



IDEA Pacific Northwest District Energy Summit

Washington Athletic Club – Crystal Ballroom (3rd Floor)

October 29, 2025	
7:00 am – 5:00 pm	Registration Open – <i>Crystal Ballroom Foyer, 3rd Floor</i>
7:00 am – 8:30 am	Workshop Breakfast – <i>Noble Room, Lobby Level</i>
8:30 am – 8:40 am	Welcome to Seattle & Outline Agenda for the Summit – <i>Crystal Ballroom, 3rd Floor</i> –Rob Thornton, IDEA
	Level Setting – Why is District Energy Important? – <i>Gerard MacDonald, ReShape Strategies</i>
	Session 1: Decarbonization at Scale: District Energy in the Pacific Northwest
9:00 am – 10:30 am	Moderated by: Rob Thornton, IDEA District energy systems can help to accelerate decarbonization, reduce greenhouse gas emissions at a community scale, and offer a way to relieve stress on the electric grid. This panel will focus on energy transition opportunities in the Pacific Northwest, including impact on the grid, environmental objectives, and issues of energy affordability. <i>Panelists:</i> • <i>Beth Doglio, WA State Legislature</i> • <i>Jeff Giffin, Corix</i> • <i>Ian Goepferd, CenTrio</i> • <i>Gerard MacDonald, ReShape Strategies</i> • <i>Alex Ramel, WA State Legislature</i> • <i>David Woodson, University of Washington</i>
10:30 am – 10:45 am	Refreshment Break
	Session 2: Bottlenecks and Breakthroughs: Working Together to Make District Energy a Reality
10:45 am – 12:15 pm	Moderated by: Michael Ahern, Ever-Green Energy What technologies are being deployed today, who is implementing them, and what are the practical examples from the region and beyond? Where are the gaps and bottlenecks? How do district thermal solutions de-risk electric capacity additions? What does a productive utility–thermal partnership look like (governance, tariffs, interconnection, risk)? <i>Panelists:</i> • <i>Alejandro Davila-Miranda, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks</i> • <i>Michael Hogan, Port of Bellingham</i> • <i>Mark Lenssen, Puget Sound Energy</i> • <i>Rob Neimeier, Ramboll</i>
12:15 pm – 1:10 pm	Workshop Luncheon – <i>Noble Room, Lobby Level</i>

	Session 3: Carrots and Sticks: Policy and Regulatory Frameworks for District Energy
1:15 pm – 2:30 pm	Moderator: Mark Spurr, FVB The policy landscape, including incentives (“carrots”), requirements (“sticks”), and how legislation is shaping the future of district energy. Enabling policy, codes & the implementation playbook. What code/rule tweaks unlock faster deployment? What templates can owners adopt tomorrow? How do we align city/state rules with TEN adoption? <i>Panelists:</i> • Steve Brooks, UMC • Andi Burnham, DeltaE Consulting • Jeff Giffin, Corix • Eric Moe, dJoule • Robby Oylear, Affiliated Engineers, Inc. • Darrel Tremaine, CenTrio
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	Refreshment Break
	Session 4: Dollars to Donuts: Making District Energy a Reality Through Financing Strategies
2:45 pm – 4:00 pm	Moderated by: Bonnie Frye Hemphill, UMC How are projects financed, the affordability challenge, leveraging available funding, and strategies to accelerate and scale district energy solutions? Which stacks work here? How do we turn public dollars into private leverage? What delivery models (utility, concession/SPV, ESCO) best fit campus vs. downtown? How to leverage CCA dollars, federal tools, green/climate bonds, \$/ton effectiveness, gap-funding, and off-balance-sheet structures for public institutions? <i>Panelists:</i> • Ash Awad, McKinstry • Wayne Barnett, Cordia • Keith Bate, Creative Energy • Travis Hickford-Kulak, Corix • Isaac Kastama, Water Street Public Affairs • Meghan Riesterer, CenTrio • David Woodson, University of Washington
4:00 pm – 4:15 pm	Closing Remarks – David Woodson, University of Washington, IDEA Chair & Meghan Riesterer, CenTrio, IDEA Second Vice Chair
4:15 pm – 5:30 pm	Reception – Noble Room, Lobby Level

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