Founded in 1982, the Wisconsin Public Utility Institute’s (WPUI) mission is to advance understanding of public policy issues in the electric, natural gas, and water industries. The activities of WPUI follow the Wisconsin Idea of applying the resources of the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UW) to meet the need for information outside of the UW’s boundaries. WPUI accomplishes this mission through the creation, integration, transfer, and application of knowledge by offering forums for discussion on public policy issues as well as educational opportunities such as our annual Energy Utility Basics course. Furthermore, by working with the Wisconsin Energy Institute (WEI) at the UW, we foster research that enriches and complements our informational and educational programs and services.

Engaging students is a priority for us. WPUI advises Energy Hub (eHub) – a UW student energy organization – on their monthly programming and annual conference. We have developed a relationship with the UW’s intensive master’s degree program Resource and Energy Demand Analysis (REDA). In short, the REDA program is accelerated graduate training in energy economics and data analytics. We have used our contacts to help promote enrollment and find internships, and we have opened WPUI’s Energy Utility Basics course to REDA students to ensure the students receive a grounded education in energy infrastructure.

Learn about WPUI's upcoming and past programs at wpui.wisc.edu

Sincerely,
Lori Sakk
Director
wpui.wisc.edu
608-890-1815 | sakk@wisc.edu

2017 Highlights

- Cara Lee (Sam) Mahany Braithwait retired June 30 after 10 years at the helm of WPUI. Thank you for your service!
- New WPUI director is hired – Lori Sakk joined WPUI effective July 1
- Alliant Energy – Case Competition – University Challenge (4.20.2017) – Presented a keynote address and served as judge for an Alliant/UW student project effort
- Energy and Sustainability Career Networking Event (4.13.2017) – Held on the UW campus, this was an opportunity for students to connect with faculty and professionals from a variety of disciplines and discuss how their roles relate to sustainability and energy
- Public Utilities Section State Bar Meeting 2017 (3.1.2017) – Update of notable regulatory and legal cases, statutes, and administrative code provisions impacting practitioners in the energy and water arenas. Meeting included a presentation from attorney and author Scott Hempling on “Preside or Lead? The Attributes and Actions of Effective Regulators” and a panel discussion which addressed issues in regional resource planning
- Washington Briefing (3.20.2017) – Michael Best & Friedrich LLP provided a special briefing about energy and environmental policy implementation within the new federal administration and Congress
- WI State Legislative Staff Program (4.21.2017) – Training designed for energy utility committee staff regarding understanding of a utility bill, what constitutes a public utility, and different utility models
- The Regulatory and Rates “Tango” (6.28.2017) – Program to understand the drivers and outcomes of regulation and rates in Wisconsin with a backdrop of what has happened nationally during the same period. Program included a recognition of how regulations have often translated into rate design and vice versa, as well as how cost of service has changed over time
- Regulatory Models, Version 2.0 (7.21.2017) – Program that provided a glimpse at neighboring states’ initiatives for revising the social contract been regulators and the regulated. Program also gave an overview of the use of performance-based regulation in both retail and wholesale markets and looked at different regulatory and business models in Wisconsin and other states
- Gas’ Pipeline to Sustainability (9.28.2017) – Program that examined what the future holds for gas markets and how gas can become the backbone to a competitive, sustainable, clean energy future
- Powering a More Electric Economy (10.26.2017) – Program that explored the premise that by increasing electricity usage, emissions could decrease. Provided an in-depth look at how renewables and end-uses like electric vehicles and other equipment can fit into a new power dispatch and play a role in overall emission reduction
Boost your expertise in utility matters. Influence the discourse...Achieve.

2017 Highlights Continued

- **Organization of MISO States Distributed Energy Resources Workshop (8.1.2017)** – Explored the issues, concerns, and opportunities of DER at the intersection of state-jurisdictionally-connected resources that must be accounted for by federally-regulated RTOs
- **Edison Electric Institute Electric Rates Advanced Course (7.30.2017-8.2.2017)** – Provided participants with advanced rate design principles and examples of new rate options including how to utilize ratemaking tools to meet today’s business challenges
- **Energy Utility Basics (10.9.2017-10.13.2017)** – WPUI’s annual intensive course on the history of the utility industry and the fundamental concepts critical to being conversant in the industry today

2018 Events In Planning

- **Grid Modernization**: Discussion of disaster security and preparedness as well as cyber security and how to develop a mutual understanding of next steps for Wisconsin stakeholders
- **Public Utilities Section State Bar Meeting**: Notable regulatory and legal cases, statutes, and administrative code provisions impacting practitioners in the energy and water arena
- **Washington D.C. Briefing**: Presentation and discussion of current federal energy-related legal issues and potential impact for Wisconsin
- **Regional Transmission Organizations**: Comparison of the different RTO models and analysis of Wisconsin utilities’ participation in MISO market
- **Hedging against Risk in the RTO Market**: Market settlements, auction revenue rights, financial transmission rights, and how to hedge against elements that can unexpectedly drive prices up or down
- **Cost of Service Study**: How one is done, how it is utilized in today’s world, and whether changes are warranted
- **EEI Electric Advanced Rates Course**: Advanced rate design principles and examples of new rate options
- **Disruption in the Electric Industry**: Threats and opportunities of disruptive competition and whether and how traditional utility models may need to adjust
- **Energy Utility Basics**: Intensive course on fundamental concepts critical to being conversant in today’s energy industry
- **Water Demand Forecasting**: How to forecast future water demand for infrastructure and capital investment planning

2017 WPUI Members

- **Sustaining**
  - Alliant Energy
  - American Transmission Company
  - Madison Gas and Electric
  - WEC Energy Group
  - Xcel Energy

- **Contributing**
  - Dairyland Power Cooperative
  - Deloitte

- **Associate**
  - Husch Blackwell
  - ITC Midwest
  - Michael Best & Friedrich LLP
  - WPPI Energy

- **Standard**
  - Boardman and Clark LLP
  - Christensen Associates Energy Consulting
  - Citizens Utility Board of Wisconsin
  - Customers First Coalition
  - Foley & Lardner LLP
  - GDS Associates
  - Godfrey & Kahn, S.C.
  - Great Lakes Utilities
  - Michaels Energy
  - Midcontinent Independent System Operator
  - Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin
  - Perkins Coie LLP
  - Preferred Intelligence, LLC
  - Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
  - Quarles & Brady LLP
  - Seventhwave
  - Stafford Rosenbaum LLP
  - Wheeler Van Sickle & Anderson, S.C.
  - Wisconsin Paper Council
  - Wisconsin Utilities Association

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