2019 Activities Report

The Wisconsin Public Utility Institute (WPUI) is an educational outreach organization within the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Founded in 1982, the mission of WPUI is to advance understanding and discussion of relevant industry topics and emerging trends in the electric, natural gas, and water industries. The activities of WPUI follow the Wisconsin Idea of applying the resources of the University to meet the need for information outside of the University’s boundaries. WPUI provides programs and forums through non-partisan formats that promote the exchange, creation, integration, transfer, and application of knowledge.

Although WPUI is an officially-sanctioned UW-Madison Institute, it is completely self-funded, relying solely on membership fees and program registration fees. Additionally, WPUI is governed by an outside board of directors which is structured to represent WPUI’s membership. The board’s priority is to ensure WPUI’s financial well-being and continuity of operations, as well as to maintain and enhance WPUI’s role as a facilitator and leader of discussion about the utility of the future. We saw several changes to the board’s makeup this year including some long-serving board members retiring.

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We are excited to welcome our new board members, and we continue to be extremely grateful for the board’s leadership and direction.

WPUI’s 2019 programs were all based on feedback from members, and many of the speakers were from member organizations. WPUI would not exist without its members, and we are pleased to provide this opportunity to members. In 2020, we will maintain our emphasis on creating programs centered on member input. In addition, WPUI will continue to place heavy emphasis on engaging speakers from member organizations.

To our member organizations:

Thank you!! WPUI is able to provide this programming only because of your organizations’ support and input. Those who attend our programs greatly benefit from your guidance and feedback. If your organization would like to become a member, we would welcome your participation and involvement with WPUI programming.

Learn more about WPUI’s programming at wpui.wisc.edu

Sincerely,

Lori Sakk, Director
608-890-1815 | sakk@wisc.edu
2019 Program Highlights

Economic Overview Regarding Energy Industry (02.01.2019) – A member-only opportunity to hear from a UW-Madison economics professor on the utility industry’s economic outlook for 2019.

Utility Partnerships with Non-Utilities (02.26.2019) – Overview and discussion of best practices and examples of how the partnerships that utilities have with local governments and other stakeholders work.

Public Utilities Law Update 2019 (03.05.2019) – Update of notable regulatory and legal cases, statutes, and administrative code provisions impacting practitioners in the energy and water arenas.


New/Emerging Technologies & Pricing Challenges (06.25.2019) – Insight on the impacts of change and how to ensure that utilities are making the best investments to providing safe, reliable, and affordable service, while at the same time providing customers with adequate information regarding their utility usage.

Edison Electric Institute Electric Rates Advanced Course (07.28.2019-07.31.2019) – Participants were provided with advanced rate design principles and examples of new rate options including how to utilize ratemaking tools to meet today’s business challenges.

Electric Vehicle Roadmap (09.10.2019) – Exploration of the regulatory landscape and how it varies throughout the U.S. as well as an opportunity for discussion of policies and best practices that have arisen in response to the impact of EVs.

Energy Utility Basics (10.07.2019-10.11.2019) – WPUI’s annual intensive course on the history of the utility industry and the fundamental concepts critical to being conversant in the industry today.

Water Quality in Wisconsin (10.22.2019) – Focus on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS), including research, health impacts, treatment options, as well as potential impacts on ground water quality and land usage, and crisis communication regarding the issue.

2019 WPUI Members

Corporate
• WEC Energy Group

Sustaining
• Alliant Energy
• American Transmission Co.
• Madison Gas and Electric Co.
• Xcel Energy

Contributing
• Dairyland Power Cooperative
• Deloitte
• Michael Best & Friedrich
• Ranger Power

Associate
• Great Lakes Utilities
• Husch Blackwell LLP
• ITC Midwest
• WPPI Energy

Standard
• Boardman and Clark LLP
• Briggs and Morgan, P.A.
• Christensen Associates Energy Consulting
• Citizens Utility Board of Wisconsin
• Customers First Coalition
• Customized Energy Solutions, Ltd.
• Focus on Energy – APTIM
• Foley & Lardner LLP
• GDS Associates, Inc.
• Godfrey & Kahn, S.C.
• Michaels Energy
• Midcontinent Independent System Operator
• Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin
• Navigant Consulting, Inc.
• Nexant, Inc.
• Pacific Economics Group
• Perkins Coie LLP
• Power System Engineering, Inc.
• Preferred Intelligence LLC
• Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
• Quarles & Brady LLP
• Slipstream Group, Inc.
• Stafford Rasenbaum LLP
• Superior Water, Light & Power Company
• The Wisconsin Paper Council
• University of Wisconsin-Madison
• Wheeler Van Sickle & Anderson, S.C.
• Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
• Wisconsin Electric Cooperative Association
• Wisconsin State Legislature

68 speakers and panelists
245 attendees at five 1-day programs
94% satisfaction rate
2020 Program Preview

Member-only Event – Utility Economic Outlook for 2020 (Early 2020) – Economic overview regarding macro trends in the energy industry.

Public Utilities Law Update 2020 (03.04.2020) – Update of notable regulatory and legal cases, statutes, and administrative code provisions impacting practitioners in the energy and water arenas.

Natural Gas (03.25.2020) – State of the industry at the national, regional, and state levels, and what the future looks like for natural gas.

Regional Transmission Organization Fundamentals: Background, Purpose, Future (04.20-22.2020) – Comprehensive overview of regional transmission organizations in North America, how and why RTOs were created, what their many functions are today, how transmission planning is conducted, how resource adequacy is managed, how the system maintains operational reliability, and how financial markets operate.

Technologies and Strategies to Mitigate Utility Climate Risk (06.29.2020) – Discussion of needed infrastructure investments, batteries and microgrids, and new partnerships in a changing energy landscape.

Edison Electric Institute Electric Rates Advanced Course (07.26-29.2020) – Advanced rate design principles and examples of new rate options.

Emerging Technologies (09.08.2020) – Discussion and update on status of new and emerging technologies in the energy industry.

Energy Utility Basics (10.05-09.2020) – Intensive course on fundamental concepts critical to being conversant in today’s energy industry.

Water Affordability (10.21.2020) – Examination of the need for infrastructure upgrades while managing costs and customer expectations.

For the latest information on WPUI programming, please visit our website: wpui.wisc.edu

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