

State News for NSPE Members

Pepco Violation Could Cost Community Solar Owners Thousands

After regulators ruled that Pepco violated DC law in its implementation of community solar in the city, the utility company is telling solar owners they will need to manually track solar generation, entering thousands of lines of data each month, and potentially costing thousands of dollars, the [DCist reports](#).

Community solar is a way that renters and residents in multi-unit buildings can reap the benefits of solar energy, without having to install panels themselves. Subscribing to a solar facility should mean big savings on your energy bills.

But in DC, those savings could be wiped out — with community solar facilities potentially spending more money on updating spreadsheets than they're saving on electric bills.

It's the latest in an ongoing spat over Pepco's handling of community solar in the District. The DC Public Service Commission, which regulates utilities in the city, ruled earlier this year that Pepco had violated the law in its implementation of community solar, undercounting solar energy generation and failing to provide solar credits in an accurate and timely fashion.

Pepco's proposed solution will only make matters worse, according to solar subscribers, advocates, and DC officials, making solar owners pay for Pepco's mistake. [Read more](#).

Construction Work Begins at Infamous Dave Thomas Circle Intersection

[The Washington Post reports](#) that construction has recently begun on transforming "Dave Thomas Circle," a confusing intersection in Northeast Washington that has long tested the patience of DC motorists.

The \$41 million project is aimed at improving safety for drivers and pedestrians who travel through the busy corridor, which straddles the Eckington and NoMa neighborhoods, while creating new public spaces. It also will add bike lanes and ramps that are compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act, with construction expected to conclude by December 2024.

The construction work marks the long-awaited demise of a notoriously perplexing intersection that was colloquially named after the founder of Wendy's, which had a restaurant at the center of the triangular block for decades before it closed two years ago. The intersection, where First Street NE and New York and Florida avenues converge, serves as a gateway to downtown Washington and draws about 80,000 vehicles daily, according to District Department of Transportation estimates. [Read more.](#)

Electrify Expo's Inaugural Event Delivers in DC

Electrify Expo, North America's largest electric vehicle (EV) festival, recently made its first stop of 2023 on the East Coast in Washington, DC, [as reported by Globe News Wire](#). Right in the heart of downtown, the festival took over the RFK Stadium Festival Grounds delivering nearly 13,000 test rides of exciting vehicles, e-bikes, e-scooters, e-skateboards and more.

Multiple vehicles had never before been on display to the public on the East Coast including Volvo's new EX90 fully-electric SUV, the Volkswagen ID. Buzz and Polestar 3 SUV, which recently opened its first vehicle showroom in DC.

"Electrify Expo is at the epicenter of EV adoption and consistently doing the work to ensure support at the federal level to drive the demand of going electric," said CEO and Founder of Electrify Expo BJ Birtwell. "The most convincing way to attract more consumers to go electric is by putting them behind the wheel or on the seat of an electric vehicle, e-bike and other forms of electric transportation."

While in town, Electrify Expo executives met with members of congress and federal agencies to discuss the need for more EV education, obstacles to mass electrification and the need for consumers to experience first-hand the thrill of going electric. [Read more.](#)

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

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.

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.

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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