asset management to maximize system flexibility and affordability for the average rate payer

Take advantage of this opportunity to see affordability solutions up close.



Enter the Grid Innovation Pitch Competition

Ride the next wave of affordability innovation. In our annual Grid Innovation Pitch Competition, emerging tech companies have five minutes to impress a panel of expert judges in front of our highly qualified audience.

Is your early-stage company ready to give your “Reprioritizing Affordability” pitch at GridFWD 2026? Then click the button to enter now.

- Enter by July 17, competitors chosen by August 5
- Coaching provided, must be present to participate
- Winners get exposure, networking and investment up to \$250,000
- Google supports registration for selected participants

[Learn More](#)

Sponsored by



Google Cloud



Co-hosted Google for Startups Showcase on AI for Energy

On Monday, September 28, GridFWD 2026 is excited to co-host a new Google for Startups Accelerator startup showcase focused on **AI for Energy**.

Google will welcome their latest cohort of founders with workshops and discussions on innovation at the showcase. Join us to meet startups using AI to modernize grids and make energy use more efficient and affordable.

In this accelerator program, Google has partnered with a range of utility leaders: Entergy, Duke, Dominion, OG&E, Northwestern, NWCPUD, Avista, Hydro-Quebec, Edison International, and many more.

[Click here for more information](#); interested start-ups can apply through June 30, 2026.

Google Cloud

Accelerator



“Every year, GridFWD reminds me why community matters. This isn’t just an event—it’s a gathering of practitioners, trusted leaders, and innovators who come together for open dialogue and real impact. It’s where we share what’s working, what’s next, and how we can collectively move the grid forward.”

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

Master new approaches to energy affordability with in-event workshops

GridFWD 2026 incorporates four intensive and interactive workshops into the schedule, all led by master practitioners for making energy more available and less expensive.

▾ CUSTOMER AGENCY & SAFEGUARDS

Aligning Electricity Planning Processes to Meet Load Growth and Affordability Goals

With today's explosive load growth, states need to ensure investments are right-sized and consider all cost-effective approaches. Investment decisions increasingly require comprehensive electricity system planning that considers customer, distribution system, resource, and transmission needs and capabilities. NARUC, NASEO, and partners will share planning roadmaps and facilitate an engaging session to explore how these starting points can be used in your state to support load growth and affordability together.

Monday afternoon Sep 28



NARUC
National Association of
Regulatory Utility Commissioners



▾ POLICY & REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

Coordinated and Cost-Effective Wildfire Solutions: A Technology Framework for Utilities

SEPA's wildfire technology landscape framework offers utilities a structured approach to integrating prevention, situational awareness, and response tools across the full mitigation lifecycle. Speakers from leading utilities, technology providers, and regulatory experts will share field lessons and practical guidance on building a coordinated technology program that controls costs, strengthens customer communications, and demonstrates clear value to regulators and ratepayers.

Tuesday morning Sep 29



▾ EFFECTIVE GRID UTILIZATION

The Utilization Audit: Finding the Affordable Grid Hidden in Plain Sight

The U.S. grid operates at roughly half its capacity, yet the affordability conversation rarely starts there. This hands-on workshop will start with real utilization data, then break into small groups to conduct a simplified utilization audit of a hypothetical circuit to identify where unused capacity is and why. Attendees leave with a shared framework and a clear-eyed view of how to act in their own jurisdiction..

Tuesday afternoon Sep 29



▾ CUSTOMER AGENCY & SAFEGUARDS

Customer Views on Affordability: What We can Learn From the SECC Nationwide Survey

This workshop will draw on a nationwide survey of 4000 Americans to examine whether consumers recognize bill increases, understand the drivers behind them and feel equipped to manage their energy use at home. By analyzing affordability metrics across demographics and identifying barriers faced by vulnerable populations, we will highlight opportunities for electricity providers to strengthen support for and improve communication with consumers.

Wednesday morning Sep 30



Tour GigaOne — Torus's state-of-the-art manufacturing facility

See the grid's next layer being built at GridFWD 2026

The Torus Station is a full-stack energy storage system that adds resilience, capacity, and flexible load management at the sub-transmission and distribution layer of the grid. This helps utilities and grid operators use existing assets more efficiently and avoid infrastructure upgrades. Every unit is built right here at GigaOne — our 545,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility in Salt Lake City.

The systems leaving this floor are already at work. Year-to-date with PacifiCorp, we've dispatched 236 unplanned events at a 19-second ramp time and 99.9% critical path uptime.

Register now and select the **GigaOne tour**

GridFWD 2026 attendees are invited to sign up for a private tour on the afternoon of September 28. Walk the line where these flywheel and battery storage systems are built, and see how vertically integrated, distributed storage can play an important role in the grid's affordable energy future.

Transportation to and from the Cliff House hotel will be provided.



We're deploying
500 MW of
flexible capacity
with **PacifiCorp**



Keep costs low, improve resilience, and expand capacity with full-stack, American-made energy storage.

Torus.co



A dynamic balance of leading-edge information and personal interaction

Grid Forward will host a range of sessions and activities over the two days to help attendees achieve their goals for building connections and driving new initiatives.



Expert Panels and Plenaries

GridFWD 2026 will gather experts from across the grid ecosystem to discuss and debate strategies for controlling costs and enhancing reliability. (Page 2)



Grid Innovation Pitch Competition

Watch our annual Grid Innovation Pitch Competition and see emerging technology and business models for enhancing efficiency and reducing price pressures. (Page 4)



Interactive Huddle Discussions

Led by topic experts, our small-group huddle discussions open opportunities for participants to ask questions and share their experiences.



In-Event Activities and Networking

Sponsors have opportunities to forge new connections through inspiring in-program activities and as well as planned and casual networking events. (Page 7)



Up-to-Date Case Studies

Learn from successful projects at leading utilities that provide tangible results for managing the cost of energy. (Page 5)



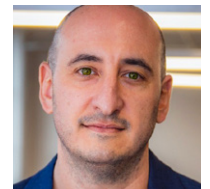
Affordability Workshops

Attendees will have the opportunity to join in workshops moderated by leading industry groups, bringing a new level of learning to GridFWD events. (Page 6)



Up-Close Demos in the Innovation Pavilion

See apps that are making an impact at utilities today, and join in on informal discussions with the companies using them. (Page 5)



“ Thank you for hosting a fantastic event. I had very substantive discussions with folks throughout, and I look forward to the next one!”

— **Christopher Ricciuti,**
Founder and CEO, Noteworthy AI

[Click to register](#)

Putting affordability back on top from the heart of the Rocky Mountains

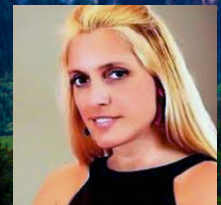
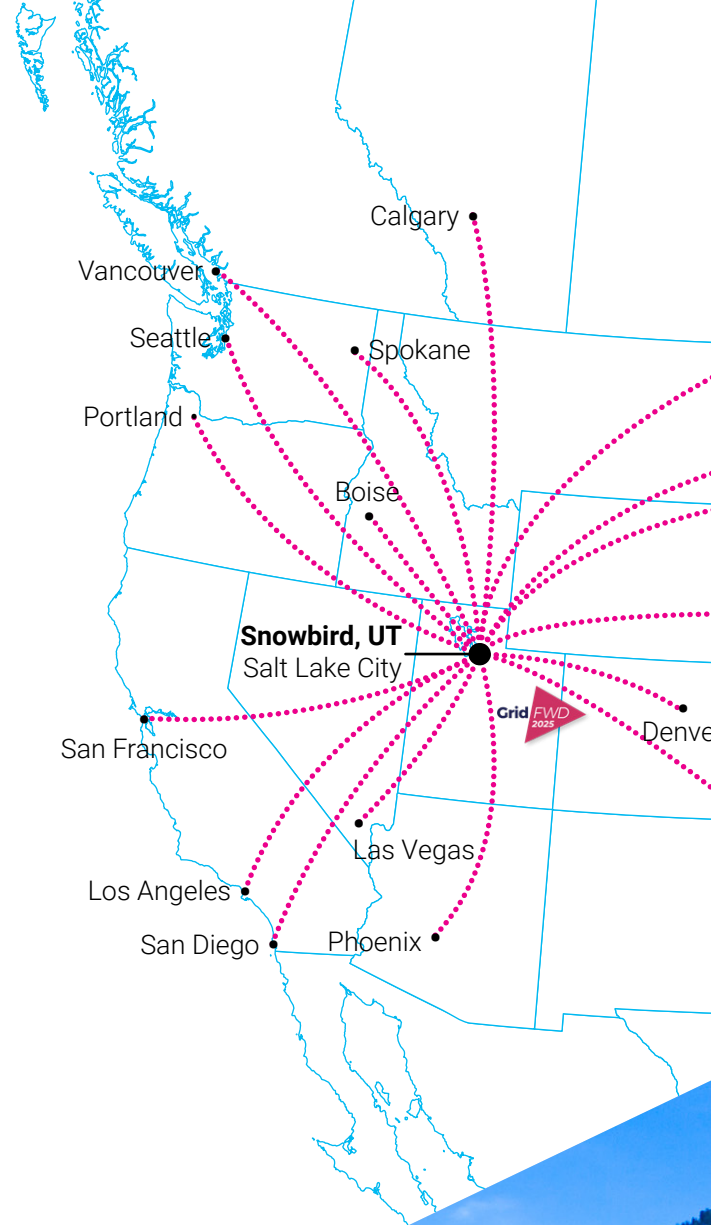
GridFWD 2026 will take place in the Cliff Lodge event venue at Snowbird near Salt Lake City. We will use its wide range of ballrooms, meeting rooms and communal spaces to host our rich mix of sessions, discussions, socials and sponsored activities.

High up in Little Cottonwood Canyon, the Cliff Lodge at Snowbird offers around 500 rooms all with mountain views, three restaurants and a spa. In the Snowbird pedestrian village, even more restaurants and shops as well as invigorating alpine activities are steps away.

Register soon so you can get information about reserving your room at the Cliff Lodge.

The hotel is 45 minutes from the Salt Lake City International Airport, easily accessible by rental car, shuttle vans and ridesharing services.

Grid Forward will provide breakfast and lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday (September 29 and 30) as well as hearty hors d'oeuvres at our networking reception on Tuesday evening.



“ Thanks Bryce and the best panel of experts I have ever had the pleasure to moderate for/speak with. The session was super well attended and your notes and comments were candid, very thoughtful and relatable. Until the next GridFWD!”

– **Ani Backa, VP of Virtual Power Plants, GoodLeap**

Mountain-high events build excitement and new connections



One hallmark of GridFWD events is a menu of unique and locale-specific “Conference Connector” activities arranged by Grid Forward.

They are scheduled during the event, so it’s easy for you to join in the fun and relationship building with other attendees. Below are the nearby adventures that you will have a chance to sign-up for (on a first-come, first-served basis).

Alpine Hiking

Sponsor a guided hike on Snowbird’s extensive network of trails that start right at the Cliff Lodge. Multiple levels of challenge are available to enjoy the alpine experience and seasonal wildflowers. *Sponsorship still available.*

Observation Point Trail

Less adventurous hikers can enjoy an easy half-mile, paved trail marked with interpretive signs. The walk ends at a deck with stunning down-canyon views of the Salt Lake Valley.

Aerial Tram

Take your team and attendees to the top. The Aerial Tram whisks passengers up 2,900 vertical feet to the top of Hidden Peak. Enjoy breathtaking views as well as refreshments at The Summit. *Sponsorship still available.*

Mountain Coaster

For more thrills, the Mountain Coaster pulls sleds to the top of the track and then gravity takes over for 3,120 feet of exciting twists and turns.

Ropes Course

On Snowbird’s new ropes course, you can wander across bridges, swing from lily pad to lily pad and even test out their balance on the rolling log feature.

Space is limited for these exciting in-event activities so register soon and indicate your preference.

[Register Now](#)

These Energy Leaders Support GridFWD 2026






We appreciate the support and expertise of a wide range of industry stakeholders who help us define and execute this event. You can join them if you act soon. There are still opportunities at the Crest and Plateau levels. See you at GridFWD 2026!






Summit



Local utility host  In partnership with  **TORUS**

 **ENGINEERED INTELLIGENCE**  **Google Cloud**  **SIEMENS**  **Senpilot**

Peak

 **accenture**  **BLACK & VEATCH**  **Clean Power Research**  **envelio**  **esri**

 **Future Grid**  **Landis+Gyr**  **Microsoft**  **NRECA**  **PG&E**

 **overstory**  **sense**  **wsp**

Crest & Plateau

 **accurant international**  **AVISTA**  **bakertilly**  **CAMUS**  **DUDEK**  **DYNASTY POWER**

 **EnergyHub**  **EPRI**  **eSmart SYSTEMS**  **GRID SIGHT**  **GRID TRANSFORMATION**  **INTEGRAL ANALYTICS**

 **noteworthy ai**  **PGE**  **renovo automation**  **RHIZOME**  **Sentient ENERGY**  **SMUD**

 **SPP**  **TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES**  **uplight**

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The logo for Grid FWD 2026 is a pink triangle pointing to the right, containing the text "Grid FWD 2026" in white. The background of the entire page features a collage of images related to energy and infrastructure, including power lines, a mountain landscape, a ski lift, a residential development, and a power substation, all overlaid with a stylized orange line graph that trends upwards from left to right.

Why take part in GridFWD 2026?

The time is now

Affordability is one of the most challenging aspects of a grid adapting to large loads, extreme events and more distributed assets.

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

GridFWD events overcome silos to bring all the stakeholders together to work on new ideas, best practices and the path forward.

Help define an affordable energy future in a very focused but relaxed and inspiring gathering.



Learn more