



IDEA Pacific Northwest District Energy Summit

Washington Athletic Club – *Crystal Ballroom (3rd Floor)*

September 22, 2026	
7:00 am – 4:00 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 – Rob Thornton, IDEA</i>
8:40 am – 9:00 am	Level Setting – Why is District Energy Important? – <i>Tim Peer, IDEA Chair, Bond</i>
	Session 1: From Vision to Viability: How Great District Energy Systems Start
9:00 am – 10:30 am	<i>Every successful district energy system began as an ambitious idea facing technical, financial, and political hurdles. Leaders behind some of North America's most successful systems share what was the spark that made their projects stick, the critical decisions that shaped their success, and key lessons that can accelerate new projects across the Pacific Northwest.</i>
10:30 am – 10:45 am	Refreshment Break
	Session 2: Public + Private: Building the Next Generation of Energy Infrastructure
10:45 am – 12:15 pm	<i>Public-private partnerships are becoming an increasingly powerful model for delivering district energy projects. This discussion brings together developers, investors, utilities, policymakers, and owners to explore how risk is allocated, capital is attracted, and long-term partnerships are structured for success.</i>
12:15 pm – 1:10 pm	Workshop Luncheon – <i>Noble Room, Lobby Level</i>
	Session 3: Making the Business Case – District Energy's role in Affordability
1:15 pm – 2:30 pm	<i>The business case is a fundamental step for investment. Experts from government, engineering, utilities, and clean energy organizations will discuss incentives, policy tools, financing strategies, and how to create durable value and reduce life-cycle costs while expanding access to district energy.</i>
2:30 pm – 2:45 pm	Refreshment Break
	Session 4: Heads Winds and Tail Winds - What are the Next Steps for Growth?
2:45 pm – 4:00 pm	<i>Permitting, regulation, policy, utility coordination, and stakeholder alignment continue to shape the pace of district energy deployment. This candid conversation explores the biggest head winds and existing tail winds impacting projects today—and the policy, market, and institutional changes that could facilitate widespread adoption.</i>
4:00 pm – 4:15 pm	Closing Remarks – <i>David Woodson, University of Washington, IDEA Past Chair</i>
4:15 pm – 5:30 pm	Reception – <i>Noble Room, Lobby Level</i>