



Photo by Darian Vigil, Wilson Construction Co.

WesternEnergy
INSTITUTE

PROGRAMS BROCHURE

Visit: westernenergy.org/programs for more information

CONFERENCES + MEETINGS

ANNUAL MEETING

This three-day event brings together the gas and electric utility executive community to encourage discussion and foster new opportunities. This program is intended for executive level leadership and emerging leaders, as well as those responsible for company strategy, and is open to all members.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

This event combines a full day of panels and networking opportunities with our semi-annual WEI Board business meeting. Participation is restricted to current board members and special invited guests to ensure a diverse mix of industry representation and perspectives as our members build meaningful relationships that increase understanding and accelerate progress.

BUSINESS ACUMEN ALUMNI SUMMIT

The Business Acumen Alumni Summit is designed to reconnect Business Acumen for Emerging Leaders alumni. This program is offered once a year and is exclusive to those that have completed the Business Acumen for Emerging Leaders Program.

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

This biannual forum provides a unique opportunity for utility CIOs to come together in an exclusive peer-to-peer environment to network and share best practices. Participation is restricted to Chief Information Officers or senior leaders responsible for the management of their utility's technology and information systems at WEI member energy companies.

CLAIMS + DAMAGE RECOVERY

This annual program focuses on sharing best practices and building relationships with other leaders in claims and collection management and offers insights from guest speakers who have been expert witnesses in claims investigations. Participants will learn about and discuss issues common to Western utilities such as fire and storm recoveries, inverse condemnation, settlement and negotiations, and proper record keeping from industry professionals. This program is open to both WEI members and non-members.

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

This forum provides an exclusive, collaborative space for leaders in corporate communications to discuss challenges and exchange best practices. Participants will gain a new understanding of executive communications strategies, employee communication, branding for recruitment and onboarding, and crisis communication through interactive sessions and roundtable discussions. This program is intended for corporate communications senior leaders, directors, and managers.

CUSTOMER + CORPORATE SYMPOSIUM

Join energy professionals to discuss the latest trends, ongoing developments, and best practices impacting the industry. This annual event brings together specialists, coordinators, supervisors, managers, and directors responsible for a variety of functional areas across corporate services and customer connections. The diverse mix of presentations, panels, roundtable discussions, and networking opportunities allow attendees to share their experiences and develop contacts within the industry. This program is open to both WEI members and non-members and is an excellent professional development and team-building opportunity.

CUSTOMER STRATEGIES

This annual forum meets in person and is focused on conversation interspersed with presentations on topics such as, call center leadership, IT strategies, and workforce solutions. The small size of this program provides a unique environment for sharing with peers and building relationships. This program is intended for executive level leadership responsible for customer strategy and policy and is open to WEI member energy companies.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE + ASSISTANCE PRACTICES

This forum provides open discussion on pressing topics surrounding utility emergency planning and operations and offers leaders a platform to develop relationships and share insights that prove beneficial in an emergency. This program is open to utilities and service providers.

ENERGY MANAGEMENT

This collaborative atmosphere, combined with the attendee's high level of expertise, leads to complex and analytical discussions regarding long-term forecasts, international energy demand, H2/RNG/LNG updates, the price of carbon, renewable developments, electric/gas convergence issues, and the influence of storage and infrastructure projects. This program is intended for senior level management who are responsible for energy supply, storage, transportation, trading, marketing, transmission, or business development. Electric utilities with gas generation are encouraged to attend.

EXECUTIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Executive Planning Committee (EPC) is a distinct group of senior energy leaders who meet annually to bridge the strategic vision of the WEI Board of Directors and Board Committees to plan the tracks for the upcoming Customer + Corporate Symposium and the Operations Conference.

FACILITIES + WORKPLACE EXPERIENCE

This forum provides an opportunity to collaborate and share information with other utilities on how they are approaching facilities, office space, and operations building management. Discussions address a variety of areas, including space and occupancy standards, building maintenance/improvements, technology integration, and equipment management. Additional conversations around long-term strategy may include workplace transformation efforts, adapting to hybrid work models, electrification of fleets, and achieving sustainability goals.

FLEET MANAGEMENT

This forum provides fleet leadership professionals an opportunity to discuss best practices and share new processes and technologies. Participants will work collaboratively to select topics that are relevant to all participating organizations. This program is intended for fleet leadership professionals.

GENERAL COUNSEL

As the legal landscape of the utility industry continues to change in the face of decarbonization, regulatory policy, budget pressures, and risk assessment, this biannual forum provides a unique and collaborative space for utility General Counsels to share new insights and opportunities through networking and roundtable discussions. Participation is restricted to General Counsels or senior leaders responsible for the management of legal functions at WEI member energy companies.

HUMAN RESOURCES

This semi-annual program provides a roundtable opportunity for human resource leadership to address contemporary, strategic issues in human resource management. The program considers strategic inclusions such as collective bargaining agreements, benefits, employee diversity, performance management, compensation policies and change management. This program is intended for senior leaders responsible for management of human resources functions at WEI energy member companies.

HYDROGEN ENGINEERS

Hydrogen is one of the next steps in the evolution of the energy grid in North America as we strive to decarbonize and combat climate change. This program intends to connect technical professionals within the utility industry and allow them to begin to build a network of colleagues working within this ever-changing landscape. This program is intended for hydrogen engineers, utility business development professionals, engineering consultants, and product manufacturers.

INCIDENT MANAGEMENT + ORGANIZATIONAL RESILIENCY

WEI's Incident Management + Organizational Resiliency program brings together utility industry specialists from the US and Canada to share best practices through open conversations with key presentations to support the discussion. The program is designed to strengthen a utility's response through strategic evaluation of incident support, policy guidance and executive-level decision making, and media outreach and communication.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANNING

An integrated resource plan (IRP) is more than just a plan; it's an involved process with multiple evaluation criteria that helps to determine both short- and long-term load growth. Planning professionals gather twice a year, both in-person and virtually, to better understand the challenges facing electric and natural gas providers in Western North America. This program is for directors, senior leaders and key organizational contributors who manage the aspects and objectives of their utility's integrated resource plan.

JOINT USE CONFERENCE

New technology, new regulations and an aging infrastructure continue to change the landscape of joint use. This annual forum features a unique mix of presentations, dynamic power table topics, vendor displays, and networking opportunities to exchange information and best practices. Considered the premier joint use conference, content is designed for utility, telecomm, wireless and broadband companies; as well as consultants and service companies who deal with joint use, pole ownership and attachments.

KEY ACCOUNTS

Bringing together Key Accounts professionals to share best practices and develop creative solutions to KA challenges, this meeting features a keynote from the host utility, dedicated roundtable conversations, and breakout sessions designed for focused discussions between members. This program is for utilities and designed for key accounts directors and managers.

OPERATIONS BUSINESS STRATEGIES - ELECTRIC

Designed for electric utility executives, participants engage in best practice roundtables to address electric distribution system and substation reliability and safety. This program is intended for senior leaders of WEI energy member companies: vice presidents, directors of electric operations and general managers responsible for maintaining system reliability.

OPERATIONS CONFERENCE

The Operations Conference is WEI's largest event. This in-person conference brings together hundreds energy industry professionals for three days of education and networking. In addition to general sessions with industry leaders and keynote speakers, the Operations Conference offers different tracks with breakout sessions targeted to specific operations functions. This program is open to anyone in the energy industry.

OVERHEAD/UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION

The technology, application, and specifications for designing, building, and maintaining overhead and underground lines are constantly evolving. This forum brings together electric utility professionals to discuss current standards, materials, and maintenance for distribution operations. Attendees will be given the opportunity to submit questions and receive feedback from their peers, and will leave with practical knowledge to reduce costs and improve efficiency and safety. This program is intended for operations and maintenance personnel, standards and design engineers, line technicians, T&D supervisors, and suppliers of distribution and substation products and services.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT + UTILITIES

WEI's Project Management Forum brings together gas and electric utility project, program, and portfolio management leadership and practitioners to discuss the latest industry trends and best practices. With three foci for breakout rooms: PMO Leadership, Construction, and IT, this program is an excellent professional development and team-building opportunity.

RENEWABLE + LOW CARBON GASES

Renewable gases including biomethane or RNG, hydrogen and syngas present an opportunity to reduce the carbon intensity of the gas streams provided to end use customers. Join utility professionals responsible for low carbon and renewable efforts at their company as we discuss a wide range of strategic topics such as: policies, regulatory framework, safety, economics, gas quality, and operational issues related to these efforts.

SAFETY SUMMIT

This summit is designed for gas and electric utility safety professionals, and spans across three unique, topical tracks: Safety Strategy + Policy, Electric Safety Work Methods, and Gas Safety Work Methods. Content is designed to promote safety culture through discussions related to the education and training that influences utility operations, as well as some of the challenges and successes associated with developing strategy. This program is intended for managers, supervisors, trainers, safety advocates and anyone responsible for safety work methods (gas and electric) or safety strategy and policy.

SECONDARY NETWORK

This annual forum addresses the reliability, safety and protection challenges of spot networks and grid systems that comprise the secondary network. This program is intended for utility professionals involved with power distribution reliability planning, engineering, operation, standardization, protection and control, power quality analysis of secondary spot network and grid systems, also service company professionals who offer support to any aspect of the secondary network system are welcome to attend.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

WEI's Strategic Planning program provides a forum for members responsible for their company's strategic plan to come together to discuss common challenges and opportunities. This forum provides a collaborative space for members to focus on strategic issues and compare the planning processes at different companies. This program is intended for directors or senior managers with strategic responsibilities in supply chain business functions.

SUPPLY CHAIN + PROCUREMENT

A successful supply chain relies on a well-developed infrastructure, appropriate tactical resources, and thorough analysis. This process involves solid relationships within the utility, as well as strategic relationships with vendors to mitigate risk to the overall supply chain. This forum offers an opportunity for supply chain procurement managers and specialists to come together with industry partners and suppliers for roundtable discussions and expert presentations. Topics include KPIs, supplier relationship management, sustainability, and best practices in purchasing and contracting. CEHs are offered for CPSMs through the Institute for Supply Management.

TALENT MANAGEMENT

Energy companies face core challenges to recruit, retain, develop and train their workforce. This forum brings together employee development and training experts to share case studies and proven best practices. This program is intended for key energy company contributors who lead aspects and objectives of their company's talent recruitment, retention, development and training.

WESTERN REGION MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT (WRMAA) ANNUAL MEETING

In 2003 the Western Region Mutual Assistance Agreement (WRMAA) was created and adopted by gas and electric utilities throughout Western North America to support one another in the event of emergencies affecting generation, transmission, distribution, or other business operations. Signatories meet in person annually to share best practices, discuss key emergency response issues, and elect new members of the Executive Committee and the custodian of the agreement. This program is open to signatories of the Western Region Mutual Assistance Agreement or by invitation.

WESTERN UTILITIES FINANCIAL FORUM

This annual forum is a place for Chief Financial Officers, senior accountants, and finance leaders from western North American to come together to address common challenges and explore best practices in everyday obstacles ranging from financial reporting, rate design, cost management strategies, and beyond. This program is open to both WEI energy members and non-members.

WILDFIRE PLANNING + MITIGATION

This program will bring together senior leaders responsible for wildfire planning and mitigation strategies at WEI member companies for an interactive peer to peer session. We will focus on sharing and discussing best practices around strategies for planning, operations, technology and various other tactics to mitigate and plan for wildfires.

WOMEN IN ENERGY SYMPOSIUM

This program addresses some of the evolving opportunities and challenges that women face and advocates for workplace inclusion and teamwork across gender, racial, and generational demographics. Everyone is invited to attend the Women in Energy Symposium whether or not you identify as a woman. This program is open to anyone in all facets of the utility industry.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT + MENTORING

Our suite of leadership programs provides energy industry employees with professional development tools, resources, and experiences to become more effective leaders.

BUSINESS ACUMEN FOR EMERGING LEADERS

This year-long program is designed by a utility-driven Curriculum Development Team, and directed by facilitators, and executive and alumni mentors. The program concludes with a capstone project which is delivered to industry leaders at the WEI Annual Meeting. Participants build a broad peer network that continues well into their future careers. This program is reserved for energy members and Platinum and Gold service company members.

FIELD TO OFFICE LEADERSHIP

This application based program is specifically designed for utility employees making the move from field-based roles to supervisor or manager positions. A combination of in-person and virtual sessions will provide the basics of management, communication, leadership, and utility knowledge for office-centered work. Throughout the program you'll develop a personal action plan to help you succeed with this career change. Along the way you'll hear from utility execs and leaders that have previously made the jump.

MENTORSHIP, DEVELOPMENT, AND LEADERSHIP

This mentorship program provides a formal mentoring relationship for leaders in the energy industry and aims to foster a culture of continuous learning and development while connecting different utilities. Mentees and mentors will benefit from seeing the industry through a new perspective as they meet for monthly one-on-one sessions with the goal of strengthening and developing as leaders.

UTILITY BUSINESS ESSENTIALS

This application-based program is for people looking to accelerate their utility career. Students will learn about the fundamentals of the energy industry, basic leadership principles, communication, peak performance, and negotiation. Throughout the program there is a team research project that concludes with a webinar presentation. The format is a combination of in-person and virtual sessions.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

This mentorship program is for employees looking to develop and further their utility leadership with a focus on supporting and empowering women in the workplace. Participants will benefit from building a network and navigating through current challenges facing professionals in the energy industry. Monthly one-on-one sessions will provide opportunities to discuss big-picture items like career strategy and achievement goals.

SCHOOLS + TRADE SKILLS

Hands-on training schools and workshops to teach essential skills. Open to energy and service companies.

HANDS-ON RELAY SCHOOL

A truly unique educational experience, offering students the opportunity to network with and learn from leading experts in the field of system protection to exchange ideas, resolve problems and learn preventative and corrective methods through hands-on labs. Eight tracks are available: Basic, Distribution, Transmission, Generation, Electromechanical, Automation/Integration, Computerized Relay Testing and Theory. Students also attend six hours of open classroom lectures covering system protection topics, where they can select from 12 topic choices. This program is designed for relay technicians, electrical/power plant technicians, engineers and protective relay test specialists. CEU credits available.

NORTHWEST ELECTRIC METER SCHOOL

Quality technical training spanning the basics of metering theory, AMI and high-end meter applications offering students the opportunity to network and learn from leading experts in the field of metering by developing skills, to exchange ideas, resolve problems and learn through hands-on labs. With over 66 years of operation, the school curriculum addresses the need for quality technical training with six tracks available: Single Phase Metering, Polyphase Metering, Solid State Metering, Advanced Metering + Communications, Hot Topic Roundtable/Supervisory and Substation/Generation Metering while also integrating fresh technological trends and perspectives. This course is designed to serve metering apprentices and journeymen in the electric utility industry. Students should select their preferred track according to their level of experience. CEU credits available.

POWER QUALITY SCHOOL

This course provides students with the fundamental skills to facilitate, quantify, investigate, monitor and solve electrical system problems. Content is taught by industry experts through a combination of presentations, exercises and unique hands-on labs. Building these skills allow utilities and their customers to save money in avoided equipment outages and damage, costly improper solutions, damage claims and lost production. CEU credits available. This program is designed for utility technicians, engineers and managers in the private sector to provide hands-on experience and practical information that can be applied to troubleshoot, prevent and solve power quality and reliability issues.

UTILITY INDUSTRY INSIGHTS

Hands-on training schools and workshops to teach essential skills. Open to energy and service companies.

ELECTRIC UTILITY FUNDAMENTALS + INSIGHTS

The electric industry is changing every day and today's challenges require employees to develop a broad understanding of how the industry operates and the interplay between business functions – truly, how the pieces fit together. Topics include: Fundamentals of Electricity, Generation Choices, How Utilities Make Money, Western North American Transmission and Electricity Markets, Customers + Emerging Opportunities, Distributed Energy Resources, and Integrated Resource Planning. This program will best serve employees expanding their career opportunities, those seeking to understand how the pieces of the business fit together, newly hired managers and leaders from outside the utility industry, service providers who want to learn more about their customers, and anyone seeking to understand how the pieces of the energy business fit together.

GAS UTILITY FUNDAMENTALS + INSIGHTS

The gas industry is entering an age of transformation. Business decisions must consider political pressure and regulatory requirements, operational and asset challenges, and customer preference. WEI's GUF course provides Members an overview of operations from well extraction to burn tip, and regulations from PPE in the field to the regulated utility business model, and the interplay between them all. Topics include: Extraction + Pipelines, Distribution Operations, How Utilities Make Money, Customers + Usage, Regulations, Codes, and Safety, and Emerging Issues. This program will best serve employees expanding their career opportunities, those seeking to understand how the pieces of the business fit together, newly hired managers and leaders from outside the utility industry, service providers who want to learn more about their customers, and anyone seeking to understand how the pieces of the energy business fit together.

WEI WEBINAR SERIES

In this constantly changing environment of the energy industry the webinar offerings provide you the opportunity to stay engaged and updated on emerging topics along with staying connected with leading industry experts. The various webinars will be a collaboration with energy and/or service company providers on a wide range of timely and relevant topics to provide value to our members.

WE LEARN + LEAD

Unlock your potential with WEI's exclusive subscription-based learning and development opportunity. Join live, virtual courses, with active engagement through in-course discussion forums and breakout rooms. Each course is held multiple times throughout the year. You can attend in any sequence — take as many courses as you want on a schedule that works for you. Courses include:

LEADING A SAFETY CULTURE

Through examining leading practices, interactive discussions and real-world scenarios, this course bridges leadership and safety culture concepts to help you and your team advance safety within your organization. Topics include: key ingredients for building a great safety culture, leadership's role in safety culture, practical strategies for securing buy-in, navigating challenging scenarios, and actionable near-term steps for developing a stronger safety culture.

6 C'S OF ENERGY CAREER SUCCESS

Together, we will work through: Creativity, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Citizenship, Character, and Community. This course will provide you with additional tools that will help you meet the challenges of today's energy industry. Welcome to the 6 C's of Energy Career Success!

INCLUSIVITY IN THE WORKPLACE

Inclusive Leadership means understanding identities, our unconscious biases, psychological safety, and how to navigate hard conversations in the workplace. Learn how to come from a place of mutual respect and understanding so you can feel confident addressing your team, no matter who they are.

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

This program is designed to help you learn how to develop strong connections, influence others effectively, and improve your adaptability and positivity. These are the top skills to advance your leadership potential!

GOOD AIR - CREATING PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY AT WORK

After attending "Good Air", participants will come away with very specific practices they can put to use immediately—ways to fine-tune the energy or "vibe" they send out, make more meaningful connections, think differently about the language they use, and reframe their own failures and those of others. Let's find some good air together!

FIVE PILLARS OF LEADERSHIP

Through collaborative exercises, attendees will learn the importance of what being a leader means in the day-to-day management of a team. By the end of the session, participants will not only understand the core responsibilities of leadership but also leave equipped with practical strategies to inspire and guide their teams toward success.

OWNING YOUR CAREER PATH

Owning Your Career Path will empower you with the knowledge, skills, and tools to define your career by aligning your professional goals with personal values, developing actionable strategies for career advancement, and understanding how extraordinarily successful professionals use the power of planning and networking to achieve their goals.

STRATEGIC THINKING

In this course, we will help you hone strategic thinking abilities by strategizing action plans, restructuring processes, and using critical thinking. With these skills, you will be able to break down complex problems into manageable and actionable tasks, and your team will trust your steady leadership.

PRESENT AND PERFORM ONLINE

Live up your virtual performance skills with this course! You will be able to keep your participants engaged through active presentation skills and strategies such as: interactive segments, cadence coaching, conducting breakout sessions, and visual guides, all while keeping your virtual sessions timely.

PEAK PERFORMANCE

Learning how to cope and even thrive in stressful situations can make the difference between success and failure, and more importantly, brings more joy into our lives. This program is designed to help you develop robust and healthy cognitive, behavioral, and emotional habits to achieve and sustain peak performance!

FIND DATES, LOCATIONS, REGISTRATION INFORMATION,
AND MORE ONLINE AT
[WESTERNENERGY.ORG/PROGRAMS](https://www.westernenergy.org/programs)

WESTERN ENERGY INSTITUTE
INFO@WESTERNENERGY.ORG
503.231.1994