

## State News for NSPE Members

### State Officials Discuss Infrastructure Recovery in Wake of July Floods

A primary focus of Vermont Governor Phil Scott's August 8 briefing was infrastructure as the state moves toward the recovery stage after July's flooding, [according to WAMC](#).

The rain has been relentless this summer in Vermont and Scott said new storms are still affecting the state. The Republican says the next few months will be focused on cleanup including debris removal and immediate infrastructure work.

"After we get through this phase heading into the fall, we need to be at a point where the conversation is more about recovery, mitigation work and revitalization," Scott said. "From my perspective, that means merging our flood recovery efforts and the community revitalization work we'd already begun using historic federal ARPA funds. As you know, we dedicated hundreds of millions to this work for things like housing, water, sewer, stormwater, infrastructure, climate change mitigation, economic development and more. Coordinating these efforts is how we can best build back stronger." [Read more](#).

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### USDOT Sends \$10 Million to Vermont to Repair Flood Damage

The US Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration recently announced the immediate availability of \$10 million in "quick release" Emergency Relief funds for use as a down payment by the Vermont Agency of Transportation. The funding is designed to help offset costs to repair infrastructure damaged by last month's flooding throughout the state.

"I saw firsthand the devastating effects of extreme flooding on people and businesses in Vermont, and increasingly frequent climate disasters have wreaked havoc on more and more American communities," said US Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. "This emergency funding will help the people of Vermont

repair critical infrastructure as we continue working to support Vermonters in their efforts to recover and rebuild.” [Read more.](#)

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## Vermont Renewable Energy Manufacturer Awarded for Excellence

Hinesburg-based NRG Systems recently received the President’s E Award in Washington, DC, for its excellence in global exporting, [WCAX reports](#).

“It was an amazing moment and everybody felt it was validation of all the hard work we’ve done, not only in this building to support the world but in locations around the world,” said Evan Vogel, the president of NRG Systems.

NRG Systems was one of 24 companies to win the award this year and the third in Vermont history. Winners must display continual growth in international trading over four years. NRG Systems exports to 170 countries and has created more than 100 jobs in Vermont and beyond.

“I think all of us in Vermont can be proud that this company has done so much, creating good jobs and doing good work that’s important for our climate future,” said Sen. Peter Welch, D-Vermont.

In addition to exporting renewable energy equipment, NRG Systems developed an app so customers can track data on projects around the world. Their work has enabled more renewable energy globally than any other company. [Read more.](#)

*Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#) .*

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## Vermont PE Rises to Top Leadership



**William (Bill) Atkinson, P.E., F.NSPE**, was installed as NSPE’s 2023–24 president during a ceremony at NSPECon23 in Louisville, Kentucky, on August 3. He has spent most of his career volunteering for NSPE and various engineering organizations that hold true to his passion for protecting the public through licensure and ethical engineering decision making.

Atkinson serves as the engineering manager and lead engineer at Vermont Mechanical Inc., a mechanical and plumbing design build contractor that focuses on healthcare and commercial construction (where he has been employed since 2001). He currently directs the service and engineering departments.

Throughout his engineering career, Atkinson has taken on various volunteer and

leadership positions within NSPE, the Vermont Society of Professional Engineers, ASHRAE, and NCEES. He served on the Vermont Board of Professional Engineers and the University of Vermont College of Engineering Advisory Board. He has also served as an ABET observer and as the president of the Clarkson University Vermont Alumni Chapter. He is a licensed professional engineer in New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont.

Atkinson lives in Essex, Vermont, with his wife, Kim Atkinson, P.E., and two young active sons. When he and his wife are not working they are often found coaching or enjoying the outdoors in all seasons.

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## Honoring Excellence in the Profession

NSPE members were recently honored for their outstanding contributions to the profession during NSPECon23 in Louisville, Kentucky.

### Engineering Education Excellence Award

This award recognizes licensed engineering faculty who have demonstrated the ability to link engineering education with professional practice. It is sponsored by the Professional Engineers in Higher Education (PEHE) interest group.



**Waterloo Tsutsui, Ph.D., P.E.**, is a senior research associate in the School of Aeronautics and Astronautics at Purdue University where his primary aim is to provide a rigorous education that nurtures an engineering mindset among students and empowering them to analyze, communicate, and solve complex problems. He ensures students derive maximum advantage from meticulously designed educational experiences integrated into their curriculum, fostering lasting knowledge and capabilities that extend far beyond the confines of the classroom for the ultimate benefit of students. As an example, Tsutsui implemented virtual labs and visualization in lab courses as an innovative way to link engineering practice to education.

### New Professional of the Year Award

This award recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession and the community during the early years of one's career.

**Sri Kumar, P.E.**, is the president and CEO of Connico, a national consultancy serving the aviation, civil, and transportation markets. In his current role, he is responsible for outlining the company's strategy for the future, ensuring the company continues to execute its goals, and delivering excellence to clients from Tampa to



Seattle. He is also committed to building Connico's employee-focused culture and is passionate about developing a strong, diverse, and uniquely talented team who work each day on solving some of the nation's most complex infrastructure challenges.

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## Emerging Leaders Program Seeks Candidates



The [NSPE Emerging Leaders Program](#) is seeking the next group of engineering change-makers. Candidates with 5–8 years of professional experience in the engineering field who are prepared to think strategically about their career and begin taking on leadership roles are [invited to apply](#).

The 2024 ELP syllabus and related time-commitments are available and the application for the program is due by **Thursday, August 31**.

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