

State News for NSPE Members

Wyoming Innovates to Combat Climate Change

According to [CBS News](#), Wyoming Governor Mark Gordon is promoting an "all-of-the-above" energy policy that features advances in wind and nuclear technology, despite pushback from his conservative state.

Though Gordon is the Republican leader of the nation's top coal mining state, he's emerging as a leading voice on climate-friendly energy projects. His ambitious, net-negative emissions goal prompted sanctions from the state's Republican party, but Gordon says he's moving forward regardless.

"Whatever you're going to do in energy, probably you're going [to] have something to do in Wyoming," he said. "We have tremendous wind resources. We have the largest reserves of uranium, important for nuclear energy, the largest coal producer, we're number eight in oil, number nine in natural gas."

With so many resources and a population of less than 600,000 people, the state exports 83% of its energy. A major project is underway to export energy to California. Huge wind farms already dot Wyoming's landscape, and construction on a new one will soon begin to supply energy to California. The 600 planned turbines will generate enough electricity to power more than a million homes. A new 800-mile transmission line is being built to export that clean energy. [Read more.](#)

Wyoming to Get \$70.5M Broadband Expansion

A plan to spend \$70.5 million in federal money for broadband internet expansion in Wyoming is historic, according to Governor Mark Gordon, [The Center Square reports](#). "This is the single-largest broadband investment in Wyoming history," Gordon said.

The governor is recommending that the funding, which comes from the federal American Rescue Plan Act's Coronavirus Capital Projects Funds, go toward 32

projects.

“These federal funds will ensure Wyoming communities and businesses that currently lack access to high-quality internet will be equipped with the modern infrastructure they need to access critical services,” he added. [Read more](#).

University of Wyoming Awarded \$11.2M to Study Underground CO2 Storage

[WyoFile reports](#) that University of Wyoming will receive up to \$11.2 million in federal support to test deep geologic layers in the south-central portion of the state to determine if they are suitable for carbon dioxide storage.

The university’s School of Energy Resources will lead the 2-year study in collaboration with the US Department of Energy and Williams Companies, which operates the Echo Springs natural gas processing plant south of Wamsutter as well as an extensive interstate pipeline network.

The study will join three federal CarbonSAFE initiatives now underway at SER. State leaders hope the combined efforts will spawn a new carbon capture and storage industry that helps keep Wyoming fossil fuels in the nation’s energy mix while addressing climate change.

“The location for this project sits within a prolific gas field and, to date, there has been limited data of the deeper geologic formations to help us understand what the entire storage potential will be for the eastern side of the Greater Green River Basin,” said Fred McLaughlin, director of SER’s Center for Economic Geology Research. [Read more](#).

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NSPE seeks speakers willing to elevate the profession by providing interesting, relevant, and timely education to colleagues attending the [2024 Professional Engineers Conference \(NSPECon24\)](#) August 7-9 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Proposals may address a number of topics in three key conference tracks that include leadership, issues and trends, and career assistance. Please consider sharing your expertise and insights by **submitting a presentation proposal by midnight, January 10.**

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