

State News for NSPE Members

Climate Change Is Making Smoky Days More Likely In DC

We've seen the photos from the West Coast for years — orange, smoky skies, everywhere from San Diego to Seattle. Now it's happening here in the eastern US as well, and scientists say this is probably not a one-off: bad air days are likely to become more common here due to climate change, the [DCist reports](#).

In the DC region the air quality index bumped into the “hazardous” zone on the morning [of June 8] as a thick mass of smoke traveled south. With the Air Quality Index above 300, officials say everyone should avoid all outdoor activity outdoors, and even limit activity indoors.

It is the first time the District ever has recorded a code purple or worse for fine particulate matter, the main pollutant in wildfire smoke.

On the East Coast, climate risks such as flooding, extreme heat, and more powerful hurricanes tend to be of greater concern, but wildfires and smoke are also a likely to increase here as the planet warms.

“People don't realize that in the East there used to be a lot more fire here, but we've done a good job of kind of eradicating it in the landscape,” says Mark Cochrane, a professor at the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science who studies wildfires and climate change. “It doesn't mean that it doesn't burn, it's just the conditions are such that it hasn't been likely to burn.” [Read more](#).

DC-Area Students Race Electric Vehicles at RFK Stadium for EV Grand Prix

High school students from across the DC region raced each other in the EV Grand Prix at RFK Stadium on June 3 in what could appropriately be described as an electric atmosphere, according to [WTOP](#).

“We give students who are in the field of STEM hands-on experience of what it's

like to build an EV,” said Pepco spokesperson William Ellis. “Hopefully, these students become the engineers and mechanics who might work for us in this field someday.”

The electric company and the nonprofit Global EEE helped sponsor the event, which Ellis said was the culmination of an entire year’s worth of work.

DC-area students built their cars from the ground up, and the sights and sounds of well-powered machines echoed throughout the paddock as cars zipped around the track — quietly.

The EV project is designed to help students improve their understanding of renewable energy technologies and project management while working in a team environment, Ellis said. It also serves as an opportunity for them to better prepare for college programs in science and engineering. [Read more](#).

Licensing Board Meeting

The [DC Board of Professional Engineers](#) will hold its next meeting on **Thursday, July 27**. Access the virtual meeting agenda [here](#) when available.

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

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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