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Energy Transition Roadmap for Electrical Utilities - Dimension 2

Written by Richard Ganton, Senior Engineer, Operational Technology and published on Acumen's blog February 13, 2026. Photos and article reprinted with permission from Acumen.

Note: Dimension 1 was published in the October 2025 issue of the HCI Newsletter.

Dimension 1 discussed the Energy Transition Roadmap for Electrical Utilities and looked at challenges and solutions for achieving Energy Transition objectives for the fundamental aspects of power systems –

- power generation,
- transmission and distribution, and
- customer demand.

Dimension 2 shifts the focus to the technology needed to monitor and control electrical resources on the grid, and how utilities need to evolve in the Energy Transition journey.

Technology Aspects:

There are many aspects of this Technology dimension:

- Power Production is monitored by an Energy Management System (EMS).
- Transmission Grid is monitored by a Transmission Management System (TMS).
- Distribution Grid is monitored by a Distribution Management System (DMS), and more extensively these days by an Advanced Distribution Management System (ADMS).
- Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) may be monitored by Distributed Energy Resource Management Systems (DERMS).

Providing Context - Stability through Inertia

For many decades, the stability of the power system depended on the inertia of the large generators. Using reverse frequency droop settings on the governors of the generating units allowed for countering the results of faults on the system. If there was a loss of a large generator, it meant that there was more load than generation. This would cause the frequency to start reducing. The reduction in frequency would automatically cause the online generating units to produce more power to counteract the drop in frequency. This nearly immediate automatic response was then backed up by other system responses such as commanding the



setpoints of other generators to increase to counteract the drop in generation. This resulted in the system remaining at a stable frequency and becoming rebalanced. On the other hand, if a large load was lost, the frequency would rise, the amount of generation would be automatically reduced, and the system would respond by lowering other generating unit setpoints.

An underlying principle of this methodology was the substantial inertia of the numerous large generating unit rotors that tended to keep spinning as required. This worked for many decades until entities began adding renewable generation, such as wind farms and solar farms - power resources that did not come with large inertia. The renewable generation resources may have had frequency control in the invertors connecting them to the grid, but in the early days of renewable generation operation, it was standard operating procedure to command them to disconnect from the system during faults. However, the loss of the renewable generation could worsen the frequency problem or make it better, depending on the fault type. If the fault was a loss of generation, then dumping more generation would make the problem worse. If the fault was a loss of load, dumping the renewable generation would make the system better.

Defining the Problem

The Renewable Energy Challenge - As the penetration of renewable generation is growing, power system engineers are modifying their approach to operating these resources. There is ongoing research

and testing, and Grid Forming Inverters are being proposed as a solution. Grid forming inverters enable renewable generation resources to partly act as inertia-based resources. This means that a particular renewable generation resource can reduce generation in the event of a loss of load. However, for renewable generation to increase the output in response to loss of generation elsewhere, it must have some kind of energy storage that is rapidly available, such as a Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). A renewable resource with BESS that has enough energy stored can provide a reverse frequency droop characteristic in response to a fault on the system. Research is still needed on how the rapid frequency change is handled by the power electronics of the solar inverters or the wind farm convertors. The key takeaway from this discussion is that as the system shifts to a large mix of renewable energy resources, it must also be built with tools that allow the power system to remain stable in response to faults.

Fault Current Detection - The other side of the question of inertia is related to faults on the system that can result in short circuit currents. Traditional rotor-based generators provide high short circuit currents into a fault because of their inherent large inertia. Renewable Energy Resources do not provide high short circuit currents in the same way, because they are connected to the grid through electronic based inverters. The lack of high short circuit currents in the event of a fault has detrimental effects on fault coordination, which is based on protection relays reading the high short circuit currents. While research is still ongoing in solving this challenge through novel protection schemes and relays, BESS could once again be a potential solution. For example, if a large solar farm also has BESS, this could enable it to shift the load and provide additional current into a fault to enable the protection systems to work.

Voltage Support - The other aspect of power systems is voltage support. The system needs reactive power to ensure that the voltage profiles of the system are within acceptable limits and that the power will flow from the resources to the loads. This means that large renewable resources have to be planned with reactive resources as required. Many Wind Farms and some Solar Farms have been built with additional Reactive and Capacitive resources. The amount needed will be dependent on the existing voltage situation in the Grid. Voltage support may require the addition of reactive resources on site at the Wind/Solar resources.

Planning & Load Balancing - The historical procedure for day-to-day planning is to perform load forecasts based on weather and factor in any planned outages. This ensures there is power available to supply the load as it varies during the day according to normally expected load curves, and when affected by weather and unusual events. A given self-contained area will ensure that it balances its load and generation throughout the day as well as its purchase/sales of power with other entities. The area interties are planned with neighbors, and these planned flows are compared with actual flows on the interties to adjust internal generation. The difference between planned interchange and actual interchange is called the Area Control Error (ACE). The North American



Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) rules require each area to keep ACE near zero and take action to return it to zero when it diverges.

To summarize, the work of monitoring, analyzing, and controlling a power system network involves the following main issues:

- Generation load balancing for frequency stability
- ACE management for additional generation-load balancing
- Reactive power placement and availability for voltage stability
- Use of Generation inertia and relay protection to respond to system faults
- Ensuring that sufficient generation is available for rapid deployment for response to contingencies but also scheduled and available to follow load profiles
- Scheduling and directing generation changes to follow the load curve
- Analyzing and preparing to react to new contingencies when the system experiences a contingency and may be in an unusual state.



The Bulk Electrical System and Energy Transition

Renewable generation is intermittent and, while it can be predicted somewhat accurately, a bulk electrical system with high penetration of renewable generation must always have backup generation ready to replace large amounts that may be lost. It will be necessary to have bulk-level BESS or similar storage available to mitigate the effects of rapid loss or change in output levels of renewable generation. The loss of renewable generation may also mean that the replacement generation is located in different areas, changing the pattern of flow within the power system.

System Response and Contingencies

The main issue with the transmission grid is that multiple contingencies from strong storms can make system response very complex or result in a large reduction in the BESS energy available. Hydrogen is being proposed as the Energy Transition replacement for natural gas-fired generation. This requires an excess of renewable generation to manufacture enough hydrogen for use during minimal availability of renewables and limited storage.

Monitoring, Analysis, and Control on the Generation Level

It will be important to have extensive weather monitoring along with AI pattern analysis. Utilities can rely on weather forecasters to plan from 7 days to 1 or 2 days ahead, but they will need large arrays of measurement points utilized by all utilities to understand upcoming conditions for more immediate planning of rapid loss or change in output levels of renewable generation. The loss of renewable generation may also mean that the replacement generation is located in different areas, changing the pattern of flow within the power system.

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Weather Monitoring and AI Integration

Large solar/wind monitoring arrays within a utility's footprint will allow the utility to understand local wind and cloud cover and how it is moving, enabling more accurate predictions of renewable outputs and localized temperature changes. AI will be trained to provide predictions that can be compared with actual measurements for continuous improvement. Utilities can optimize their other generation alongside more accurate forecasting of intermittent generation to better use their storage, allowing for smoother generation changes and more efficient hydrogen generation planning.

Data Collection and Simulation

Data collected from monitoring can be tested in simulations to refine a utility's understanding of operations concerning the sun, clouds, wind, and storage, improving efficiency over time. Utilities will also be able to use simulations of faults in different places to learn how to respond effectively to different combinations of generation, storage, and load, aiding in arranging reactive power resources to support voltage as power flow patterns change.

Existing and Needed Tools

Currently, utilities use numerous tools for monitoring, analyzing, and simulating to effectively plan, operate, and respond to contingencies. These include power flow, state estimation, contingency analysis, reliability assessment, simulations, and transient stability analysis. Utilities use tools to optimize the use of generation based on cost and fuel availability, and other factors and tools for optimizing reactive resources to maintain voltage profiles.

Flexible AC Transmission System (FACTS)

FACTS devices assist with controlling reactive flow. Utilities will continue to need these tools and substation monitoring while using additional monitoring of transmission lines to enable real-time thermal ratings.

Additional Requirements

Utilities will need to add large arrays of weather monitoring for wind and cloud cover. AI tools with large capacities are required to handle the vast amount of real-time information about actual wind/solar conditions and predictions. This will enable utilities to forecast intermittent resource production and optimize storage use more precisely.



Simulation Tools for Optimization

Since weather patterns vary, utilities may also need to simulate how wind and sun resources vary based on historical data to improve storage and hydrogen production optimization. Continued use of simulation tools will help understand different faults and system responses, with research on Grid Forming Inverters to ensure they respond effectively to contingencies.

Inverter Based Resources (IBRs)

Research indicates that IBRs may respond to system issues differently depending on the problem. System monitoring (e.g., use of field Phasor Measurement Units (PMUs) with very fast communications and central processing) must rapidly understand and inform IBRs of the exact problem (e.g., a single-phase fault on Phase A) to enable precise responses (e.g., injecting extra current on Phase A to interrupt the fault). This must occur within milliseconds, utilizing the smart software of IBRs for effective system support.

Distribution System and Energy Transition

The Energy Transition will significantly impact the distribution system. The presence of substantial renewable/intermittent resources on the distribution network may result in two-way power flows. Currently, power flows from generation through the transmission system and into the distribution system on a one-way trip to customers. Adding solar/wind to the distribution system along with BESS and other storage types will radically change power flows, potentially opening an energy market at the distribution level and introducing Distribution System Operators (DSOs).

Fault Response on the Distribution System

Currently, renewable power generation disconnects from the distribution feeder during faults, typically in response to zero voltage. This means renewable power is lost unless local BESS charges up. Traditional distribution utility responses to faults involve opening breakers feeding the fault. Many utilities now use feeder reconfiguration with automated/controllable switches, identifying fault locations, opening switches to isolate the faulted section, and re-energizing unaffected segments.

Advanced Distribution Management Systems (ADMS)

Utilities use networked meter reading for hourly meter readings and last gasp detection to identify power loss or faults. Smart meters providing additional interval data within the hour would help utilities analyze and understand customer loads, facilitated by AI tools marketed by various companies.

Outage Management Systems (OMS)

Most utilities have an OMS that utilizes data from controllable switches and meters to reconfigure systems automatically or recommend switching orders to return to normal configurations. The OMS often works in conjunction with an ADMS, which uses SCADA systems for extensive data management, incorporating data from Distributed Energy Resources (DERs) and providing it to Distributed Energy Resource Management (DERMS) tools.

Virtual Power Plants (VPPs)

Many entities have created VPPs, conglomerates of numerous customers creating virtual resources. These include customers allowing load control during peak times, grouping small solar or wind resources with BESS for extra utility. Combined with renewable resources, BESS, and controllable load, VPPs form versatile resources, requiring extensive communication points and data management for effective monitoring and control.

Future of the Distribution System

The distribution system of the future may exhibit varying load curves daily due to sun, wind, temperature, and market conditions. Feeder protection systems must adapt to manage resources larger than loads,

with power flowing back to substations. Utilities might find it beneficial to have large BESS at transmission substations to act as buffers, smoothing out load shifts and easing transmission system management.

Comprehensive Monitoring Needs

While the transmission systems will continue to monitor substations, capacitor banks, and FACTS devices, adding BESS and advanced monitoring to handle unpredictable load curves, distribution systems must monitor, understand, and analyze a larger number of status and analog points from numerous sites, controlling more devices and issuing requests to numerous devices.

Market and Communication Integration

A market will mediate the costs of resources and loads participating in it, while working with regular loads not engaged in the market. Effective operation will require extensive communication points, high-speed data processing, and secure, corruption-free data exchange.

The Grid Edge

- Monitoring transmission and distribution facilities with intelligent measuring devices (e.g., detailed transformer monitoring, advanced line monitoring, real-time monitoring of important load/gen/BESS customers).
- Physical control: switchable line devices (breakers, smart grid switches), controllable load/gen/BESS sites.
- Utility requests: asking customers to adjust their load/gen/BESS, general requests for emergency assistance, potentially communicating directly with customers' smart controllers.
- Price Signals: sending customers distribution-level load/gen/BESS price signals.
- Transmission level: continued generation/substation/transmission monitoring with additional monitoring (e.g., using PMUs for power angle monitoring) to enable accurate instructions to Grid Forming inverters.

Control Centers:

- Increased communication connectivity to the system.
- Interaction with power markets and their price signals to predict power flow trends and load centers with more complex load profiles, learning from weather impacts on them.
- Intelligent power forecasts for wind/solar to manage changes in storage use and hydrogen generation.
- Monitoring IBR-based resources to determine fault current adequacy settings.
- Using existing power system monitoring tools like state estimation, Volt/Var system balancing, and contingency tools that account for Grid Forming inverters' responses to different system issues, and synchronous condensers.
- Rapidly responding to system contingencies with instructions to resources and loads within milliseconds.

Communications:

- Utilizing various telecom technologies for rapid data interchange, ensuring real-time data availability to all entities.
- Exchanging historical data like load, use, weather, and solar/wind patterns.

Overall, achieving effective Energy Transition goals requires a coordinated effort across all facets of the transmission and distribution systems, supported by advanced monitoring, AI integration, and robust communication infrastructure.

Facing a New Year of Challenges?

Many public power utilities enter the year reacting to urgent issues rather than advancing the priorities that matter most. A clear, focused strategic plan can provide the roadmap your organization needs. HCI helps public power utilities develop strategic plans that create alignment, sharpen focus, and support effective implementation.

Read our blog post: [Why Most Utility Strategic Plans Fail \(And What Actually Works\)](#)

If everything is a priority, nothing is a priority.



Learn more about HCI's approach to strategic planning

"From start to finish, my experience with Mark McCain and Hometown Connections was outstanding. Their structured process, inclusive engagement, and collaborative style built consensus and delivered a strategic plan that adds real value to the future of our Electric Utility. Their partnership—with staff and our Advisory Board—was thoughtful, hands-on, and highly effective."

Jamie England, Director



Learn more about Hometown Connections STRATEGIC PLANNING efforts visit our blog at: <https://blog.hometownconnections.com/why-most-utility-strategic-plans-fail-and-what-actually-works/>

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Rekindling the Flame: Strategies for Overcoming Workplace Burnout

Burnout is more than just a stressful week; the World Health Organization (WHO) classifies it as an occupational phenomenon resulting from chronic workplace stress that has not been successfully managed. It is characterized by three dimensions:

- feelings of energy depletion or exhaustion,
- increased mental distance or feelings of negativism related to one's job, and
- reduced professional efficacy.



Recognizing these symptoms early is the first step toward recovery, as prolonged exposure to such stressors can lead to significant physical and mental health decline. A critical strategy for recovery involves the intentional setting of “psychological detachments” from work. According to research published in the *Journal of Applied Psychology*, individuals who physically and mentally disconnect from work tasks during their off-hours report significantly lower levels of fatigue and higher life satisfaction. This means establishing firm boundaries, such as disabling work notifications after hours and dedicating time to “mastery experiences”—hobbies or activities that provide a sense of accomplishment outside of professional duties.

Restructuring your professional environment through “job crafting” can also mitigate burnout. A study from the *Harvard Business Review* suggests that employees who actively re-envision their work to align more closely with their strengths and values feel more engaged. This might involve speaking with a supervisor to adjust specific tasks, seeking out more collaborative projects, or shifting focus toward the aspects of the job that originally felt most meaningful. When employees feel they have a degree of autonomy over their workflow, the sense of helplessness associated with burnout often diminishes.

Finally, fostering social support is a proven buffer against workplace exhaustion. Data from the *American Psychological Association* indicates that strong social connections at work can increase resilience and help employees process stressful events more effectively. Whether through formal mentorship or informal peer support, sharing experiences with trusted colleagues helps normalize the challenges of the job and provides a necessary emotional outlet. Prioritizing human connections, alongside physical rest and boundary setting, creates a sustainable path back to professional well-being.

Sources:

- World Health Organization (WHO): International Classification of Diseases (ICD-11) entry for Burn-out.
- American Psychological Association (APA): 2023 Work in America Survey.
- Journal of Applied Psychology: Studies on “Psychological Detachment from Work” by Sonnentag & Fritz.
- Harvard Business Review: “What Is Job Crafting and Why Does It Matter?”



HCI Marketing Affiliate KEVIN GADEN TO RETIRE



Kevin Gaden will be retiring from the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA) at the end of March 2026. He has been a key contributor to the Public Power Industry for over 40 years and will be missed. He has shared the following insights for his colleagues.

How did you end up in public power and what made you stay so long?

I was born and raised in central Nebraska and attended the University of Nebraska in Lincoln. As you know, every electric utility in Nebraska is publicly owned and operated. This legislative decision has served the state very well allowing it to have some of the highest reliability and lowest power rates in the nation for decades. When I graduated from Engineering school, I took a job at NMPP Energy as a Project Manager and stayed there for almost 25 years. In late 2011, I got offered to be the CEO of the Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA) and I will retire from IMEA at the end of March of 2026. I have lived in a public power community my entire life.

What accomplishments are you the proudest of and what legacy do you hope to leave for the Industry?

I'm the proudest of being a leader in helping many Midwest communities maintaining very high reliability service at costs that are lower than our member's other options. The two utilities that I worked for made long term resource decisions that provided the members with tremendous rate and resource stability and a great path forward. I worked as a team to develop the first wind farm in Nebraska in late 2001 and was the managing agent on a 220 MW baseload plant from 2006 -2011 that is and will continue to create solid value for the agencies that are part of the project. I hope to leave a legacy of passion for my results and doing what is best for our public power owners for the long term.

What makes a successful leader in public power?

Direct engagement in the challenges that your utility is involved in is critical. This also means being accessible and approachable by anyone of the communities that you serve. It is important to be accessible to your employees at any time and understand what makes the people in your leadership passionate about carrying out a shared vision. Different people are motivated by different stimulus. It is key to be able to understand what motivates them and act on that. It is also important that a public power leader remains flexible to be able to adapt to changes, no matter where they come from.

What is some advice that helped to shape your leadership style and what advice do you have for public power leaders today?

My parents were lay people that worked very hard to raise a large family. They taught me that working hard every day would help me reach my goals. Some of my earliest supervisors encouraged me to work in as many different disciplines as possible at a young age to help me get a good feel for what the other department opportunities and challenges were and how the area that I worked in could assist them in their duties and vice versa. Management silos don't produce the best overall results. As a senior director at two different joint action agencies since 1992, it assisted me in being able to act quickly when a challenge came to one of those areas that I had prior experience with.

For tomorrow's leaders, I would encourage them to be accessible (to your employees and your customers), be passionate about your role and your utility and seek to learn as much about the entire energy cycle as you can to help manage the challenges that others don't see coming. Stay flexible.

Contact Information for Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA)

Address: 3400 Confer Drive, Springfield, IL 62711

Phone: 217-789-4632

Email: imea@imea.org

Website: <https://www.imea.org/>

Join Us for the 2026 Hometown Connections Annual Gathering

Don't miss the opportunity to connect with industry leaders and peers at the Hometown Connections **HCI Annual Gathering, April 8-9, 2026, Residence Inn by Marriott Denver City Center, Denver, CO**. This year's event features an engaging agenda designed to tackle the most pressing issues in public power, including sessions on the "State of the Industry" and the "Changing Role of the Joint Action Agency". A primary focus of this year's gathering is our affiliate membership, ensuring our partners have a dedicated platform to collaborate on strategic leadership, cybersecurity, and community-centric utility management. We are honored to announce that our keynote speaker will be Scott Corwin, CEO of the American Public Power Association (APPA).

The gathering kicks off with a welcome reception on Wednesday evening, followed by a full day of collaborative discussions and expert presentations on Thursday. Highlights include a deep dive into the 2026 Public Power Strategic Survey results and interactive workshops focused on the Hometown Connections strategic roadmap. Whether you are looking to enhance your utility's marketing efforts or navigate the complexities of modern energy markets, this event provides the tools and connections necessary to drive your organization forward.

TO REGISTER:

Contact Annette at acdupont-ewing@hometownconnections.com or call 502-395-0082.

We look forward to seeing you in Denver!

Upcoming 2026 Conferences

- Mar 13-14** **FMEA Annual Florida Lineman Competition, Tallahassee, FL**
<https://www.flpublicpower.com/events/fmea-2026-florida-lineman-competition>
- Mar 18-19** **Nebraska Municipal Power Pool Energy Annual Conference, Lincoln, NE**
<https://www.nmppenergy.org/annual-conference-2026>
- Mar 27-28** **APPA Lineworkers Rodeo, Huntsville, AL**
<https://www.publicpower.org/event/lineworkers-rodeo>
- Mar 29-Apr 1** **APPA Engineering & Operations Conference, Huntsville, AL**
<https://www.publicpower.org/event/engineering-operations-conference>
- Mar 29-Apr 1** **APPA Safety Summit, Huntsville, AL**
<https://www.publicpower.org/event/safety-summit>
- Apr 1-2** **Northwest Energy Systems Symposium, Seattle WA**
<https://nwess.ece.uw.edu/>
- Apr 2-4** **Indian Municipal Power Agency, Noblesville, IN**
Call IMPA directly at (317) 573-9955.
- Apr 8-9** **Hometown Connections Inc Annual Gathering, Denver, CO**
Registration Site Forthcoming
- Apr 12-14** **APPA CEO & Utility Managers Roundtable, Terranea Resort, CA**
<https://www.publicpower.org/event/ceo-roundtable>
- Apr 13-16** **NPPA Engineering & Operations Conference, Portland, OR**
<https://www.nwppa.org/training-and-education/conferences/eo/>
- Apr 14-15** **Smart City Expo USA, West Palm Beach, FL**
<https://tomorrowcity.us/>
- Apr 14-15** **Energy Bar Association (EBA) Annual Meeting & Conference, Washington, DC.**
<https://www.eba-net.org/event/2026-eba-annual-conference/>
- Apr 14-16** **2026 Innovate Utility CX (IUCX) Conference, Tampa, FL**
<https://www.iucx.org/conference-2026>
- Apr 21-22** **AMP Technical Services Conference, Westerville, OH**
<https://www.amppartners.org/services/engineering-and-technical-services/technical-services-conference/>

To have your conference listed, please send information to acdupont-ewing@hometownconnections.com

Upcoming 2026 Conferences (continued)

- Apr 21-22** **APPA Accounting & Financial Virtual Summit (*virtual event*)**
<https://www.publicpower.org/event/accounting-finance-summit>
- April 26-28** **Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma Public Power Conference, Tulsa, OK**
<https://meso.starchapter.com/meetinginfo.php?id=24&ts=1771610333>
- May 4-8** **APPA Spring Education Institute, San Antonio, TX**
<https://www.publicpower.org/event/education-institute>
- May 6-7** **FMEA Hurricane & Storm Preparedness Forum, Saint Augustine, FL**
<https://www.flpublicpower.com/events/fmea-2026-hurricane-and-storm-preparedness-forum>
- May 6-7** **Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) Annual Meeting, Sioux Falls, SD**
<https://www.mrenergy.com/event/mres-annual-meeting-3/2026-05-06>
- May 11-13** **PLMA Spring Conference, Indianapolis, IN**
<https://flexload.org/conference/spring-2026-plma-conference/>
- May 18-21** **Northwest Public Power Association Annual Conference, Spokane, WA**
<https://www.nwppa.org/conferences/annual-conference-and-membership-meeting/>
- June 1-3** **Energy Southeast (SEEA) Annual Member Meeting, Reston, VA**
<https://www.seealliance.org/event/2026-annual-member-meeting/>
- June 1-4** **CleanPower 2026 Conference, Houston, TX**
<https://cleanpower.org/expo/>
- June 7-9** **Palmetto Power Cities Annual Meeting, Hilton Head, SC**
<https://www.masc.sc/event/palmetto-power-cities-annual-meeting>
- June 16-17** **NPPA Accounting & Finance Conference, Missoula, MT**
<https://www.nwppa.org/conferences/accounting-finance-conference/>
- Jun 26-Jul1** **American Public Power Association National Conference, Boston, MA**
<https://www.publicpower.org/national-conference>
- July 15-17** **TMEPA Annual Meeting, Knoxville, TN**
<https://tmepa.org/event/annual-meeting/>

To have your conference listed, please send information to acdupont-ewing@hometownconnections.com

Upcoming 2026 Conferences (continued)

- July 5-8** **ECA Annual Meeting and Governmental Affairs Conference, Gulf Shores, AL**
<https://www.electriccities.org/event/annual-meeting-and-governmental-affairs-conference/>
- July 14-16** **Florida Municipal Electric Association Annual Meeting, Palm Beach, FL**
<https://www.flpublicpower.com/events/fmea-2026-annual-conference>
- July 14-17** **Tennessee Municipal Electric Power Association Annual Meeting, Knoxville, TN**
TBD
- Aug 17-19** **Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association Annual Summer Conf, Saint Cloud, MN**
<https://www.mmua.org/summer-conference>
- Sept 23-25** **Northern California Power Agency Annual Conference, Olympic Valley, CA**
TBD
- Sept 29-30** **Michigan Municipal Electric Association Annual Conference, Battle Creek, MI**
Contact MMEA directly at (517) 323-8446.
- Oct 7-9** **Missouri Public Utility Alliance Annual Conference, Branson, MO**
<https://mpua.org/page/annualconference>
- Oct 12 -14** **AMP Annual Conference, Columbus, OH**
<https://www.amppartners.org/services/annual-conference/>
- Oct 19-21** **Electric Cities of Alabama Engineering & Operations Conference, Birmingham, AL**
<https://www.electriccities.org/event/engineering-and-operations-conference/>
- Oct 20-22** **TMEPA Fall Engineering & Operations Conference, Nashville, TN**
TBD
- Oct 25-28** **APPA Customer Connections Conference, Nashville, TN**
<https://www.publicpower.org/event/customer-connections-conference>
- Nov 3-4** **FMEA Energy Connections Conference & Trade Show, Tampa, FL**
<https://www.flpublicpower.com/events/fmea-2026-energy-connections-conference-and-trade-show>
- Nov 8-11** **NARUC Annual Meeting & Education Conference, Puerto Rico**
<https://www.naruc.org/events/all-events/2026-naruc-annual-meeting-and-education-conference/>

To have your conference listed, please send information to acdupont-ewing@hometownconnections.com

STOP FIGHTING SPREADSHEETS.

**START PREDICTING YOUR
FUTURE!**



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HCI Blog

HCI Blog: A Platform for Collaboration and Innovation

<https://blog.hometownconnections.com/>

HCI warmly invites all its Partners and Affiliates to actively contribute to the blog. Whether it's sharing a recent project, providing commentary on industry trends, or offering advice based on your experiences, your input is highly valued. This collaborative effort will not only highlight the incredible work being accomplished across the network but also provide a valuable resource for continuous learning and development.

How to Contribute

Contributing to the HCI blog is straightforward. Interested Partners and Affiliates need to follow these simple steps:

- **Write your article:** Focus on topics that you are enthusiastic about and that would benefit the HCI community or public power in general.
- **Submit your article:** Send your completed article to acdupont-ewing@hometownconnections.com.



Want to
STAND OUT
in a Crowd?

Advertise on the HCI Blog and/or in the HCI Newsletter!

Reach a targeted and engaged audience by advertising in our professionally rebranded newsletter, distributed by HCI Affiliate members (Joint Action Agencies) to their utility customers. This is a fantastic opportunity to promote your company and services directly to decision-makers and create business opportunities across multiple communities.

Space is limited, so reserve your spot today and get your business in front of the right audience.



Hometown Connections, Inc. is a national, non-profit utility services organization specializing in the unique challenges facing community-owned utilities. For more than 25 years, HCI has helped municipal systems transform their processes and systems by facilitating access to industry-leading technology, services, and consulting.

Owners

- American Municipal Power, Inc.
- Energy Southeast
- Missouri Public Utility Alliance
- Northern California Power Agency
- Vermont Public Power Supply Authority

Marketing Affiliates

- Energy Northwest
- Florida Municipal Electric Association
- Illinois Municipal Electric Agency
- Indiana Municipal Utilities Agency
- Michigan Municipal Electric Association
- Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association
- Missouri River Energy Services
- Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma
- Nebraska Municipal Power Pool
- Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency
- Tennessee Municipal Electric Power Association
- Texas Public Power Association

Sales Affiliates

- American Municipal Power, Inc.
- ElectriCities of North Carolina
- Energy Southeast
- Indiana Municipal Power Agency
- Missouri Public Utility Alliance
- Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority
- Piedmont Municipal Power Agency

Partners

- Acumen
- DivDat
- Energy Southeast, A Cooperative District
- Exacter
- Great Blue
- Hometown Connections
- Katama Technologies, Inc.
- Leverage Leadership
- Marsh USA
- MFP Connect
- PowerSecure
- Quanam
- Questline Digital
- SpryPoint
- Stem
- The Energy Authority
- Utility Financial Solutions

HCI Board of Directors:

- Branndon Kelley, Chair
- Ken Nolan, Vice Chair
- Jeff Haas, Treasurer
- Jeff Haas, Secretary
- Randy S. Howard, Board Member
- Steve Stodden, Board Member

HCI Team

- Marc Gerken, P.E., President and CEO
- Nilaksh Kothari, P.E., Executive Consultant
- Mark McCain, Exec. Consultant for Strategic Planning
- Annette DuPont-Ewing, Director of Marketing
- Mike Mozingo, Director of Affiliate Relationships