

State News for NSPE Members

Renewables Project Aims to Keep West Virginia on Map for Energy Transition Opportunities

A new solar project in Jackson County will keep West Virginia on the map when it comes to energy transition opportunities, according to Alicia Knapp, the president and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway Energy (BHE) Renewables.

As [reported by West Virginia Metro News](#), BHE Renewables is developing the project at the site of the former Century Aluminum plant in Ravenswood. Knapp said they don't only want to offer these kinds of facilities in states that typically see a lot of sunshine. She said it's about investing in states that want to create a new pathway forward, too.

"It really addresses the energy transition in saying 'if the only place we're going to put solar panels and renewable energy in sunshine states and that's where the companies are going to go that want renewables,' that means places like West Virginia are going to be left out," she said.

State leaders have helped BHE Renewables with planting roots, Knapp said. "To show up in this kind of way does send a signal to the rest of the investment community. It's not just showing up in West Virginia. It's the way we're greeted when we get there," she said. [Read more.](#)

Game-Changing High-Performance Semiconductor Material Could Help Slash Heat Emissions

Researchers at West Virginia University have engineered a material with the potential to dramatically cut the amount of heat power plants release into the atmosphere, [WVU Today reports](#).

A team led by Xueyan Song, professor and George B. Berry Chair of Engineering at the Benjamin M. Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources, has created an oxide ceramic material that solves a longstanding efficiency problem

plaguing thermoelectric generators. Those devices can generate electricity from heat, including power plant heat emissions, which contribute to global warming.

The breakthrough oxide ceramic Song's team produced "achieved a record-high performance that had been deemed impossible," she said. "We demonstrated the best thermoelectric oxide ceramics reported in the field worldwide over the past 20 years, and the results open up new research directions that could further increase performance."

The research responds to the growing problem of waste heat, a contributor to climate change and byproduct of most operations that convert fuel into power. Waste heat is released into the atmosphere by systems as diverse as power plants, home heating systems and automobiles, and there's enough of it being emitted that the global market for systems that recover it is projected to exceed \$70 billion by 2026. [Read more.](#)

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

Don't Hesitate to Share Your PE Story

By Britt Smith, P.E., F.NSPE, President 2022–2023



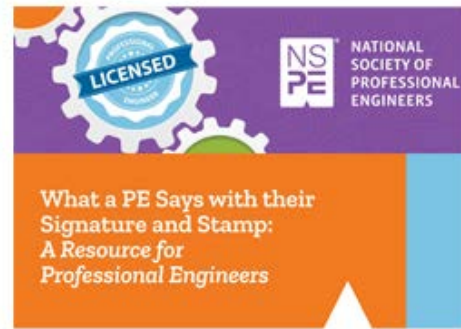
Have you ever thought about how many people will ever need to hire an engineer? Probably not very many. But as engineers, we have a huge impact on their lives and in countless ways. For example, we all expect clean water to come out of the faucet, the lights to come on when we want, the bridge we cross on the way to work to be safe, the air we breathe to be clean, and the products we buy for our kids to be safe. When engineers do their best work, most people don't even notice. Yet, as a profession we strive to make everyone's life better.

The work of our profession by design affects the lives of many people—likely tens of thousands on a daily basis. In my case, I work in the public works department in the community that I reside and that means the decisions I make don't just affect nameless strangers. The people in this community are my neighbors, my friends, and my family. [Read more.](#)

New Policy Documents: The Signature and Stamp, Key Issues for the PE

The Committee on Policy and Advocacy has

released the “[What a PE Says with their Signature and Stamp](#)” document. The document provides a general awareness of the PE signature and stamp process and includes best practices and lessons learned for those considering developing or improving their own process. The committee recently updated and released the documents, “[What is a PE?](#)” and “[Key Issues for the Professional Engineer.](#)” Updated position statements can be accessed [here](#).



QBS Awards Program Accepting Nominations

NSPE is seeking nominations for the 2023 QBS Awards. The [QBS Awards program](#) promotes and recognizes the exemplary use of the qualifications-based selection process.

Award winners [serve as examples of how well the QBS process works](#), and they help NSPE promote the practice of QBS in jurisdictions that do not use, or underuse, QBS to procure engineering services. A maximum of one QBS Award may be presented to the federal government sector, the state government sector (includes all governmental units under the state level), and nongovernment sector.

The deadline for nominations is **Monday, May 1** (close of business). Access the awards information and nomination form [here](#).

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