

State News for NSPE Members

Tennessee Solidifies Right-to-Work Law

Tennessee's "right-to-work" law, which has been in effect for 75 years, has been added to the state's constitution after a vote on November 8. This makes it more difficult for the law to be overturned, according to [governing.com](#).

The move was opposed by labor unions and supported by some business leaders and Governor Bill Lee. The law states workers cannot be compelled to join unions as a requirement of their jobs. Bradley Jackson, president of the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said it makes Tennessee more business friendly.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 7% of engineers in the US were represented by unions; 5.9% were members in 2021. [Read more](#).

Renewable Energy Company to Expand Operations in Knoxville

Hitachi Zosen Inova USA LLC (HZI USA) recently announced that the company will invest \$6.6 million to expand operations at its Knoxville, Tennessee, North American headquarters, according to a [news release](#).

HZI USA, which relocated its North American hub from Georgia to Tennessee in 2020, will create 90 new jobs in Knox County. The additional jobs will support the company's engineering, procurement and construction projects, as well as its project developments, allowing the company to broaden its footprint and more than triple the number of employees at its Tennessee operations.

Hitachi Zosen Inova is the Swiss-based renewable energy arm of Japan's Hitachi Zosen Corporation. HZI's US operations specialize in converting municipal and agriculture waste into clean, renewable electricity, natural gas, and hydrogen. Through the expansion, Hitachi Zosen will employ nearly 12,000 worldwide. [Read](#)

[more.](#)

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

NSPE Stays Focused on Sustainability and Resilience

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP27) kicked off in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt last week. As the conference takes place, NSPE will [provide conference highlights](#) of interest to professional engineers.



NSPE believes licensed PEs should be good stewards of the environment to preserve and protect our world for future generations. The Society recognizes that attention to sustainable and resilient design practices is critical to the health of the planet and is an integral part of the practice of engineering. PEs are uniquely positioned to be a positive and driving influence in creating, maintaining, and renewing sustainable communities.

In early 2022, the NSPE Board of Directors endorsed “The Role of the Engineering Community in Addressing Climate Change.” The statement was prepared with input from a working group of 16 organizations, including NSPE, and facilitated by ECL-USA. It is intended to unite, energize, and motivate people within and across organizations, and to fulfill their desires for meaning and purpose in their professional lives.

The Role of the Engineering Community in Addressing Climate Change:

Climate change is real – the impacts are serious, and they are accelerating. There is an urgent imperative for the Engineering Community to take informed and intentional actions now to both reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate. It is our duty and purpose to contribute our skills and knowledge of human-centered technologies and of the natural world to lead humanity out of the climate crisis with a focus on sustainable, resilient, equitable, and innovative approaches. [Learn more](#).

Honor Awards Open for Nominations

The [NSPE Honor Awards](#) promote the professional engineer’s contributions to society and recognize the achievements of the profession’s very best. The deadline for award submissions is **January 31, 2023**.

NSPE Award

The NSPE Award is the highest award given to an

individual by the Society. It is presented to an engineer who has made outstanding contributions to the engineering profession, the public welfare, and humankind. **Howard (Skip) Harclerode II, P.E., F.NSPE, F.AIChE**, received the award in 2022. He is the founder and president of KBD Engineering Company Inc., based in Phoenix, Maryland, and has been a tireless advocate for the engineering profession.



New Professional of the Year Award

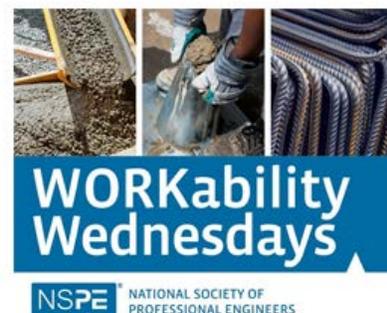
This award recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the Engineering Profession and the community during the early years of one's career. **Holly Ahumada, P.E., CFM**, and **Dylan Ward, P.E., MPA**, received the award in 2022. Holly Ahumada specializes in stormwater and floodplain management at Freese and Nichols in Fort Worth, Texas. Dylan Ward is a project manager for the City of Henderson in Kentucky.



Upcoming Webinar: Election Recap

Join your colleagues for the next Workability Wednesdays webinar: [Election Recap: How Can PEs Prepare for the 2023 Legislative Session](#) (November 30).

Register now for these FREE webinars for NSPE members and earn PDHs before the end of the year. If you missed any recent webinars? No problem.... [check out the recordings](#) .



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**National Society of Professional Engineers | 1420 King Street | Alexandria, VA
22314**