

State News for NSPE Members

DC Utilities Launch Website Aimed at Helping Customers with Energy Bills

Four District agencies charged with serving DC utility consumers have unveiled the website here2helpdc.dc.gov, which is designed to inform residents and businesses about energy and money-saving initiatives to help them minimize the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The website is a part of #Here2HelpDC, a public awareness campaign launched in June by the Department of Energy & Environment, the DC Public Service Commission, the DC Sustainable Energy Utility, and the Office of the People's Counsel for the District of Columbia. On the website, the agencies provide tips and tools to help consumers conserve energy and water resources, reduce billing costs, and use relief and payment programs.

Washington Gas Fined for 2016 Apartment Explosion

[Washington Gas](#) was fined \$750,000 for 2016 Silver Spring Apartment Explosion for failing to inform the Public Service Commission that it had not replaced all its mercury regulators as promised. The regulators were found by the National Transportation Safety Board to be the likely cause of the explosion, which caused seven deaths and 65 injuries. The company was also required to provide a list of all residents who likely still have the old regulators within 30 days.

Experiment To Test Effectiveness of Spending Warnings by Text

Mayor Bowser launched a pilot program that will use data from traffic cameras around the city to randomly send text messages to drivers with a history of speeding, warning them they may be in danger of getting in an accident. The experiment will test whether messaging can change driver behavior to make roads

safer, according to [WTOP](#). A 2015 report from the *Journal of Traffic and Engineering* found that drivers with multiple traffic violations are more likely to be involved in crashes.

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

Society Announces New Executive

NSPE has announced Monika Schulz as the Society's new executive director and CEO, beginning February 15.

"As we embark on the new year, we are starting a new chapter in NSPE's history," says NSPE President Tricia Hatley, P.E., F.NSPE. "It is thrilling to be in this place where NSPE's volunteer leadership recognized the value that Monika's expertise and authentic leadership style will bring to our organization. Her collaborative, yet-data-driven, approach to management will facilitate the successful execution of our strategic plan, and she's demonstrated her ability to collaborate with state and local chapters to increase impact at her prior organizations."



Schulz has a long history in associations and a passion for the contributions they make to society. Before joining NSPE, she served for over five years as the CEO of the American String Teachers Association in Fairfax, Virginia. In this role, she collaborated with the organization's board on strategic planning, implementing data-driven decision making, and carrying out a rebranding initiative. She also built stronger ties among the organization's 50 state and local chapters, bolstered member engagement, and expanded a national conference and tradeshow as well as a national orchestra festival.

"I'm very excited to be joining the NSPE team," says Schulz, "and I look forward to collaborating with leadership, state societies, and the NSPE management team to further NSPE's vision, mission, and initiatives. Engineers make the world a better place in which to live, and I feel incredibly fortunate and proud to champion the important work of professional engineers."

Prior to serving as ASTA's CEO, Schulz spent 18 years at the Association for Healthcare Philanthropy, in multiple leadership roles, including six years as chief operating officer.

The Virginia Tech graduate is active in the American Society of Association Executives and holds the CAE designation as a certified association executive.

EWeek 2021 Focuses on the Future

Engineers Week, with the theme “**Imagining Tomorrow**,” will take place **February 21–27**, and this year’s focus will be on virtual role models, distance learning, and diversity and belonging.

[Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day](#) , or “Girl Day,” will also carry this theme forward and will be held on February 25. The focus will also be on virtual role models and diversity and belonging, but it will also feature special editions of DiscoverE’s “[Chats With Change Makers](#)” series in which a high school student interviews engineers and technicians who are working hard to make the world a better place.



This year’s [Future City Competition](#) theme is “Living on the Moon.” To adapt to the pandemic, teams will be allowed to work remotely and competitions will be virtual. Teams will make a video presentation of their cities, and their models will be presented in a slideshow format. There will be a live Q&A for the teams to answer questions about their models and presentations.

EWeek Event Dates

- Chats with Change Makers: new “season” began on September 25 and continues monthly.
- Future City Competition: September through April
- The Persist Series (formerly Global Marathon): begins January and continues monthly.
- Engineers Week: February 21–27, 2021
- Girl Day: February 25, 2021
- World Engineering Day: March 4, 2021

Access Your Member Benefit: 15 Free Webinars for 2021

To help members meet their continuing education requirements, NSPE has released a new slate of **15 free webinars** that will be available throughout 2021.

Members may earn credits by viewing the webinars from the comfort of their home or office and will receive an attendance

15 FREE

certificate after passing a quiz with a score of 70% or higher. PDHs from these courses are recognized by most US states, including Florida.

Here's a sample of available webinar topics:

1. [Ethics Forum: Conflicts of Interest - Serving the Public](#) *
2. [How to Lead Without Authority](#)
3. [Leading Project Teams: Emerging Technologies and Smart Design](#) *
4. [Licensing for Profitability, Agility and Growth for Small and Mid-Sized Engineering Firms](#)
5. [Passing Down Institutional Knowledge Through Coaching, Mentoring and Storytelling](#)
6. [The Saint Joseph Water Crisis: Lessons Learned in the Age of Deteriorating Water Infrastructure](#) (New York approval pending)

*Webinar has been approved for continuing education credit in New York

[Check out the complete lineup of 2021 courses.](#)

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22314**