

State News for NSPE Members

Rooftop Solar Kept the Lights on for Many After Fiona

After Hurricane Fiona knocked out power on Puerto Rico, leaving thousands of residents powerless for weeks, those with solar panels or access to other renewables were able to keep the lights on, [Politico reports](#). This is being cited as evidence of solar power's effectiveness during storms and the value of renewable power in the face of climate change.

Energy analysts have reportedly said the incident could boost interest in solar power in states like Florida and could influence policymaking regarding incentives for the technology.

Arecibo Observatory to Become STEM Education Center

It was recently announced the Arecibo Telescope would not be rebuilt after damage from Hurricane Maria and earthquakes caused its collapse. However, the US National Science Foundation plans to build a new multidisciplinary, world-class educational center at the Arecibo Observatory that will be a hub for STEM education and outreach.

The new center would expand upon existing education and outreach opportunities at the observatory site, while also implementing new STEM programs and initiatives. The center is expected to open in 2023, according to a [news release](#).

Many astronomers and scientists with ties to the telescope are expressing great disappointment with the decision not to repair the telescope. But the NSF says scientific community has expressed broad support for an expanded educational facility. Specifically, the 2020 Decadal Survey for Astronomy and Astrophysics, or Astro2020, recognized that the observatory has, over the course of its nearly 60-year history, become a highly regarded part of the community for many of Puerto Rico's citizens, serving as a source of pride and local economic benefit while also providing access to training and employment for many in the community.

The goals of the center would be to:

- Promote STEM education, learning, and teaching.
- Support fundamental and applied STEM and STEM education research.
- Broaden participation in STEM.
- Build and leverage existing and new collaborations and partnerships.

The center would have four primary functions aligned to its goals:

- Engage the public in STEM through education and outreach activities.
- Develop and implement a research and workforce development program.
- Support participation of individuals from underrepresented groups in STEM education and research.
- Cultivate and build authentic partnerships within and outside of Puerto Rico.

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

Mark Your Calendar for Engineers Week 2023

Founded by NSPE in 1951, [Engineers Week](#) (February 19–25, 2023) is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce. The latest theme for Engineers Week seeks to inspire the next generation by celebrating all the way engineers are **Creating the Future!** Engineers play a vital role in innovating solutions to global challenges that impact future generations. By working together to develop new technologies, products, and opportunities, engineers create new possibilities that make the world a better place.



Engineers Week is a time for you to:

- Celebrate how engineers make a difference in our world.
- Add your voice to the conversation about the need for engineers, technicians, and technologists.
- Engage students in engineering.

[Access promotional resources.](#)

DiscoverE Outreach Grants

Don't miss your chance to fund your events for Engineers Week and Introduce a

Girl to Engineering Day.

There are \$250-\$1000 grants available:

- [Bell Girl Day grants](#) for girl-centered programs
- [Engineers Week grants](#) for underserved students

The deadline to [apply for the grants](#) is November 4.



Workability Wednesdays Webinars

The fall series of [Workability Wednesdays webinars](#) recently launched with a webinar on [What Separates Good Engineers From Great Engineers](#). The series is free for NSPE members and covers topics impacting the industry and helps to enhance your competencies in the profession.



Upcoming Webinars

- [How Blockchain Protects Public Safety: A Working Solution](#) (October 26)
- [Navigating the Ethical Dilemmas that Arise in Everyday Engineering Practice](#) (November 16)

If you missed the spring lineup of Workability Wednesdays webinars, you can still

[view the recordings](#) and receive PDH credit.

Last Call for FEYA Nominations

Nominations for the Federal Engineer of the Year Award are open until **October 31**. The award, sponsored by the Professional Engineers in Government, honors engineers employed by a federal agency that employs at least 50 engineers worldwide.

The FEYA ceremony is scheduled for February 24, 2023, at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Tickets will be available for sale in January.

Nominations must be made by the federal agency. Access the application [here](#).



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