



Energy Efficiency as a Resource Conference Program — *Tentative*

Grand Hyatt Denver | Denver, CO | October 7–9, 2025

Tuesday, October 7

2:00 – 7:00 pm	Registration	Colorado Foyer
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3:00 – 5:00 pm	Concurrent Workshops
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Residential Thermal Energy Storage for Load Shifting: A Collaborative Ideation Session on Utility Strategies to Deliver Value to Customers and the Grid	Mt. Elbert A
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Thermal Energy Storage (TES) can enable load shifting of heating and cooling loads in buildings, helping utilities free up peak electricity for strategic priorities such as manufacturing or data centers, while helping customers save on their electric bills. We will summarize the latest research on the state of utility TES deployment, then bring together the expertise of the attendees to identify possible improvements to programs, rates, incentives, or other solutions that can help customers and utilities capture the benefits of residential TES.

Speakers: **Matt Malinowski**, Buildings Director; American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy

Available as an add-on to registration. Cost: \$50.

Closing the Equity Gap in Utility Energy Efficiency Programming	Mt. Blue Sky
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Research suggests that low- to moderate-income (LMI) customers are often underserved by most utility energy efficiency programs, despite having the greatest financial need. This workshop will convene utility program administrators and implementers to share best practices and case studies related to scaling low-income energy efficiency programs effectively. ACEEE moderators will present short introductions to a range of challenges in LMI programming, highlight utility successes, and facilitate breakout discussions. All workshop participants will receive a written summary of findings and key themes following the event.

Available as an add-on to registration. Cost: \$25.

5:00 – 7:00 pm	IEPEC/EER Joint Reception	Capitol Peak Ballroom
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Wednesday, October 8

7:00 am – 7:00 pm	Registration	Colorado Foyer
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7:00 – 8:15 am	Breakfast	Aspen Ballroom
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8:30 – 9:45 am	Welcome & Keynote: Spotlight on Colorado Energy Policy Leadership	Colorado Ballroom
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Welcome: **Forest Bradley-Wright**, State and Utility Director, ACEEE

9:45 – 10:00 am Networking Break Colorado Foyer

10:00 – 11:30 am Plenary Panel – Regional Roundup Colorado Ballroom

Regional Roundup: Highlighting Recent Utility Energy Efficiency Wins and Spotting Challenges on the Horizon

Gain perspective on how utility energy efficiency goals and challenges vary across the country in this fast-paced and engaging panel. Regional energy efficiency organizations from across the United States will each share their top recent accomplishments and wins, as well as upcoming challenges they face in the coming years.

Moderator: **Mark Kresowik**, Policy Director, ACEEE

Panelists:

- **Elise Jones**, Executive Director, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project (SWEET)
- **Paige Knutsen**, Executive Director, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA)
- **Todd McAlister**, Chief Executive Officer, South-central Partnership for Energy Efficiency as a Resource (SPEER)
- **Ashley McBride**, Policy Director, Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA)
- **Maggie Molina**, Executive Director, Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP)
- **Becca Yates**, Executive Director, Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA)

11:30 – 12:45 pm Lunch & Keynote Address Aspen Ballroom

Lunch Keynote: Integrative Policy Strategies in Illinois to Deliver Efficient and Affordable Energy to Consumers

Doug Scott, chair of the Illinois Commerce Commission, will share lessons learned in Illinois, a state leading the way on future-looking energy policy, as the state has worked to braid together a range of regulatory, legislative, and administrative strategies to increase energy efficiency, move towards clean heating and transportation, and make sure the benefits of these policies reach low-income families.

Introduction: **Forest Bradley-Wright**, State and Utility Director, ACEEE

Keynote Speaker: **Doug Scott**, Chair, Illinois Commerce Commission

12:45 – 1:45 pm Concurrent Sessions

1A. Intelligent and Efficient Approaches to Data Centers Mt. Sopris A

Moderator: **Kristen Driskell**, 2050 Partners

Future-Proofing Data Centers: Advanced Strategies for Energy Efficiency in an AI World
Andrew Volent, Guidehouse

Data Centers: Power Needs and Clean Energy Challenges
Howard Geller, SWEET

TBD
Brendon Baatz, Google

2A. Technical and Programmatic Approaches to Flexible Load Programs

Mt. Sopris B

Moderator: **Steph Hsiung**, ICF

Flex Appeal: Optimizing Consumer Outreach Strategies for Load Flexibility
Sarah Outcault, UC Davis Western Cooling Efficiency Center

Value Framework and Strategies for Cost-Effective Approaches for Connected Communities – A Case Study in Tennessee
Sivakumar Sankaranarayanan, Electric Power Research Institute

Electrical Service Upgrade Avoidance through Intelligent Power Management Technologies
Keith Cronin, VEIC

3A. Innovative State Policy for Efficiency and Electrification

Colorado A

Moderator: **Ashley McBride**, Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance

EER(S): Energy Efficiency Resource Standards to Achieve Multiple Goals
Natalie Mims Frick, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab

Assessing IL Energy Efficiency Electrification Policies and their Impacts on Utility Programs
Charles Ampong, Guidehouse

Colorado's Beneficial Electrification Policies and Programs
Ramón Alatorre, Southwest Energy Efficiency Project

4A. Addressing Unaffordable Energy: Maximizing Impacts of Energy Efficiency Programs

Colorado B

Moderator: **Elizabeth Traynor**, ACEEE
WA State Climate Commitment Act (CCA) Home Electric Appliances Rebates (HEAR)
Allison Grinczel, Snohomish County PUD

From Neighborhoods to Homes: Comparing Zonal and Household Approaches for Equitable Electrification
Alison Thompson, Resource Innovations

Getting thrifty: ensuring that customer programs deliver affordability at the system, customer and community levels
Rachel Gold, RMI

1:45 – 2:30 pm

Networking Break

Colorado Foyer

1B. Demand-Side Strategies for Mitigating Load Growth

Mt. Sopris A

Moderator: **Jennifer Barnes**, 2050 Partners

Maximizing Virtual Power Plants & Distributed Energy Resources to Support Load Growth
Steven Clarke, Ceres

From Substation to Plug Load: Expanding DSM Planning to Meet Accelerating Demand
Sarah Spencer-Workman, CLEAResult

Explosive Load Growth (late breaking ACEEE)
Forest Bradley-Wright, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE)

2B. Using AI to Improve Program Delivery

Mt. Sopris B

Moderator: **Pranav Gupta**, ICF

Advancing Energy Efficiency and Grid Resilience with AI and Thermal Energy Storage
James Bell, Viking Cold Solutions

Overcoming DSM Silos with the Power of AI Integrated Behavioral Treatments
Jeff Rouser, Franklin Energy

Virtual power plants and their role in tackling present and future challenges in the Pacific Northwest grids
Froylan Sifuentes, Western Washington University

3B. Programs and Regulation: Delivering Affordable Efficiency and Flexibility

Colorado A

Moderator: **Jeaneen Zappa**, Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance

From Buzzword to Backbone: The State of Demand Flexibility as a Resource
Jennifer Szaro, AESP

Charting What's Next: Aligning Oregon's Energy Strategy with the Full Potential of Efficiency
Amanda Welch, Oregon Department of Energy

Efficient & Effective Action - Driving deeper savings & broader engagement through mobile applications
Wallace Holland, Hancock Software

4B. Leveraging Community Partnerships to Deliver Effective Energy Efficiency Programs

Colorado B

Moderator: **Darren Hanway**, SoCalGas

From Kilowatts to Community: How Local Efficiency Markets Deliver Grid Value and Equitable Impacts

Reid Leiter, Recurve Analytics

Driving Utility Energy Efficiency Program Participation Through Community Partnerships

Devan Willemsen, Eversource

Energy Upgrade: A Community-centered Efficiency Strategy

Casey McCabe, Sarasota County UF/IFAS Extension and Sustainability

3:30 – 4:00 pm

Networking Break

Colorado Foyer

4:00 – 5:00 pm

Concurrent Sessions

1C. Policy Strategies for Scaling Efficient Electric Solutions in the Industrial Sector

Mt. Sopris A

Moderator: **Andrew Hoffmeister**, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE)

Industrial Electrification Panel

2C. Evaluation Strategies for Today's Demand-Side Management Challenges

Mt. Sopris B

Moderator: **Hannah Howard**, Opinion Dynamics

Evaluating Clean Energy Transition: Coordination and Collaboration

Nick Warnecke, Ameren Illinois

Seth Craigo-Snell, SCS Analytics

Innovative TRM Characterizations to Advance Decarbonization, Load Flexibility, and Equity

Benjamin Plotzker, VEIC

Better Understanding of Customers and Energy Use through Quantile Demographic Analyses

Gregory Romine, Eversource

3C. Quantifying Efficiency's Non-Energy Benefits

Colorado A

Moderator: **Jeana Swedenburg**, Opinion Dynamics

Cutting the Cord - Enabling Non-Wires Solutions in Connecticut

Iain Kerr, Dunsky Energy + Climate

Beyond Energy Savings: Valuing Indoor Air Quality Impacts for Priority Programs

Thomas Olson, Consortium for Energy Efficiency

How to integrate GHG into utility efficiency programs

Mike Specian, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE)

Moderator: TBD

From Awareness to Trust: Driving Participation in Income-Eligible Multi-Family Energy Programs

David Hernandez, Commonwealth Edison

Paula McGuire-Rowe, Elevate

Energy Concierge: Empowering Income-Eligible Customers to Improve Energy Affordability

Simon Geraghty, CLEAResult

Cape & Vineyard Electrification Offering: A Turnkey Electrification Model for Underserved Communities

Briana Kane, Cape Light Compact

5:00 – 7:00 pm **Reception & Poster Session**

Colorado Foyer

Poster Presentations

Workforce as a Resource: Scaling Equity and Efficiency through Immersive Technology

Kaila Campos, Green Workforce Collaborative

An Analysis Framework for Grid Planning and Demand-Side Strategy Evaluation

Tanushree Charan, NREL

From Intention to Impact: The Power of Concierge Services in an Equitable Energy Transition

Karina Gaft-Azcue, CET

Smart Cities Start with Smart Buildings: EcoSphere and the Optimization Core for Granular Urban Efficiency and Emissions Reduction

Siavash Ghorbany, University of Notre Dame

Customer Segmentation through Heating and Cooling Energy Disaggregation

Xavier Hayden, VEIC

Energy Burden in South Carolina: A Geospatial Approach to Affording Energy Equity

Dylan McGuire, Coastal Conservation League

Practical Significance vs. Statistical Significance for Evaluation of Residential Behaviour Programs: A Need to Update the Evaluation Protocols

Hugh Peach, H Gil Peach & Associates, LLC

Transforming Humidity Management: Advanced DOAS Technology as an Untapped Energy Efficiency Resource for Commercial Buildings

Edmund Post, Transaera, Inc.

From Data to Deployment: Advancing Energy Affordability in American Communities

Amy Van Sant, National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Choice Infrastructure: Modeling Customer Choice in Residential Programs

Katelyn Stenger, NREL

Thursday, October 9

7:00 am – 5:00 pm Registration Colorado Foyer

7:00 – 8:15 am Breakfast Aspen Ballroom

8:30 – 10:00 am Concurrent Sessions

Braiding State and Utility Resources to Deliver Effective Energy Efficiency Programming Colorado A

This panel brings together state agency representatives and energy efficiency program implementers from across the country to discuss models for combining resources, funding, and expertise across organizations to enhance capacity to deliver effective programs, especially those that deliver comprehensive building efficiency and meet the needs of historically marginalized communities by lowering bills and improving health and comfort. Each panelist will share case studies that highlight the integrative and collaborative aspects of efficiency programs, followed by a moderated discussion to make connections across states, with time for audience Q &A. Attendees will walk away with impactful stories of how to address big challenges through comprehensive and well-coordinated programming.

Moderator: **Tim Fagan**, PSE&G

Panelists:

- **Erin Soman**, Managing Director, Focus on Energy
- *Invited – Oregon Energy Trust*
- *Invited – Colorado Energy Office*

Innovative Approaches to Managing Data Center Demand Colorado B

Many regions around the country are facing rapid load growth, driven in large part by an explosion of data centers. There are strategies, however, to meet substantial portions of this expanded demand quickly and cost-effectively through efficiency improvements and other demand side management strategies. This session will share perspectives from leading experts on how we can more effectively plan for and manage load growth from data centers and avoid locking in expensive new generation resources and putting pressure on the grid during times of peak demand. A moderated discussion will follow panelist presentations, followed by time for audience Q&A.

Moderator: **Steve Nadel**, Executive Director, ACEEE

Panelists:

- **Roderick Jackson**, Laboratory Program Manager, Buildings Research, National Renewable Energy Laboratory
- **Bill LeBlanc**, President, LeBlanc Energy Innovation
- **Brendan Pierpont**, Modeling Director, Energy Innovation

10:00 – 10:30 am Networking Break Colorado Foyer

1D. Heat Pumps: Upgrading to Efficient Electric Appliances

Mt. Sopris A

Moderator: **Keith Cronin**, VEIC

Chill Out, Denver: How Efficient Building Electrification Cools the Peak
Ida Weiss, Synapse Energy Economics

Turning Up the Heat: Unlocking Vermont's Heat Pump Potential: Insights from the 2024 Market Assessment and a Roadmap for Action
Lisa Coven, VEIC

Don't give your heat pump the cold shoulder! Understanding residential heat pump usage behavior in a New England fuel switching program.
Nicole Grosner, Guidehouse

2D. Residential Demand Response and Energy Efficiency Programs

Mt. Sopris B

Moderator: TBD

Navigating Complexity: Longitudinal Evaluation of Market Transformation Programs in Complex Regional Energy Ecosystems
Chris Cardiel, Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance

Future demand response resource of residential electric water heating: technology, regulations and economics.
Chris Granda, Energy Solutions

Just the Integration the Doctor Ordered: Home Energy House Calls delivering EE and DR benefits
Jonathan Budner, Franklin Energy

3D. Efficiency Solutions for an Electrified Future

Colorado A

Moderator: **Peter Walke**, VEIC

Decarbonization Pathways for Minnesota's Natural Gas Sector: Mitigating Winter Peak Load with GSHPs and Demand Response
Ellen Carlson, Synapse Energy Economics

Is a Thermal Network a Non-Wires Alternative? Can it Help with an Equitable Transition?
Audrey Schulman, HEETlabs

Winter is Coming: Getting Ready for Future Winter Peaks Now
Rabi Vandergon, Center for Energy and Environment

4D. Behavioral Energy Efficiency Programs

Colorado B

Moderator: **Wallace Holland**, Hancock Software

The Value and Evolution of Home Energy Reports and Behavioral Energy Efficiency (HERBEE 2.))

Reuven Sussman, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE)

Empowering All Customers for a Clean Energy Future: SMUD's Equity-First Behavioral Strategy for Peak Reduction

Delaney Tight, Oracle

How Behavioral Energy Programs Can Drive Load Shifting and Peak Demand Reduction

Ben Westrich, Ecometricx (Data Science Partner for Franklin Energy)

11:30 – 11:45 am

Networking Break

Colorado Foyer

11:45 – 1:00 pm

Lunch

Aspen Ballroom

1:00 – 2:00 pm

Concurrent Sessions

1E. Industrial Energy Efficiency Programs

Mt. Sopris A

Moderator: TBD

Quantitative Analysis of Manufacturing Energy Efficiency's Role in Ensuring Energy Affordability Amid Rising Electricity Demand from Manufacturing and AI Growth

Dr. Aline Banboukian, Oak Ridge National Laboratory

Efficiency-first Demand Flexibility: Real World Examples of SEM Influencing Permanent Demand Curtailment

Peter Sharp, Cascade Energy, LLC

Maximizing Efficiency: Integrated HVAC+D Solutions for Cannabis Grow Facilities

Raju Pusapati, DNV

2E. Scaling Efficiency and Flexibility Solutions with AI and Virtual Power Plants

Mt. Sopris B

Moderator: **Mike Specian**, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE)

AI Scaling for Resource Acquisition Programming

Anna Kelly, SBW Consulting

Innovative use of data-driven AI tools to augment energy efficiency resources.

Jason Trager, Plentiful.ai

The AI Revolution is Coming for EE Programs: How Machine Intelligence can unlock 50% More Impact Per Dollar

Jeff Coleman, Eli Technologies

3E. Demand-Side Value in the Changing Energy Landscape

Colorado A

Moderator: **Ashly McFarlane**, Center for Energy and Environment

Untangling Energy Efficiency's Effect on Energy Systems

Donald Johnson, Con Edison

Deploying demand flexibility business models: Emerging insights from U.S. programs

Guillermo Pereira, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

DER Potential Study 2.0: Leveraging Digital Twins to Conduct the Next Generation of DER Potential Studies – Case study: A Localized DER Potential Study for IESO

Ali Bozorgi, ICF

4E. Delivering Effective Efficiency Programs for Small Businesses

Colorado B

Moderator: **Carolyn Conant**, ACEEE

Next Generation Utility Energy Efficiency Programs in Lighting and HVAC

Jim Fay, Energy Research and Analysis

Small Business, Big Lessons: Commercial Heat Pump Adoption in Practice

Karina Gaft-Azcue, CET

Innovative Models and Collaboration Strategies for Delivering Strategic Energy Management (SEM) to Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

Vivek Singh, CLEAResult Consulting Inc.

2:00 – 2:30 pm

Networking Break

Colorado Foyer

2:30 – 3:30 pm

Concurrent Sessions

1F. Commercial Efficiency and Demand Response Opportunities

Mt. Sopris A

Moderator: **Courtney Fieldman**, SWEEP

Empowering Commercial & Industrial Customers through Comprehensive Energy Efficiency Programs

Ricky Jordan, Eversource Energy

Cold Storage, Heating Up: The Layered Value of Grocery Store Refrigeration-Based Demand Response

Jack Green, Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources

Targeted Energy Efficiency Programs for Nonprofits

David Geeganage, Frontier Energy

2F. Energy Efficiency Needs a Paradigm Shift

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Moderator: **Hugh Peach**, H Gil Peach & Associates, LLC.

Paradigm Shift: Redefining DSM's Foundational Role for a Modern Energy System

Sam Ross, Dunsy Energy + Climate Advisors

Maximize Market Impact: Integrating Demand Flexibility and Emerging Technologies into Energy Efficiency Programs

Parker Wall, TRC

Energy Efficiency Needs to Get Real to Meet New Challenges and Opportunities

Andy Frank, Sealed

3F. Advancing Efficiency Through Modeling and New Business Models

Colorado A

Moderator: **Richard Hart**, ACEEE

Buildings Sector Scenarios: Comprehensive data for stakeholder planning

Jared Langevin, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Is Wasted Renewable Energy Worth Saving? An exploration of energy efficiency in a low-carbon, high renewables future

Nick Mark, Xcel Energy

Energy efficiency for peak reduction – how valuable will it be in future winter peaking systems?

Philip White, National Renewable Energy Laboratory

4F. Whole-Home Retrofits for Energy Efficiency

Colorado B

Moderator: **Reuven Sussman**, ACEEE

Understanding Market Dynamics to Drive Building Envelope Upgrades

Caroline Hopper, Guidehouse

Passive house – The new normal in Massachusetts

Amey Patil, ICF

Driving Deep Savings in Multifamily Housing

Ravi Malhotra, Resource Smart

3:30 – 4:00 pm

Networking Break

Colorado Foyer

Our closing plenary brings together a diverse panel of experts to discuss the shifting value of demand side management, in the context of load growth. How have legislative efforts or state agency programs engaged with this challenge? And how can strategic investment in energy efficiency and demand flexibility, as well as thoughtful and innovative rate design, support energy affordability? This moderated panel discussion will share perspectives on these kinds of questions, highlighting the value and role of demand side management tools for achieving a wide range of planning goals and delivering more efficient, more cost-effective, and more reliable energy to all communities.

Panelists:

- **Chris Duffrin**, President, Center for Energy and Environment
- **Rachel Gold**, Senior Principle, Carbon Free Electricity, RMI
- **Damali Harding**, Executive Managing Director, Amendment Nine Strategic Consulting
- **Wil Mannes**, Senior Program Manager, Strategic Initiatives & Finance, Colorado Energy Office

