The Wisconsin Public Utility Institute (WPUI) is an educational outreach organization within the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Founded in 1982, WPUI’s mission 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.
WPUI congratulates you, our member organizations, for a successful 2021. Despite the challenges we all faced coming out of 2020 and going into 2021, we made it! THANK YOU!! Your support and involvement keep WPUI at the forefront of providing important and up to date programming.

For 2021, WPUI’s programming remained all online. This yielded both positives and negatives but resulted in a successful year of WPUI meeting its goals and fulfilling its mission.

As we begin planning WPUI’s 2022 programming, we are making many decisions based on those positives and negatives. For example, because online programming brings us attendees and speakers from across the country, rather than just Wisconsin/the Midwest, we are planning on holding our 1-day programs online only. We hope to use a hybrid model for our multi-day programs, welcoming to Madison those who are able to join us in person as well as those who join virtually.

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. Because of the board’s active involvement and leadership, WPUI is built on success and continues to thrive.

Each year, WPUI’s program topics are based on feedback from WPUI members, and many program speakers are from member organizations. WPUI exists and is able to provide this programming only because of your organization’s support and input. Those who attend our programs greatly benefit from your guidance and feedback. We welcome your membership and involvement with WPUI programming and are excited to announce that membership fees will not be increased for 2022.

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

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

We will commemorate WPUI’s 40th anniversary in 2022! Four decades ago, WPUI was a bright idea in the minds of several UW-Madison professors. Everyone who benefits from WPUI programming can appreciate the work those professors did to lay the groundwork for what would become WPUI. We look forward to celebrating this milestone with you.

Public Utilities Law Update (03.03.2021) – Update of notable regulatory and legal cases, statutes, and administrative code provisions impacting practitioners in the energy and water arenas.

Energy Storage (03.16.2021) – Discussion of energy storage in the U.S., policy changes and impacts, cutting edge research, analysis of applications of storage, lessons learned, and the path forward.

Regional Transmission Organization Fundamentals: Background, Purpose, Future (April 2021) – 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.


Edison Electric Institute’s Electric Rates Advanced Course (July 2021) – Advanced rate design principles and examples of new rate options.


Energy Utility Basics (Sept/Oct 2021) – 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 Utilities Partnering for Success (10.21.2021) – Overview and discussion of the current challenges facing water utilities, best practices, examples of how partnerships work to overcome challenges, and next steps forward.
Vision
WPUI is an educational outreach organization within the University of Wisconsin-Madison. As such, 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.

Mission
WPUI’s mission is to advance understanding and discussion of relevant industry topics and emerging trends in the electric, natural gas, and water industries.

Principles
WPUI provides programs and forums through non-partisan formats that promote the exchange, creation, integration, transfer, and application of knowledge. WPUI does not take a position on issues.

Priorities
- Financial well-being
- Facilitator and discussion leader for utility of the future
- Membership enhancement
- Staff training
- Board development

WPUI 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Founding Board Member
Rodney Stevenson, Professor Emeritus, School of Business, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Membership in WPUI is maintained at five levels: Corporate, Sustaining, Contributing, Associate, and Standard. Members of the Wisconsin Public Utility Institute come from the energy, consumer advocacy, consulting, educational, governmental, financial, and legal communities. Our members provide the financial support and expertise that are needed to fulfill our Mission.
2022 PROGRAM PREVIEW

Member-only Event (Early 2022) – Economic overview regarding macro trends in the energy industry.

Public Utilities Law Update (March 2) – Notable regulatory and legal cases, statutes, and administrative code provisions impacting practitioners in the energy and water arenas.

Energy Storage (March 9) – Discussion of current issues related to energy storage, including the implications of new technologies on affordability.

Regional Transmission Organization Fundamentals: Background, Purpose, Future (April 18-20) – 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.

Member-only Event (June 2022) – Topic TBD.

Edison Electric Institute Electric Rates Advanced Course (July 24-27) – Advanced rate design principles and examples of new rate options.

Impact of Climate Change on Reliability (September 13) – Assessment of how climate change is impacting reliability and whether current planning methodology needs to change.

Energy Utility Basics (October 3-7) – Intensive course on fundamental concepts critical to being conversant in today's energy industry.

Water – Infrastructure and Reliability (October 26) – Examination and discussion of pressing issues in the water industry.

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

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