

## State News for NSPE Members

### Orange County Unveils State-of-the-Art Solar Panels

Orange County has unveiled a state-of-the-art floating solar panel installation, which is expected to be a game-changer for making renewable energy goals, [according to WESH](#).

Conveniently nestled at the Southern Regional Water Supply, this innovative project represents a fusion of cutting-edge technology and environmental sustainability. The floating hub, which covers nearly four acres, harnesses the rich and abundant sunshine in Florida to generate clean, renewable energy. "We're very proud about that. It will produce 1.9 million megawatts of energy annually, which will help meet about 25% of the energy needs at this facility, which supplies water to about 80,000 Orange County residents," Carrie Black, Chief Sustainability Officer of Orange County, said.

Each solar panel is specifically designed to withstand the unique challenges posed by its aquatic environment, ensuring optimal performance and durability. "We definitely had some lessons learned during the process in regard to the connection to the facility, but we are looking to replicate this at more of our facilities across the county as well," Black said. These panels work by harnessing solar power from the sun-drenched skies of Florida, but that energy production is then multiplied by the reflectivity of the water. [Read more](#).

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### Pedestrian-Cyclist Tunnels Could Save Lives, Connect Neighborhoods

Some day, bicyclists and pedestrians will be able to cross the Florida East Coast Railway corridor in Fort Lauderdale without risking life and limb. And the Black and white communities historically divided by the tracks might get a little closer.

The Broward County Metropolitan Planning Organization, which obtains federal funding for local transportation projects, has won a \$1.5 million grant from the US

Department of Transportation for tunnels at five points along the rail line that carries FEC freight trains and Brightline's speedy passenger trains and will eventually carry local commuter trains.

The cash outlay — from the Biden Administration — is part of a national program the White House rolled out Wednesday that will distribute \$3.3 billion for 132 projects in 40 states aimed at benefitting lower income, disadvantaged people and reunited communities, according to a White House announcement. Dubbed the Reconnecting Communities Pilot and Neighborhood Access and Equity program, the Department of Transportation is awarding 72 planning grants, 52 capital construction grants, and eight regional planning grants. [Read more in the South Florida Sun-Sentinel.](#)

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

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## Registration Open: 2024 Spring Webinar Series

NSPE offers a live webinar series free to members—"Workability Wednesdays"—to support members with their professional development goals. The first webinars of the spring season will take place on **April 3**— [NSPE's Board of Ethical Review Presents: The Duty to Act](#) ; **April 17**— [Second Best Protection Against Risk](#) ; and **May 1**— [Enhancing Building Safety: Mitigating Risks of Slip, Trips, and Falls](#) (Celebration of National Building Safety Month).



Additional presentations will take place in May and June. Register now at [NSPE's PE Institute](#) and invite a colleague to attend.

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## NSPECon24 Sponsorships and Exhibitor Opportunities



Put your company or organization in front of senior executives and other decision-makers from across the engineering industry attending the [2024 Professional Engineers Conference \(NSPECon24\)](#) August 7-9, in Raleigh, North Carolina.

NSPE offers a variety of sponsorship packages to meet specific goals and budgets. A special exhibitor discount is being offered to Research Triangle-based businesses. Learn more about these opportunities in the [Sponsor and Exhibitor section of the conference website](#) .

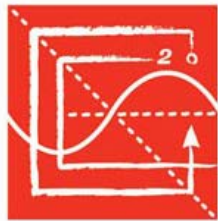
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## **EJCDC® Releases New Teaming and Joint Venture Documents**

The Engineers Joint Contract Documents Committee has released new documents - EJCDC® E-580, Teaming Agreement to Pursue Joint Professional Services Opportunity and EJCDC® E-590, Joint Venture Agreement for Professional Services (2024 editions). NSPE members [will receive a 50% discount on the EJCDC documents](#) .

The [E-580, Teaming Agreement to Pursue Joint Professional Services Opportunity](#) is intended for a collaboration between two design firms that have decided to join together to pursue an opportunity to obtain work. The [E-590, Joint Venture](#)

[Agreement for Professional Services](#) is a contract document in which two or more design firms agree to join together to provide specific professional services to a third party.

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