

State News for NSPE Members

How to Decarbonize Rhode Island's Heating Sector

Rhode Island can make substantial progress in the next decade in decarbonizing the state's heating sector, which depends on natural gas, heating oil, and propane, according to economists at the Brattle Group. Proposed solutions fall into three broad categories: improving building energy efficiency, replacing current fossil heating fuels with carbon-neutral renewable gas or oil, or replacing existing fossil-fueled boilers and furnaces with electric ground source or air source heat pumps powered by carbon-free electricity. Governor Gina Raimondo (D) signed an executive order on January 17 committing the state to be first in the U.S. powered by 100% renewable energy by the end of the decade. [Read more.](#)

Welcome New Members!

- Thomas Hevner Jr., P.E., F.W. Webb
 - Alexander Dolphin, P.E., Eversource
 - Marc Brezinski, P.E., CDM Smith
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Infrastructure Woes

As Rhode Island PEs know, the state's transportation infrastructure is in a bad way. Two new reports confirm the challenges ahead. According to the American Road & Transportation Builders Association, the state ranks the highest in the nation for [structurally deficient bridges](#) as a percent of their total bridge inventory. The state also has the largest percentage of rural roads in poor conditions and the most rural bridges in poor condition, [according to TRIP](#), a national transportation research nonprofit.

Get Ready for *Virtual* PE Conference 2020 (#NSPEVirtual)

To protect the health, safety, and welfare of

our members, while continuing to provide meaningful and valuable education and engagement opportunities, NSPE leadership has decided to postpone this year's Professional Engineers Conference (**PECon**) in Philadelphia until summer 2021. In its place, the Society will host an online Virtual PE Conference in August. Events will be centered around the annual celebration of PE Day, August 5.



The new virtual program will make it easier for attendees to participate according to their schedules. Sessions can be experienced in a live virtual environment or by accessing recordings at a more convenient time. Virtual **PECon** will be easily accessible and affordable due to the elimination of travel costs and reduction in registration fees. PDH credits will be available for education sessions comparable to the amount you could earn at a regular **PECon**. The virtual conference will also provide networking and social connection with colleagues in addition to professional development opportunities.

Current plans include:

- Education tracks and sessions, featuring many of the sessions already planned for **PECon** 2020;
- Tracks spread throughout the week at various times of day, empowering attendees to take in more of the content they desire;
- Recording all sessions to make them available for on-demand viewing;
- Hosting keynote speakers and senior leaders allowing for interactive Q&A with attendees; and
- Networking/roundtable topic discussions with peers by region and areas of practice, geared to increase dialogue and member engagement.

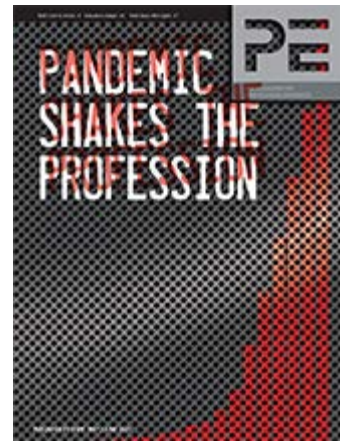
Stay tuned for more information on content and registration to come.

Pandemic Forces Profession to Adjust

NSPE and its certification division [NICET](#), as well as state societies and individual members, are all adapting to a changed world.

Our latest [PE cover story](#) highlights how organizations

and individual PEs are meeting the challenges with courage, compassion, and innovation. NSPE and its state societies are continuing to provide information, advocacy, and continuing education as staffers are sheltering at home. PEs are running companies from their bedrooms or dining rooms and working to ensure employee well-being while keeping businesses afloat.



No one knows what the future holds. But professional engineers will be among those helping to create that future—as always, prioritizing the public health, safety, and welfare.

[Read more from May/June PE magazine.](#)

Update: NICET's certification testing for engineering technicians has started to return but on a reduced schedule. Pearson VUE, the company that manages testing centers for NICET exams as well as NCEES exams and those in many other professions, began reopening on May 1. Centers will be operating at 50% capacity and for limited hours. The reopening of testing centers in Pennsylvania and Alaska has not been scheduled, due to locally imposed restrictions. For the latest information, visit [NICET's COVID-19 response web page](#).

[Read the latest on NCEES's FE and PE exams.](#)

Don't Miss These Upcoming Webinars



NSPE is increasing the number of its webinars to serve members during the COVID-19 pandemic. Stay current in the profession, earn PDHs, and advance your career by tuning in.

- [Engineering Exemptions and Education: Diminish the First and Enhance the Second - May 20](#)
- [Negotiate It! How to Crush Your Fears, Develop Your Negotiation Muscle,](#)

and Gain Power in the Workplace - **May 27**

- Fire Protection Engineering in Property Risk Management - **June 3**
- Ethics in our Changing World - **June 10**
- Engineers, Building Water Systems and Legionella: What You Need to Know - **June 24**

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