

State News for NSPE Members

Utah Electrification Steering Committee Discusses State's Electric Transportation Future

The Utah Department of Transportation said the state's Electrification of Transportation Infrastructure Steering Committee took its first steps toward an electric future earlier this month, [Transportation Today reports](#).

According to the UDOT, the committee met for the first time on June 1, after the Utah State Legislature passed a bill creating the committee. The committee will guide the state infrastructure toward a sustainable and economical electric future.

"We're at a tipping point for electrification of transportation," said UDOT Executive Director Carlos Braceras, the committee's chairman. "Our mission here is to help Utahns live healthier lives by improving air quality while strengthening the economy."

The legislature also approved \$2.1 million in funding for Utah State University's Center for Advancing Sustainability through Powered Infrastructure for Roadway Electrification (ASPIRE). Created in 2020, the ASPIRE Engineering Research Center's goal is to accelerate the creation of electrified corridors for the nation's infrastructure. The center is also funded through a \$25 million National Science Foundation grant that is renewable to \$50 million over 10 years. [Read more.](#)

Utah Office of Energy Development Receives Blistering Audit

The Utah Office of Energy Development lacks defined goals and internal governance and should be doing more to implement state energy policy, according to a blistering audit released from the Utah Legislative Auditor General, [The Salt Lake Tribune reports](#).

The energy office, which has had five directors and seven mission statements in its 12 years of existence, is not providing sufficient guidance in a crucial period of transition for the electric power industry, auditors said.

"Despite great uncertainty within the industry, we found the state's planning for the energy future by the Office of Energy Development (OED) to be limited," auditors said in their report delivered to the Utah Legislative Audit Committee. Auditors recommended a top-to-bottom overhaul of the office, including updated job descriptions and "standard operating procedures," to become more data-driven and future-focused.

In their response, Natural Resources Department Director Joel Ferry and OED Director Greg Todd essentially said the overhaul is already underway. [Read more.](#)

New Resilient Energy Engineering Certification Program

The Energy & Geoscience Institute, at the University of Utah will offer the Resilient Energy Engineering Program in collaboration with the Utah Energy and Power Innovation Center, the Intermountain Industrial Assessment Center, and the College of Engineering.

The Resilient Energy Engineering program is designed to offer relevant training to energy industry professionals and interested students (undergrad and graduate) from all of the colleges across campus, according to a [news release](#). A graduate certificate application is being prepared and once approved, students will be awarded a certificate upon successful completion of the five courses.

"Resilient" Energy Engineering goes beyond "sustainability" to provide knowledge and tools for both professionals and students in adapting to disruptive technologies, regulations, and events and societal issues such as economics, disruptions, and information accuracy. The five-course program includes technical elements of carbon science, transitional geoscience, alternative energy, energy management, and societal impacts of energy use on economics, entrepreneurship, and policy.

The courses will be offered starting the fall semester 2023 and the spring semester 2024 at the undergraduate and graduate levels at regular tuition rates. Once the online modules are ready, students from the energy industry will be able to take these courses for micro-credentials through University Connected Learning for approximately \$3,000 per course. [Learn more.](#)



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Connect with Your Colleagues at #NSPECon23



Register now for NSPECon23 and connect with your colleagues in Louisville, Kentucky, August 2-4. The conference [features multiple education tracks](#) in leadership, trends in the industry, and career development with the opportunity to earn up to 10 PDHs. Also stay tuned for information on engineering-related tours. **Register by June 29 to take advantage of discounted rates.**

[Register Now!](#)

Keynote Speakers

Bill Samuels, Jr., Chairman Emeritus of Maker's Mark Distillery, will open the NSPECon 23 meeting. Samuels, who helped design both the Gemini and Polaris missiles and became friends with the founding administrator of NASA, will talk about the, "[Trials and Tribulations of a Failed Aerospace Engineer.](#)"



Megan Bendtzen, the CEO and founder of TheDoctorofFun.com, will give a keynote presentation on - [Beyond the Blueprint: Mastering the Most Important Project of Your Life](#) . In this clever and entertaining presentation, Bendtzen will completely shift your perspective, debunking the myth of work-life balance and revealing the single biggest lie surrounding the pursuit of happiness.



Conference Session Highlights

- [Ethical Obligations and Engineering Through a DEI Lens](#)
- [The Engineer's Blueprint: Success Principles for Winning at Work and at Home](#)
- [Lithium: The Race for North American EV Dominance But at What Cost to the Industry?](#)
- [Finding the Funds for Your Infrastructure Project](#)
- [Leaders Leading Leaders](#)
- [We Need YOU to Protect the License!](#)
- [Meeting the Challenges and Needs of The Engineering Workforce](#)
- [Speculative Technology and Exploratory Engineering for Designing the Future](#)

[Access the full conference program.](#)

Sponsor and Exhibitor Opportunities

NSPECon23 offers sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities to put your company or organization in front of senior

executives and other decision-makers from across the industry. Access the [Sponsor and Exhibitor Prospectus](#) for more information.



New Webinar: Racing Towards Excellence

A new webinar will get you ready for NSPECon23 — [Racing Towards Excellence: Enhancing Customer Experience and Improving Safety at Churchill Downs](#) .

Neil Crawford, P.E., an accomplished engineer and project manager at Qk4 Inc., offers insight into the history of Churchill Downs and the Kentucky Derby and its economic impacts on Kentucky. Learn about recent improvement projects to enhance the customer experience and also projects to improve equine/horseman safety and expand the racing operations.

The webinar is FREE for members and offers 1 PDH. [Register and watch now](#) .



ARPL Offers New Advocacy Resources

ARPL has released two new advocacy resources. A video, [Universal Licensing: A Closer Look](#) , (featuring Rebecca Bowman, Senior Director of Ethics and

Professional Practice) and an advocacy document, [The Critical Role of Licensing in Business Success](#), based on recent research. As a sponsoring member of ARPL, NSPE has access to these resources and others on the [ARPL website](#).

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