

State News for NSPE Members

Florida to Receive \$1.17 Billion for Internet Infrastructure

Florida is set to receive an investment of \$1.17 billion from the federal government as part of the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment (BEAD) program, [The Capitolist reports](#). The funding aims to expand high-speed internet infrastructure across the state.

The federal allocation serves to enable Florida to connect residents and small businesses to high-speed internet by 2030. In addition to the BEAD program, the Biden-Harris Administration announced the implementation of various initiatives to improve internet accessibility, including the Affordable Connectivity Program, which provides eligible households with up to \$30 per month off their internet bill, along with a one-time \$100 credit toward a computer.

The federal initiative supplements ongoing statewide projects that provide funding to local broadband infrastructure, including a recent allocation of \$60 million through the Broadband Opportunity Program authorized by Governor Ron DeSantis to expand internet access in unserved communities. [Read more](#).

Florida Municipal Utilities to Get More Solar Power Sites

The Florida Municipal Power Agency recently announced it is moving forward with a plan to add six solar-energy “farms” that will supply power to 20 municipal utilities throughout the state, [wuft.org reports](#) (via the Florida News Service).

The first part of the plan will involve adding sites in Putnam and Levy counties that will generate nearly 150 megawatts of energy. The Putnam County site is expected to be finished by the end of 2023, while the Levy County site is slated for 2024, according to the agency, which is an electricity wholesaler for municipal utilities.

The second part of the plan involves adding four sites in Columbia, Levy, and Bradford counties in 2025 and 2026. The announcement is part of a project that

includes already-operating solar sites in Orange and Osceola counties.

The agency is working with Miami-based Origis Energy on the project. Jacob Williams, general manager and CEO of the agency, said the expansion, in part, will “enable us to serve several new communities that haven’t had access to solar before.”

Florida Approves Hurricane Model Using Climate Conditioning

Applied Research Associate, Inc.’s (ARA) latest version of HurLoss® has once again been accepted by the Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology (FCHLPM) for insurance rate making in Florida, according to a [news release](#).

This latest version is also the first time ARA has submitted a model with a current, or climate-conditioned, view of hurricane risk rather than a stationary or long-term historical view, and the first model accepted by the FCHLPM to account for climate change.

"This improvement recognizes the evolving nature of hurricane risk, which is driven by changing environmental parameters, such as sea surface temperature and wind shear," said ARA Principal Engineer Frank Lavelle, who has managed the development and support of ARA’s hurricane model since 2002.

This breakthrough in climate conditioned modeling is made possible by ARA’s unique methodology, allowing for direct input from leading Global Circulation Models (GCM).

“ARA’s engineering approach to catastrophe modeling is first principles, physics based,” Lavelle said. “Our hurricane model has always used physically based inputs, rather than relying solely on statistical modeling or simply claims data.”

ARA’s method of quantifying the effects of climate change on hurricane risk is to allow the hurricane model to ingest predictions of future global temperatures and wind shear from leading GCMs and provide event occurrence rates for any given time frame and carbon emissions scenario that has been modeled with a GCM.

[Read more.](#)

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

Meet the 2023 NSPE Emerging Leaders



NSPE is pleased to recognize 15 talented professionals who recently completed the Society's [Emerging Leaders Program](#). This diverse group of young professionals was selected from around the country to take part in an intensive, unique enterprise designed to equip them as leaders in the engineering field.

- **Nicholas J. Bailey, P.E.** (Cincinnati, Ohio)
- **Frank Block III, Ph.D., P.E.** (Silver Spring, Maryland)
- **Timothy Choma, P.E.** (Iselin, New Jersey)
- **Courtney Cunningham, P.E.** (Houston, Texas)
- **Steven T. Fox, P.E.** (Nashville, Tennessee)
- **Blane Gee, P.E.** (Oklahoma City, Oklahoma)
- **Holly Hartley Guillaume, P.E.** (Katy, Texas)
- **Lingbee Chyna Lim, P.E.** (Charleston, South Carolina)
- **Brianne R. Jole, P.E.** (Lubbock, Texas)
- **Corey Kingsland, P.E.** (Kansas City, Missouri)
- **Carter Lytal, P.E.** (Lubbock, Texas)
- **Rebecca Martinez, P.E.** (Cherry Hill, New Jersey)
- **Alissa Neuhausen, P.E.** (Rockville, Maryland)
- **Victor Odili, P.E.** (Conroe, Texas)
- **Skylar Wierzbicki, P.E.** (Grapevine, Texas)

The program is [accepting applications](#) for the next class of rising leaders until August 31.



The upcoming [Professional Engineers Day](#) (Wednesday, August 2) is an incredible opportunity to showcase the value of NSPE and your PE license. We encourage you to post on your social media accounts a highlight from your community, your work, your impact, your story and include the #IAMNSPE, #WeareNSPE, #ProudPE.

NSPE's [apparel shop](#) features the PE Day logo on a variety of items including many styles of t-shirts and other apparel for men, women, and kids, as well as accessories like mugs, notebooks, tote bags, wall prints, and even phone cases. [Shop now](#).

Check Out the Latest Issue of *PE*

[The Chatter About AI](#)

OpenAI's ChatGPT came on the scene in November 2022. This type of generative AI has made a noticeable impact in a brief period of time and other versions of chatbots have been released. This emerging technology is sparking discussions about what impact AI could have on the engineering workforce and in engineering practice.



[Reaching Tomorrow's Innovators](#)

DiscoverE has released its latest research on the views of high school students and parents on engineering and engineering careers. The Messages Matter results were encouraging as they reveal that targeted messages and profiles of engineers can spur interest in engineering among the very groups that will ensure a more diverse future for the field.

Members who subscribe to the [digital edition of PE](#) can access the current and back issues.

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