

State News for NSPE Members

Virtual Power Plant Will Reduce Pollution, Lower Energy Costs

The Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority has chosen Sunrun, a solar, battery storage, and energy services company to help rebuild and transform the island's energy system through the development of a 17-megawatt virtual power plant, the first distributed large-scale storage program on the island.

The plant will help lower energy costs for all consumers, reduce pollution island-wide and help harden Puerto Rico's fragile grid with reliable, abundant solar energy by networking together more than 7,000 Sunrun solar-plus-battery systems installed on homes. Sunrun will spend the next year enrolling customers into the program and begin networked dispatches in 2024. [Read more.](#)

DOE Selects First-Ever Director of Puerto Rico Grid Modernization and Recovery Team

The US Department of Energy (DOE) announced that Agustín Carbó has been selected to serve as the director for the new Puerto Rico Grid Modernization and Recovery Team (PR Grid Modernization Team). The PR Grid Modernization Team will support Puerto Rico in rebuilding an electricity grid that is more resilient, more secure, and capable of supporting 100% clean electricity by 2050.

In early October, following devastating Hurricane Fiona, President Biden announced the PRGrid Modernization Team. The PR Grid Modernization Team will work across the federal government—including with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Commerce—to coordinate technical assistance and access federal funding in an expeditious and strategic manner.

The team will work closely with government leadership in Puerto Rico to help identify and overcome impediments to rapid infrastructure deployment to provide the island with clean, reliable, and affordable power and to expedite current

rebuilding activities. [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

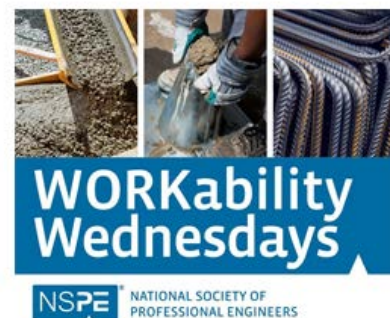
This award recognizes a young NSPE member who has made outstanding contributions to the Engineering Profession and the community during the early years of one's career. **Holly Ahumada, P.E., CFM**, and **Dylan Ward, P.E., MPA**, received the award in 2022. Holly Ahumada specializes in stormwater and 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](#) .



You received this e-mail because you are subscribed to *PE Matters* e-newsletter.

To update your e-mail address, visit www.nspe.org and login to manage your account.

If you do not wish to receive any more issues of *PE Matters*, [click here to unsubscribe](#) .

Share with your network



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

