

# EEI 2023

JUNE 11-13 | JW Marriott Austin

## Highlights From EEI's Annual Meeting

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*Above, L to R: Lynn Good, Chair, President, and CEO, Duke Energy; EEI Chair Pedro J. Pizarro, President and CEO, Edison International; EEI Vice Chair Maria Pope, President and CEO, Portland General Electric; and outgoing EEI Chair Warner Baxter, Executive Chairman, Ameren Corporation.*

### **Morning Keynotes Showcase Innovation**

Tuesday morning began with the popular and time-honored tradition of a CEO leadership panel. Duke Energy Chair, President, and CEO Lynn Good moderated this conversation with EEI Chair Pedro J. Pizarro, president and CEO, Edison International; EEI Vice Chair Maria Pope, president and CEO, Portland General Electric; and outgoing EEI Chair Warner Baxter, executive chairman, Ameren Corporation.

Baxter began by highlighting the recent federal legislation that funds the clean energy transition, including the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the recent siting and permitting reforms included in the Fiscal Responsibility Act. “These pieces of legislation are simply transformational for our industry and for the clean energy transition,” he said. “They allow us to accelerate investments in things we know—like wind and solar—as well as new technologies. And, importantly, they keep them affordable.”

“When you think about the legislative successes of the past year, they become

challenges and opportunities for this year,” noted Pizarro. “From a policy perspective, we need to make sure the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act get executed well. Permitting and siting reform also is a big part of our future work. We have great partners in the Biden Administration, and they acknowledge that all of the great work we've done in the last few months can't get off the ground if we don't make progress in permitting and siting reform.”

“As we look at all of the issues we need to balance and the prevalence of extreme weather that we're seeing, customers are valuing electric companies more than they have in the past,” continued Pope. “We serve everyone, and I think there is a focus on bringing everyone along on this clean energy transition. There's no better set of organizations equipped to make this transition just and equitable than electric companies.”

Good agreed: ““A large as our companies are, this is a very local business that impacts communities deeply and our employees deeply. I believe this is an opportunity for us to demonstrate value for customers, to show that we can support and deliver all of the things we're talking about.”



*Above: Elon Musk and EEI Chair Pedro J. Pizarro, President and CEO, Edison International.*

EEI 2023 continued with a dynamic conversation between EEI Chair Pedro J. Pizarro and renowned technologist and engineer Elon Musk about the future of electrification driven, in part, by electric vehicles (EVs).

“We should expect electrification of transport, especially passenger vehicles, quite quickly,” said Musk. “Electric vehicles are growing exponentially. The larger point is that the need for electricity is going to be extremely high. It's going to take a tremendous effort to address this demand for electricity. I think this is good news for everyone who produces electricity. But it entails a tremendous amount of work ahead.”

“The electrification of transportation and more across the economy is going to be key for reducing emissions over time,” said Pizarro. “It's exciting to see funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Inflation Reduction Act, and more—it's transformational for the United States. But we still need more help. Permitting and siting reform is one of the pieces, and another is the expanded partnership between electric companies and companies like Tesla.”

They also discussed Tesla's recent partnership with Ford and GM to share EV charging infrastructure: “I think opening up the chargers is morally right, and it was something that will help power sustainability,” said Musk. “We're really trying to do everything here. We will support all electric vehicles on equal footing; we're not advocating for special treatment of Tesla. We're trying to clear a path for sustainability.”

Musk concluded by stating: “Everything is going to be electric. I don't know what your plans are for future electricity demand, but it's going to be much higher than you think. You should start to plan now. We're trying to work to a sustainable energy future, and it's going to take many technology solutions to get there.”



*Above: Georgia Power Chairman, President, and CEO Kim Greene presents a Thomas F. Farrell Safety Leadership and Innovation Award to Duke Energy Chair, President, and CEO Lynn Good.*

The morning also included a presentation of the Thomas F. Farrell Safety Leadership and Innovation Awards by Kim Greene, Chairman, President, and CEO of Georgia Power.

The recipients were selected for the following achievements across three categories:

- Member Company Executive: CenterPoint Energy Vice President of Safety and Technical Training Al Payton for his leadership of the EEI Occupational Safety and Health Committee and Executive Advisory Committee.
- Member Company Employee Leader: Florida Power & Light (FPL) Company Senior Director of Fleet Services Joe Suarez for enhancing safety for the electric power industry with his novel implementation of FPL's load management system.
- Organization Award: Duke Energy for its Mobile Observation Vehicle and Equipment Solution, which enables remote examinations for high-risk activities and engineering inspections.

Read more in [EEI's press release](#).



*Above, L to R: Stephanie Raymond, President, PPL Electric Utilities; Joseph Lookup, Director of Asset Management, PPL Corporation; and EEI President and CEO Tom Kuhn.*

## **PPL Electric Utilities, Terna S.p.A. Win 2023 Edison Awards**

On Monday evening at EEI 2023, EEI President and CEO Tom Kuhn proudly presented the 95th Edison Award to PPL Electric Utilities (PPL Electric) and the International Edison Award to Terna S.p.A. (Terna).

Presented annually and selected by a panel of former energy industry executives, the Edison Award is the electric power industry's highest honor, recognizing distinguished leadership, innovation, and contributions to the advancement of the electric power industry. ([Read about the finalists in \*Electric Perspectives\*.](#))

In October 2022, PPL Electric became the first electric company in the United States to install and integrate a dynamic line rating (DLR) system within its transmission management system into market operations. This has allowed the company to optimize the operation of its transmission lines by using accurate real-time ratings. Today, PPL Electric is sending hourly day-ahead ratings forecasts to PJM Interconnection's market operations to help coordinate more efficient generation and ensure reliability. The functionalities and methodologies the company developed and implemented while integrating DLR into real-time and day-ahead market operations with PJM are novel for the U.S. electric power industry.

"EEI and our member companies are committed to delivering affordable and resilient clean energy to the customers and communities we serve," said Kuhn. "PPL Electric is leading by example with this dynamic line ratings project. By demonstrating the accuracy and effectiveness of this innovative technology, other energy grid operators now are able to evaluate how this solution might enhance their systems. PPL Electric is very deserving of this prestigious recognition, and I congratulate them for winning this year's Edison Award."



*Above: Giacomo Donnini, Director, Major Projects and International Development, Terna S.p.A., and EEI President and CEO Tom Kuhn.*

Terna received the International Edison Award for its Italy-France Electrical Interconnection. Terna and RTE, the Italian and French electricity transmission system operators, partnered on a project for a DC transmission line that will be the world's longest electrical infrastructure completely integrated in a highway, spanning 190 kilometers (approximately 118 miles) between the two countries. The line is fully integrated into existing road infrastructures with zero impact on the surrounding

environment. It crosses the Alps through the Frejus Tunnel and 28 highway viaducts. The line will increase the transmission capacity between the two countries by 1,200 megawatts, enabling the integration of more renewable energy and increasing the interconnectedness of Europe's electricity system.

"EEI's international members are building the reliable, resilient, and sustainable power systems of the future," said Kuhn. "This interconnection between Italy and France represents a strategic project for all of Europe and will enhance their energy grids without disrupting the natural splendor of the Alps. I applaud Terna for its leadership and congratulate them for winning this prestigious award for this engineering and construction modern marvel."



*Above, L to R: Rod West, President of Utility Operations, Entergy Group, and University of Colorado Head Football Coach Deion Sanders.*

## **'Committed to Excellence': Highlights From the Edison Awards Dinner**

Following the presentation of the 2023 Edison Awards, Deion "Coach Prime" Sanders delivered an inspirational—and authentic—dinner keynote. Joined in conversation by Rod West, Entergy Group President of Utility Operations, Sanders shared the story of his childhood and career from a high school sports player to a two-time Super Bowl champion. He also delivered a message of resilience and empowerment to the audience.

"Every day you should be committed to excellence," Sanders said. "What if we gave it our all, every darn day?"



Monday night concluded with an electrifying concert from The Power Chords, featuring American Electric Power Executive Chair Nick Akins on drums (seen above). They played a set of rock-and-roll classics and crowd-pleasing favorites.



*Above, L to R: Julie Sloat, President and CEO, American Electric Power; Gil Quiniones, CEO, ComEd; Jen Hensley, Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs, Con Edison; and Mary Sprayregen, Global Head of Regulatory Affairs and Market Development, Oracle/Opower.*

## Highlights From Tuesday's Programming

As EEI's member companies continue leading the clean energy transition and working toward reducing carbon emissions across our economy, the needs of our customers remain at the forefront. A net-zero, electrified future will benefit every customer and every community. Oracle/Opower Global Head of Regulatory Affairs and Market Development Mary Sprayregen moderated a panel discussion with American Electric Power (AEP) President and CEO Julie Sloat, ComEd CEO Gil Quiniones, and Con Edison Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs Jen Hensley on the efforts electric companies and our partners are making to ensure the clean energy transition is equitable for everyone.

"Energy is for everyone, and everyone has to be able to afford it. That's top of mind for us," said Sloat. She emphasized AEP's investments in renewable energy sources, noting that the company aims to add 15 gigawatts of renewable energy over the next decade.

"Our role is to make sure that this transition is orderly, equitable, and affordable," added Quiniones. "Illinois' clean energy and climate law set forth the regulatory and policy landscape of reducing carbon emissions from the state's economy, starting with the power sector and transportation. That has been guiding our plans."

The panel emphasized that customer needs should drive the majority of business decisions. Quiniones concluded: "We have an opportunity to impact people's lives. To me, having this meaningful impact—I don't want to be anyplace else."



*Above, L to R: Richard McMahon, Senior Vice President, Energy Supply and Finance, and Chief ESG Officer, EEI; Brent Lewis, CEO and Co-Founder, Carbon America; Drew Marsh, President and CEO, Entergy; Frank Prager, Senior Vice President, Strategy, Security, and External Affairs, and Chief Sustainability Officer, Xcel Energy; Allan Schurr, Chief Commercial Officer, Enchanted Rock; and Dr. Michael Webber, Chief Technology Officer, Energy Impact Partners.*

Combustion turbines that run on natural gas have been key to the clean energy transition, supporting the reliable integration of an increasing amount of renewable energy while also providing on-demand, 24/7 energy. EEI Senior Vice President, Energy Supply and Finance, and Chief ESG Officer Richard McMahon moderated a conversation examining the future of natural gas power plants. McMahon was joined by Entergy President and CEO Drew Marsh, Energy Impact Partners Chief Technology Officer Dr. Michael Webber, Enchanted Rock Chief Commercial Officer Allan Schurr, and Carbon America CEO and Co-Founder Brent Lewis.

“We appreciate and understand the value natural gas brings in terms of supporting communities and supporting clean energy technologies,” said Dr. Webber. “I see natural gas as very flexible and valuable. As a molecule, it gives us a building block for a lot of things like pesticides and fertilizers. And as a fuel, it gives us a lot of options. We’re talking about a flexible, valuable molecule that enables a flexible, valuable range of technologies.”

“It’s really important to us and our customers to be able to do what they want to do, and it’s important to keep the cost down,” said Marsh. “Natural gas is going to be with us a while, and it’s going to help us transition reliably towards a clean energy future.”



*Above, L to R: Riaz Mohammad, Director of Resiliency and Environmental Policy, EEI; EEI Vice Chair Maria Pope, President and CEO, Portland General Electric; and Steve Powell, President and CEO, Southern California Edison.*

In The Hub, EEI Director of Resiliency and Environmental Policy Riaz Mohammad moderated a panel discussion with EEI Vice Chair Maria Pope, president and CEO of Portland General Electric, and Southern California Edison President and CEO Steve Powell on the industry's ongoing efforts to mitigate wildfire risk.

"This cannot be an electric-company-only problem," said Pope. "We have to work hard 365 days a year to make sure that we bring others into the conversations on mitigating wildfires, including first responders, county leaders, and forestry departments. The number-one reason wildfires begin is lightning. The second reason is humans. So, we're all in this together, and it's really important that we move the conversation from electric company responsibility to entire ecosystem responsibility."

Powell concurred: "Communications before, during, and after wildfires is critical, not just with first responders but with government partners and more. We've learned a lot over the last five years. Having that coordination at the state and local levels—with who we call public safety partners—helps us to share information and coordinate better responses."

Throughout the afternoon, Dragos Senior Advisory Solution Architect Mark McDaniel, Pike Electric Vice President of Renewables Dave Duncan, and Motor CEO Praveen Kathpal gave "tech talks" on the grid resilience solutions provided by their companies.



*Above, L to R: Mark Updegrave, President and CEO, LBJ Foundation, and Admiral William H. McRaven, U.S. Navy Retired.*

EEI 2023 concluded with a lunchtime discussion between Admiral William H. McRaven, U.S. Navy Retired, and Mark Updegrave, president and CEO, LBJ Foundation. Admiral McRaven shared his lessons learned on leadership from his decades of service to the United States.

“When you talk about building teams, you have to first understand the objective that you’re trying to achieve,” said Admiral McRaven. “The one thing I learned about building teams in the military and at the University of Texas is that I will take chemistry over talent any day.”

He also shared his advice on making every day a success: “Life is tough enough sometimes. But if you start your day and make your bed, it gives you a little sense of pride and control of your life.”



*Above: The Diverse and Emerging Leaders cohort enjoyed a reception and tour of the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library.*

## **The Diverse and Emerging Leaders Cohort**

This year, EEI 2023 welcomed an inaugural cohort of Diverse and Emerging Leaders, a CEO-nominated group of high-potential leaders from across the electric power industry. The group was invited to participate in learning, engagement, and networking opportunities throughout the conference.

On Sunday, the cohort was welcomed by outgoing EEI Chair Warner Baxter, executive chairman of Ameren Corporation; EEI Chair Pedro J. Pizarro, president and CEO of Edison International; and Calvin Butler, president and CEO of Exelon.

On Monday, Black & Veatch Associate Vice President and Global Director of DEI Silas Dulan moderated an in-depth discussion on leadership with Gil Quiniones, CEO, ComEd; Julie Sloat, president and CEO, American Electric Power; and Kevin Walker, president and CEO, Duquesne Light.

On Tuesday morning, Anthony Oni, managing partner and CEO of the Elevate Future Fund at Energy Impact Partners, delivered an inspiring keynote on his career journey and the diversity investments made by the Elevate Future Fund.

EEl's Board of Directors recognized the cohort members from 26 member companies during its Board meeting.

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## Thank You for Attending EEI 2023

EEI 2023 truly has been an energizing event, and I thank all of you for making these two and a half days in Austin so incredible. We heard from insightful keynote speakers, panelists, and industry experts and explored the top issues affecting our industry's future. And, EEI 2023 provided the backdrop to invaluable networking and relationship building that will pay dividends long after we have returned home.

I extend my sincere thanks to all the speakers, panelists, EEI member company executives, partners, and attendees who shared their perspectives, knowledge, and commitment to the industry, both in person and online with the [#EEI2023](#) hashtag. You can find all the highlights from the last few days [here](#).

I also thank our sponsors who helped make EEI 2023 such a success and I extend a special thanks to Breakthrough Energy for their partnership in developing our insightful programming.

We look forward to seeing you next year in Las Vegas!

**Tom Kuhn**  
EEI President and CEO

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## Get Social: Tweet of the Day

It was an incredible opportunity to hear from @elonmusk about the future of electric transportation! #EEI2023



11:59 AM · Jun 13, 2023 · 1,318 Views

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- [Edison Award Press Release](#)
- [International Edison Award Press Release](#)
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