

JOIN US SEPTEMBER 29-30, 2026

Reprioritizing Affordability

for modernizing the grid

CLIFF LODGE, UTAH

Grid *FWD*
2026

Program

Register Now



Summit
sponsors:



Presented by:  GridForward

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

Themes driving the GridFWD 2026 Program

- **STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS & TECHNOLOGY**
across the T&D grid, from generation to the meter.
- **EFFECTIVE GRID UTILIZATION**
through energy orchestration and leveraging customer resources.
- **RATE DESIGN & COST CAUSATION**
to consider new and escalating loads and benefit attribution for all customers.
- **LOAD GROWTH, NEW RESOURCES & FLEXIBILITY**
to leverage growing demand, on-site assets and beneficial load.
- **CAPITAL EFFICIENCY**
to take viable options to modernizing the grid for the least cost.
- **POLICY & REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS**
to support long-term affordability and innovation.
- **CUSTOMER AGENCY & SAFEGUARDS**
to empower customers and safeguard vulnerable populations.

Only at GridFWD 2026: advancing affordability through 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.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS & TECHNOLOGY

Smarter Spending by Unlocking Value and Boosting Efficiency with Data



LOAD GROWTH, NEW RESOURCES & FLEXIBILITY

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



RATE DESIGN & COST CAUSATION

Turning Rate Design into a Dynamic Affordability Tool



CAPITAL EFFICIENCY

Creating A Practical Roadmap for Integrated Plans and Grid Investments



RATE DESIGN & COST CAUSATION

Understanding the Drivers - What is Really Impacting Electricity Prices



CUSTOMER AGENCY & SAFEGUARDS

Beyond Customer Protection: Solutions for Customer Agency and Self-Determination



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

CAPITAL EFFICIENCY

Making Hard Choices: Utility Hardening While Balancing Affordability



LOAD GROWTH, NEW RESOURCES & FLEXIBILITY

How Flexible Interconnection Moves the Needle on Cost-Benefit Choices



EFFECTIVE GRID UTILIZATION

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



POLICY & REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

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



STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS & TECHNOLOGY

Aligning Regulatory Incentives for Digital Infrastructure



Confirmed speakers and leaders for sessions, discussions and workshops

From utilities and solution providers to NGOs and national labs, senior-level experts like these working to rein in energy costs will join you at GridFWD 2026.



Maeve Allsup
Founding Reporter,
Latitude Media



Emeka Anyanwu
CEO,
Lincoln Electric System



Cara Baldwin
Chief Legal Officer,
Torus



Michele Beck
Director,
**Utah Office of
Consumer Services**



Mike Delaney
VP of Strategy
and Growth,
PG&E



Cara Goldenberg
Principle,
RMI



Mike Hejmej
CEO,
Senpilot



Pat Hohl
Director, Industry
Solutions, Electric,
Esri



Shiv Kumar
Vice President,
Operations
ENMAX



Laura Landreaux
CEO Arkansas,
Entergy



Ruben Llanes
CEO Digital Grid
Schneider Electric



Dennis Mabe
CEO,
REMC



Sarah Moskowitz
Executive Director,
**Illinois Citizens Utility
Board**



Chris Parten
Manager of
Transmission Planning,
APS



Jeff Ressler
CEO,
Clean Power Research



Chris Robinson
Power GM,
Tacoma Public Utilities



Quentin Rogers
VP, Strategic
Development,
PREC



Josh Ryor
Principal, Northeast
Region,
RAP



Nathaniel Skinner
Deputy Director of Energy at
the Public Advocates Office,
CPUC



Raiford Smith
Global Head Power,
Google Cloud



Marie Steele
VP Business
Technology Integration,
NV Energy



Martha Symko-Davies
Laboratory Program
Manager,
NLR



Michelle Vargo
SVP Energy
Operations,
Puget Sound Energy



Ted Zalucki
CEO,
**Engineered
Intelligence**



Joe Zhou
VP Markets,
Black & Veatch

[Click to register](#)

GridFWD events sell out. Don't miss your chance to participate.

Experience the latest tech and tactics for affordable power

Zero in on the Transition Today case studies. 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.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

▶ EFFECTIVE GRID UTILIZATION

Unlocking Hidden Capacity: Reprioritizing Affordability through Adaptive Protection



▶ LOAD GROWTH, NEW RESOURCES & FLEXIBILITY

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



▶ CUSTOMER AGENCY & SAFEGUARDS

A Fresh Look at Leading Practices for Income-Qualified Programs



▶ LOAD GROWTH, NEW RESOURCES & FLEXIBILITY

How SMUD Uses Grid-Edge Intelligence for Grid Operations and TOU Use Cases



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

▶ EFFECTIVE GRID UTILIZATION

Smarter Grid Planning to Control Energy Costs and Maximize Infrastructure Utilization



▶ EFFECTIVE GRID UTILIZATION

Using Predictive Analytics to Target Transmission Spend and Unnecessary Replacements



▶ LOAD GROWTH, NEW RESOURCES & FLEXIBILITY

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



Learn, share and explore in our interactive, small-group huddle discussions

GridFWD attendees love the chance to gather in smaller groups and work together on an issue, led by a topic-area expert. You can choose the ones that fit your interests and experience..

▾ LOAD GROWTH, NEW RESOURCES & FLEXIBILITY

**The Megawatts You Don't Build:
Can Flexible Demand Defer the Next Upgrade and Reach the Bill?**

▾ CUSTOMER AGENCY & SAFEGUARDS

Energy Equity in the Aftermath of "Don't Ask, Don't DEI"

▾ EFFECTIVE GRID UTILIZATION

Stakeholder Lens Paired With Legacy Tools to More Efficient Operations

▾ LOAD GROWTH, NEW RESOURCES & FLEXIBILITY

Will AI Add Cost and Negatively Affect Affordability?

▾ EFFECTIVE GRID UTILIZATION

Scaling Innovation Without Breaking the Bank

▾ LOAD GROWTH, NEW RESOURCES & FLEXIBILITY

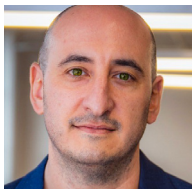
How Do You Bring DERs into Generation or Transmission Planning?

▾ LOAD GROWTH, NEW RESOURCES & FLEXIBILITY

Do Data Centers Raise Rates?

▾ RATE DESIGN & COST CAUSATION

Bending the (Rate) Curve



“ 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

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.



STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS & TECHNOLOGY

Validating Technologies with DLC’s Grid Modernization Technology Lab



Deploying Giga-Strength Advanced Steel-Core Conductors



Reinforcing Aging Utility Poles to Extend Their Service Life



Finding True Capacity With an Intelligent Digital Twin



Valuing Grid Edge Risk and Opportunity for Right-Sized Distribution System Investments



EFFECTIVE GRID UTILIZATION

Managing DERs, Deferring Costly Upgrades and Supporting Affordability



Using an Asset Management Solution for Quantified System Outcomes



Coordinating Loads and Resources with a Grid-Edge Energy Orchestration Platform



Evaluating Grid Condition Continuously for Dynamic Congestion Management



LOAD GROWTH, NEW RESOURCES & FLEXIBILITY

Automating DER Connection Processes with AI



Gaining Complete Digital Visibility into Assets



CAPITAL EFFICIENCY

Building Evidence-Backed Capital Plans



Prioritizing Capital Interventions Based on Actual Conditions



Pinpointing Timely Grid Investments Without Compromising Reliability



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



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



Supported by



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.



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**

Enjoy the dynamic balance of leading-edge information and personal interaction

Grid Forward will host a range of sessions and activities over the 2 1/2 days to help you achieve your goals for identifying affordability pathways, building connections and driving new initiatives.

MON
SEP
28

Workshop – GigaOne Tours
(page 12)



TUE
SEP
29

Opening Plenary – Main Sessions – Case Studies
2 workshops – Innovation Pavilion – Huddle Discussions
Grid Innovation Pitch Competition – Google Accelerator Event
Conference Connector Activities – Networking Socials

WED
SEP
30

Fireside Chat – Main Sessions – Case Studies
Workshop – Huddle Discussions – Innovation Pavilion
Grid Innovation Pitch Competition Finals – Google Accelerator Event
Closing Plenary



Expert Panels and Plenaries (page 3)



Up-to-Date Case Studies (page 5)



Interactive Huddle Discussions (page 6)



Up-Close Demos in the Innovation Pavilion (page 7)



Affordability Workshops (page 8)



Grid Innovation Pitch Competition (page 9)



In-Event Activities and Networking (page 13)

[Click to register](#)

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.

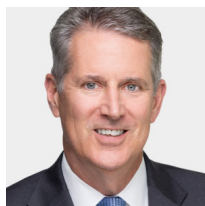
Large-scale energy users

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**



You're invited to tour GigaOne — Torus's state-of-the-art manufacturing facility

Tour GigaOne. See the grid's next layer being built.

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. 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, Torus has 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 our 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.

Tours start at 1PM and 2PM. Transportation to and from the Cliff Lodge hotel will be provided.



TORUS

We're deploying 500 MW of flexible capacity with PacifiCorp

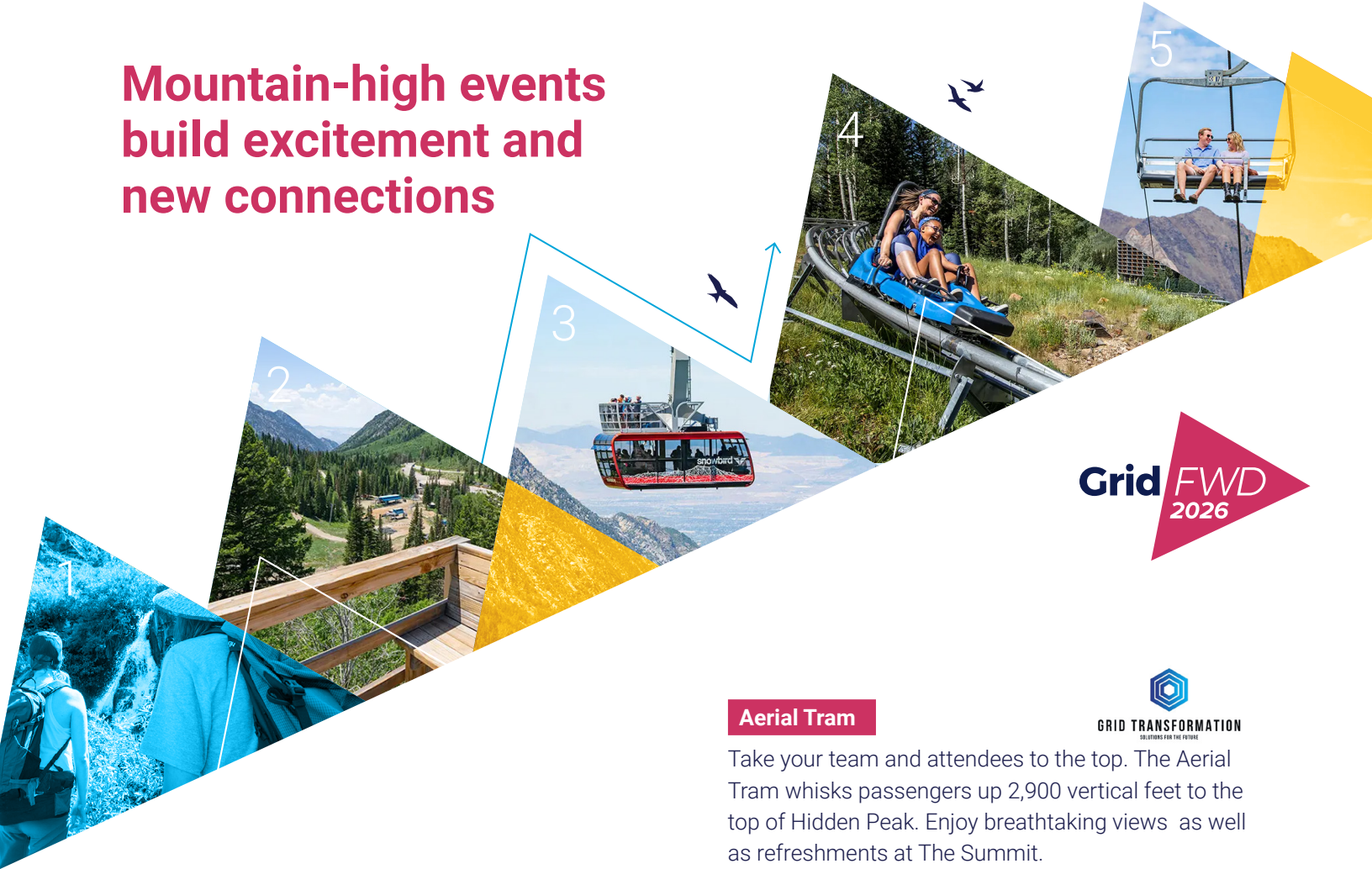
Keep costs low, improve resilience, and expand capacity with full-stack, American-made energy storage.

Torus.co



TORUS

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

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.



“ 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.**

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**  **Sempilot**

PEAK

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

 **Future Grid**  **Landis+Gyr**  **Microsoft**  **NRECA**
America's Electric Cooperatives  **PG&E**

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

CREST & PLATEAU

 **VISTA**  **bakertilly**  **bidgely**  **DUDEK**  **EKN ENGINEERING**  **encord**

 **EnergyHub**  **EPRI**  **GRID TRANSFORMATION**
SOLUTIONS FOR THE FUTURE  **HData**  **INTEGRAL ANALYTICS**  **NEXTERA ENERGY**

 **noteworthyai**  **PGE**  **renovo automation**  **resource innovations**  **RHIZOME**  **Sentient ENERGY**

 **Skydio**  **SMUD**  **SPP**  **TACOMA PUBLIC UTILITIES**  **uplight**

Reprioritizing Affordability

for modernizing the grid

SEPTEMBER 29-30, 2026
UTAH



Grid FWD
2026

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