



TITLE SPONSORS



Delivering water and power®

CONFERENCE AGENDA

7:00 – 8:00 am	<p>Breakfast & Networking Sponsored By: </p>
8:00 – 8:30 am	<p>Opening Remarks</p> <p>Stan Barnes, <i>President and CEO, Copper State Consulting</i></p> <p>Nick Myers, <i>Chairman, Arizona Corporation Commission</i></p>
8:35 – 9:35 am	<p>Changes in Regional Markets in the Southwest Region</p> <p>What will it take to truly connect the Western grid? How will utility and state choices between CAISO EDAM and SPP Markets+ influence market outcomes, infrastructure needs and investment decisions?</p> <p>Moderator: Mark Smith, <i>Vice President, Calpine</i></p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>John Coyle, <i>Managing Partner, Duncan & Allen LLP</i></p> <p>Dr. Robin Broder Hytowitz, <i>Electricity Markets and Data Center Program Lead, EPRI</i></p> <p>Caitlin Liotiris, <i>Principal, Energy Strategies</i></p> <p>Dan Williams, <i>Principal Advisor, Western Markets, The Energy Authority</i></p>
9:40 – 10:40 am	<p>Powering Economic Development: Meeting Energy Demand for Advanced Manufacturing and Data Centers</p> <p>As advanced manufacturing and data centers drive rapid load growth, how can markets ensure growth pays for growth? What infrastructure and partnership models with utilities are actually working?</p> <p>Moderator: Michelle De Blasi, <i>Senior Energy and Environmental Attorney, Law Office of Michelle De Blasi</i></p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Jessica Hobbick, <i>Vice President of Rates & Regulations, APS</i></p> <p>Tom Maples, <i>P.E. LEED AP, Project Executive, DPR Construction</i></p> <p>Craig McKesson, <i>Chief Commercial Officer, Takanock</i></p> <p>Kevin Thompson, <i>Commissioner, Arizona Corporation Commission</i></p>
10:40 – 11:00 am	<p>Coffee & Networking Break Sponsored By: </p>
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	<p>Building the Workforce Pipeline: Solutions for Industry–Education Partnerships</p> <p>What does it take to build a sustainable talent pipeline for the energy industry? Which programs are offering solutions to workforce challenges?</p> <p>Moderator: Blair Loftis, <i>Vice President Renewables, Westwood</i></p> <p>Panelists:</p> <p>Mike Corso, <i>Executive Vice President Operations, McCarthy</i></p> <p>Tina Drews, <i>Talent Acquisition and Workforce Training, SRP</i></p> <p>Jackie Fan, <i>Manufacturing Department Manager, TSMC AZ</i></p> <p>Paul Lambertson, <i>Dean, College of Engineering & Technology, Grand Canyon University</i></p>
12:00 – 12:45 pm	<p>Lunch & Networking Sponsored By: </p>



TITLE SPONSORS



COMMERCIAL
SOLAR ARIZONA



Delivering water and power®

CONFERENCE AGENDA

<p>12:45 – 1:45 pm</p>	<p>Can the West's Pace of Growth Continue in a Water-Constrained Future?</p> <p>As industrial demand accelerates, how are the Western states and utilities balancing energy and water needs? What does current water availability actually look like, and what technologies are industries adopting to improve water usage effectiveness (WUE) while remaining competitive?</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Russell Smoldon, CEO, B3 Strategies, LLC</i></p> <p>Panelists: <i>Jordy Fuentes, Executive Director, Arizona Power Authority</i> <i>Mike Malano, Managing Director, Greenstone</i> <i>Jonathan Noble, Senior Director, US Government Affairs, Microsoft</i> <i>Warren Tenney, Executive Director, Arizona Municipal Water Users Association</i></p>
<p>1:50 – 2:50 pm</p>	<p>The Current and Future State of Nuclear Power</p> <p>Can nuclear power meet accelerating demand from industry while supporting long-term grid reliability? How does its role differ in the Southwest compared with the rest of the country? How close are advanced nuclear technologies to supporting large-scale industrial growth?</p> <p>Panelists: <i>Barbara Cenalmor Bruquetas, Senior Resource Development Project Manager, SRP</i> <i>Juliann Edwards, Chief Development Officer, The Nuclear Company</i> <i>Alison Hahn, Technical Advisor, New Nuclear, Nuclear Energy Institute</i> <i>Brian Smith, Director, Nuclear Reactor Development, Idaho National Laboratory</i></p>
<p>2:50 – 3:10 pm</p>	<p>Coffee & Networking Break Sponsored By:</p>
<p>3:10 – 4:10 pm</p>	<p>Natural Gas as a Bridge to Economic Growth</p> <p>How is natural gas enabling economic growth while supporting the energy transition? What are the opportunities and challenges of relying on natural gas to meet rising industrial and grid demand?</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Mark Bauer, Vice Chairman, National Director, Data Center Solutions Group, JLL</i></p> <p>Panelists: <i>Brian Best, Managing Partner, Proxima Pipeline</i> <i>Sue Forrester, Vice President of Advocacy and Outreach, American Gas Association</i> <i>Jill Freret, Director of Resource Acquisition, APS</i></p>
<p>4:15 – 5:15 pm</p>	<p>A Fireside Chat with Utility CEOs</p> <p>A discussion with the leading Southwest utility experts about how they are shaping the Region's energy strategies to support rapid growth and long-term economic development</p> <p>Moderator: <i>Michelle De Blasi, Senior Energy and Environmental Attorney, Law Office of Michelle De Blasi</i></p> <p><i>Ted Geisler, Chairman, President and CEO, Pinnacle West Capital Corporation; Chairman and CEO, APS</i> <i>Erik Bakken, President, Tucson Electric Power, UniSource Energy Services and UNS Energy Corporation</i> <i>Jim Pratt, General Manager and CEO, SRP</i></p>
<p>5:15 – 5:30 pm</p>	<p>Closing Remarks</p>
<p>5:30 – 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Cocktail Reception Sponsored By: </p>



2026 Southwest Energy Conference

May 21, 2026 | The Clayton House | Scottsdale, AZ



TITLE SPONSORS



COMMERCIAL
SOLAR ARIZONA



Delivering water and power®

CONFERENCE AGENDA