

State News for NSPE Members

Tennessee Announces \$162 Million to Further Expand Broadband

Governor Bill Lee and Department of Economic and Community Development (TNECD) Commissioner Stuart C. McWhorter recently announced the state will award \$162.7 million in broadband and digital opportunity grants. In total, these investments will provide broadband access and digital opportunity programs to more than 236,000 Tennesseans across 92 counties.

“Broadband is essential to all Tennesseans, and that’s why we are making strategic investments in our state’s broadband infrastructure and digital opportunity programs to create a pathway to education, job training and greater opportunity statewide,” said Governor Lee. “I thank the Financial Stimulus Accountability Group for their continued support and management of these broadband dollars.”

TNECD has invested more than \$715 million to expand the state’s broadband infrastructure, connecting more than 689,000 Tennesseans across 275,000 residential and business locations.

“More than \$715 million has been invested to expand broadband under Governor Lee’s administration, and we are excited to announce additional funding today that will ensure Tennesseans have access to and benefit from high-speed internet, which opens the door to high-quality job training,” said Commissioner McWhorter. [Read more.](#)

Solar Power Sparks Educational and Grid Modernization in East Tennessee

Clearloop, a subsidiary of Silicon Ranch, has announced its latest renewable energy deployment with the launch of the 2.8 MWDC White Pine Solar Farm in White Pine, Tennessee. This project is a collaborative effort involving financial technology platform Intuit Inc. and REI Co-op, a specialty outdoor retailer,

underlining their commitment to environmental sustainability and community engagement.

Intuit and REI have played pivotal roles in supporting the development of the White Pine Solar Farm, each contributing to 1.4 MWDC of the project. This initiative is part of Clearloop's innovative strategy to assist companies in offsetting their carbon footprints. The project is expected to prevent over 162 million pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere throughout its operational life. It will also generate sufficient low-cost electricity to power nearly 400 homes in the local area.

The success of this project also hinges on the cooperation with the Tennessee Valley Authority's Dispersed Power Program and local power companies, including Morristown Utility Systems, which were both instrumental in bringing this renewable energy initiative to fruition. [Read more in Environment + Energy Leader](#).

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

Get Involved! NSPE Seeks Volunteers for 2024-25 Committees

NSPE's passionate and dedicated committee volunteers are essential to our mission. **Why serve?** In addition to giving back to the professional engineering community, NSPE volunteers form strong connections with committee colleagues, learn new skills, enjoy networking with leaders or hone their own leadership skills.

[Learn more and apply to NSPE's 2024-25 Committees by June 3.](#) *(You must log-in with your NSPE credentials to submit an application.)*

If you do not see an opportunity that interests you in the link above, check out [Get Involved](#) throughout the year to learn more about other areas of engagement, including short-term projects.

NSPECon24 Keynote Speakers



NSPECon24 (Raleigh, North Carolina, August 7-9), the prime national event for professional engineers, will feature keynote speakers to provide inspiration and guidance to help elevate your career in addition to putting a spotlight on emerging issues within the industry. **Early-bird registration rates are available until June 27.** Access registration information and rates [here](https://www.nspecon.org).



Paul Doherty, chairman and CEO of The Digit Group, will present the session **“Unlocking the Metaverse: AI, Engineering the Future of Our Industry”** to provide insight on emerging technologies and explore real-world solutions and projects that are challenging our industry.



Dan Heath, author and senior fellow, The Center for the Advancement of Social Entrepreneurship (CASE), Duke University, will present the session **“RESET: How to Change What’s Not Working”** to explore a framework for getting unstuck and making the changes that matter.

Access the [preliminary NSPECon24 program](#) for more details on the keynote speakers and session topics.

NSPECon24 also offers a variety of sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities to put your company or organization in front of senior executives and other decision-makers from across the industry. A special exhibitor discount is being offered to Research Triangle-based businesses.

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Inaugural Leadership Institute for Women PEs

NSPE-WLP

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Empowering Professional Engineer Women Leaders

NSPE's Women Leadership Program is sponsoring the Leadership Institute for Women Professional Engineers, a three-day program designed to support mid-career women PEs in confidently navigating their career path and leveraging their leadership skills.

The institute agenda is interwoven into the NSPECon24 program with participants attending pre-conference opening sessions on Wednesday, August 7, and sessions the mornings of Thursday, August 8 and Friday, August 9, in Raleigh, North Carolina. Attendees must register for NSPECon24 to attend the institute.

[Access more information and register.](#)

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