



AGENDA

Energy Conference 2025

The Pursuit of Clean, Reliable, and Affordable Energy: Can We Just Have It All?

February 6-7, 2025
Carneros Hotel, Napa

We want it all in California, and our energy system is no exception. We want it:

- *Clean...so long as only certain types of projects go in certain places*
- *Reliable...and even minimal disruptions won't be tolerated*
- *Affordable...but only in the context of "clean" and "reliable"*

And as we pursue these important and, at times, conflicting priorities, there is a growing realization that we are both 1) behind schedule on building the infrastructure needed to make it happen and 2) failing to manage still-rising energy costs.

Our 2025 Energy Conference will offer a solutions-oriented dialogue to help California guide its expansive energy agenda and deliver deep carbonization that sustains our standards of living while endeavoring to keep energy affordable.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6**Napa Hall**

11:30 – 12:45pm	Arrival – Check-In and Lunch – Carneros Courtyard
12:45 – 1:00pm	Welcome – Conference Overview and Roundtable Introductions

Preview of conference topics, speakers, and goals

Jay Hansen, President & CEO, CFEE

1:00 – 2:15pm	<u>Session 1</u> Change Doesn't Come Easy...Reality Check on Our Energy Transition
---------------	---

As California decarbonizes and electrifies its energy system, there are big changes afoot as we transition from one energy paradigm to the next. This panel will explore how traditional energy sectors (i.e. oil & gas) are evolving in response to various policy and commercial trends while examining how emerging markets are still finding their bearings (i.e. green hydrogen, carbon capture, advanced nuclear, etc.). We will discuss what more can be done to manage what could be a very bumpy transition if we are not careful.

- What is the projected demand for California's future energy needs? Are there areas of demand uncertainty that may significantly underrepresent the projected demand?
- What are the different technologies that will be needed to service this demand?
- How is the oil & gas market changing in California? How are different segments – from exploration and production to refining and retail sales – responding to policy and market signals?
- Is California adequately coordinating with the oil & gas industry to ensure its continued presence in the state while fossil fuels are still needed to power homes, businesses, and vehicles? How?
- What about the still-maturing "clean firm power" sector? What is it, why do we need it, and have we sufficiently laid the groundwork for its development?
- How can the early stages of the green hydrogen market be further encouraged? Will the \$1.2 billion from the federal government be enough to jumpstart it? What other models can support hydrogen market development? Are the current use cases all realistic and at what scale? What are the cost differentials that need to be closed?

Armond Cohen, Executive Director, Clean Air Task Force

Mark Nechodom, Director of Science and Technology, Western States Petroleum Association

Angelina Galiteva, CEO, ARCHES

2:15 – 2:30pm	Break
2:30 – 4:00pm	<u>Session 2</u> What's Behind Our Rising Utility Bills? How Can We Reign It In?

Californians are feeling the pinch of rising energy costs on their utility bills. Since 2014, some investor-owned utility (IOU) customers have seen average price increases up to 127 percent(!) – an upward trend that has been experienced by non-IOU customers as well. What factors are increasing prices, and what more can be done to improve energy affordability?

- How are electricity rates structured?
- How do rates differ depending on where you live?
- What costs are passed on to ratepayers that are unrelated to the cost of providing energy?
- Are there obsolete or redundant ratepayer-funded programs that we can eliminate or significantly scale back? How much would rates decrease if electricity bills were restructured in this fashion?
- How are investments in wildfire resiliency causing price increases? Who is paying for it? Is there any relief in sight to these wildfire-related costs?
- What are the cost differentials between different types of energy technologies? How do these costs differences manifest in energy bills?
- Several reports have identified rooftop solar incentives as one of the causes of price increases in utility bills – is there a way to leverage distributed solar in a way that aligns with grid needs and affordability considerations?
- How can energy efficiency and flexibility help to alleviate the energy cost burden?
- How can rethinking funding sources and embracing new financing models curb some of these costs?

Matt Baker, Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission

Matthew Freedman, Staff Attorney, The Utility Reform Network

Merrian Borgeson, California Director, Climate & Energy, Natural Resources Defense Council

Dan Skopec, Senior VP, State Gov't Affairs & Chief Regulatory Officer, SDG&E and SoCalGas

4:00 – 4:15pm	Break
---------------	-------

4:15-5:30pm

Session 3

Where Things Stand – Climate Change and California's Policy Response

This panel will first provide the latest, sobering fundamentals of climate change and detail its current impacts on global ocean, air, and land systems. With this in mind, we will delve into how California is designing its climate mitigation and adaptation policies.

The Data

- Climate scientists have determined that the combustion of fossil fuels by humans is causing global climate change – what data revealed this connection? What caused global warming and cooling pre-human industrialization?
- What is similar about our current cycle of climate change to past ones? What is different?
- How do current temperatures and carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere and oceans compare to historical records?
- What is the impact on oceanic circulatory patterns, and why does it matter?
- Why do weather events become more extreme as climate change intensifies?
- How would our climate be affected if California zeroed out its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions tomorrow? What would happen if the entire world did so?

Bill Collins, Lead and Coordinating Lead Author of the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Professor in Residence, Earth and Planetary Science, UC Berkeley (15 min)

The Policy

- What are California's key goals as it relates to reducing our GHG emissions? What are the landmark policies designed to get us there?
- How successful have we been at achieving past GHG reduction targets?
- Are we on track to reach future GHG reduction goals?
- How can we best share our technologies and policies to extend the benefit and better justify the extra cost to ratepayers and the public?
- What are some examples of California policies and tech influencing national and international policy?
- What policies and technologies are *not* being pursued by California as part of our climate/energy efforts?
- What about adaptation? Given the rapid changes we are seeing in the climate, are we investing enough to adapt our infrastructure and systems?
- How should California set policy with the Trump Administration underway?

Severin Borenstein, Professor and Researcher, Energy Institute at Haas, UC Berkeley and Member, CAISO Board of Governors (15 min)

6:00pm

Reception & Dinner – Carneros Courtyard

Our fabulous reception will begin at 6:00pm with dinner to follow. We will be dining alfresco under a tent. It will be chilly outside, please dress accordingly.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7**Napa Hall**

7:30 – 8:45am	Breakfast – Farm Dining Room
8:45 – 10:30am	<u>Session 4</u> Building the Transmission, Generation, and Storage We Need – What Will It Take?

While California has committed itself to a massive buildout of clean energy infrastructure, we are not yet building at the pace needed to meet those targets. What are some of the key snags in siting, permitting, and coordinating new transmission, generation, and storage projects? And what more can be done to accelerate deployment while addressing community concerns?

- How far behind are we in building the generation and storage projects we need? What will it take to move more quickly?
- What goes into developing an energy project in California? What are the different steps in the process and which ones are particularly prone to delay?
- As California simultaneously pursues an agenda to conserve more land, how is this affecting where energy projects can be sited in the state?
- It is estimated that we must triple our transmission capacity by 2050 to enable the influx of new energy facilities – how are the state and key stakeholders working to accelerate grid expansion? What more can be done?
- What about creating a more regionalized market as a means to augment our electricity system? What is the Pathways Initiative, and how does it sidestep the pitfalls that doomed previous attempts to further regionalize California's power system?
- What are some of the leading concerns from local governments and communities about new projects in their proverbial backyard? How can state agencies and project developers better assuage their concerns about safety – particularly fire concerns – as well as equity and other local impacts?

Gabriel Yamal, Executive Vice President, EDP Renewables

Elliot Mainzer, CEO, CAISO

Marc Joseph, Counsel, Coalition of California Utility Employees and the State Association of Electrical Workers

Leticia Perez, Supervisor, Kern County

Catherine Freeman, Senior Legislative Advocate, California State Association of Counties

10:30 – 10:45am	Break
------------------------	-------

10:45 – 12:00pm

Session 5**Cap-and-Trade: Should It Be Extended? If So, What Should It Look Like?**

California's cap-and-trade program, a cornerstone of the state's climate policy, is authorized through 2030. Several years ahead of its expiration, state leaders are already preparing to decide on whether to extend it. Should California reauthorize cap-and-trade? If so, what tweaks should be made, and how should program revenues be spent?

- How does cap-and-trade work, and who is regulated under the program?
- Has it been successful in reducing carbon emissions?
- What's at stake? What are the potential outcomes if cap-and-trade is not reauthorized?
- Cap-and-trade generates approximately \$4 billion/year in revenues that California can spend on other climate priorities – how has this so-called Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF) been spent in the past? How might it be spent in the future to offset rising energy costs, particularly for low and middle income households?
- How have environmental justice concerns been positively and negatively affected by the program?

Steve Cliff, Executive Officer, California Air Resources Board

Bruno Salomon, Plant Director, National Cement

Catherine Garoupa, Executive Director, Central Valley Air Quality Coalition

Katelyn Roedner Sutter, California State Director, Environmental Defense Fund

12:00pm

Closing Remarks and Adjournment