

AI and the Grid

The rising tide of new applications and demands

October 6-8, 2025

Monterey Conference Center

Monterey, CA

Grid *FWD*
2025

Program

Presented by:  **GridForward**

Key Sponsors



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AI and the Grid Converge at

GridFWD 2025

AI holds the **promise** to vastly improve how we plan and operate the grid. Its spiraling hunger for power creates **peril** for maintaining reliable, affordable energy. GridFWD 2025 gathers experts from across the AI and grid ecosystems to examine the rising tide of new AI applications and demands. Here are **eight reasons** why you should register now for this event. [Register now](#)

Interact with top-tier speakers and discussion leaders to see how AI delivers value today and where it's headed for utilities and grid customers.

See AI for the grid in action in detailed case study sessions and informal demos in the **Innovation Pavilion**.

Ask questions, share ideas and find best practices in small-group huddle discussions.

Varied, interactive formats maximize what you learn, how you share and who you meet.

See the best new AI apps for the grid as emerging companies vie to win the Grid Innovation Pitch Competition.

Tour NVIDIA or Microsoft facilities for a briefing on how they see AI and the grid evolving.

Make valuable new connections through fun sponsored activities around the city, built right into the agenda.

Get inspired by AI and Monterey. Experience where grid tech is headed in a memorable California coastal community.



GridFWD 2025 Agenda at a Glance

Two incredibly valuable days of learning, sharing and connecting at the inviting Monterey Conference Center.

Monday October 6		
1 – 3 PM	NVIDIA facility tour	Microsoft facility tour
3 PM	Shuttles from facility tours to Monterey	
4 PM	Registration Opens	
Tuesday October 7		
7 AM	Registration and light breakfast	
8 – 9:15AM	Opening plenary	
9:30 – 11:20 AM	Four (4) conference sessions	Four (4) case study sessions
11:30 AM – noon	Six (6) small-group huddle discussions	
12:10 – 1PM	Networking lunch	Grid Innovation Pitch Competition Round 1
1 – 2:30 PM	Conference Connectors: Sponsored activities around Monterey	
2:30 – 3:20 PM	Two (2) conference sessions	Innovation Pavilion: Live demos with tech providers
3:30 – 4 PM	Six (6) small-group huddle discussions	
4 – 4:30 PM	Closing plenary	
5 – 7:30 PM	Networking reception at the Barns at Cooper Molera	
Wednesday October 8		
7:30 AM	Light breakfast and networking	
8 – 8:30 AM	Opening plenary	
8:30 – 10 AM	Two (2) conference sessions	Innovation Pavilion: Live demos with utilities
10 – 10:30 AM	Six (6) small-group huddle discussions	
10:30 AM – noon	Conference Connectors: Sponsored activities around Monterey	
Noon – 1PM	Networking lunch	Grid Innovation Pitch Competition Final Round
1 – 2:50 PM	Four (4) conference sessions	Four (4) case study sessions
3 – 3:30 PM	Conference closing plenary session	

■ Plenary and Conference
■ Case Studies
■ Huddles
■ Pitch Competition
■ Innovation Pavillion



"AI will play a transformative role in modernizing the electric grid by enabling smarter, more efficient, and resilient energy systems. GridFWD 2025 will be a key gathering for industry leaders to explore and tackle the pressing challenges and opportunities that AI brings to grid innovation. The event will foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing to drive the future of energy forward." **Marc Spieler, Sr. Managing Director - Energy, NVIDIA**

Preliminary list of speakers and discussion leaders

Here are some of the confirmed speakers of the over 100 AI, data center and grid experts you can interact with at GridFWD 2025.



Ankush Agarwal
Director of Innovation,
Technology and R&D,
Exelon



Kaitlyn Albertoli
CEO and Co-founder,
Buzz Solutions



Maeve Allsup
Reporter, Latitude Media



Aaron Bloom
NRG



Alex Brotherston
Principal Engineer, Grid
Modernization Strategy,
PSE



Ian Fitzgerald
Chelan PUD



Brian Fitzsimons
CEO, GridUnity



Colin Gibbs
VP of Energy Services,
Sense



Jason Glickman
EVP Engineering,
Planning & Strategy,
PG&E



Hanna Grene
Global Power and
Utilities Leader,
Microsoft



Brian Janous
Co-Founder, Cloverleaf
Infrastructure



Haresh Kamath
Director Cross-Cutting
Technologies &
Solutions, EPRIG



Dak Liyanearachchi
EVP, Chief Technology
Officer, NRG



Varun Mehra
Technical Lead,
Google



Indu Nambiar
Principal, IT
Architecture, CAISO



Janisse Quiñones
CEO and Chief Engineer,
LADWP



Fiona Spruill
CEO, Overstory



Jim Taylor
VP Energy Solutions,
Siemens



Josh Wong
CEO, ThinkLabs AI



Ahsan Yousufzai
Global Director Energy
Surface, NVIDIA

Help define the direction of AI and the grid

At GridFWD 2025, all members of the grid ecosystem will come together to explore the potential and pitfalls of the joint evolution of AI and the grid.

• **Utility and energy executives** - Learn and share AI use cases for planning, building and managing resilient, flexible and sustainable energy systems.

• **AI and data center leaders** - Collaborate with AI and utility experts on defining grid apps and meeting energy demand.

• **Regulators and government officer** - Help to advance regulations and policies to meet evolving expectations of communities and the industry.

• **Solution providers** - Join customers and other stakeholders as we take steps to advance AI and the grid together.

• **NGOs and advocates** - Learn where AI is really making an impact, and help build the roadmap to an AI-enhanced grid.

October 7 main conference sessions and speakers

Check out the confirmed titles and participants for day 1 - more experts to come.

Tuesday, October 7	
8:00 AM	Opening plenary with guest TBD • Bryce Yonker, Grid Forward • NVIDIA with guests TBA
9:30 AM	Using AI to unlock grid flexibility and capacity • Jim Taylor, Siemens • Varun Mehra, Google • Indu Nambiar, CAISO • Stephon McCoy, Utilidata • Jim Ogle, PNNL
	Eyes wide open: Risks, rewards, and restructuring process and people • Norma Grubb, LADWP • Hanna Grene, Microsoft • John Janney, SCE • Matt Piper, Esri
10:30 AM	Architecting the future: Getting data right for a strong foundation • Robin Lanier, Southern Company • Haresh Kamath, EPRI • Ahsan Yousufzai, NVIDIA • Josh Wong, ThinkLabs AI
	Using AI to predict and optimize grid maintenance • Adam Brown, Engineered Intelligence • Mishal Thadani, Rhizome • GE Vernova
2:30 PM	Advanced energy demand forecasting: Leveraging AI and machine learning • Sean Kelly, Amperon • Enverus • Barina • Grant PUD • Others TBA
	Orchestrating intelligence: VPPs, AI and the customer frontline • Matt Hubbard, PGE • Jeff Bladen, Verrus • Dak Liyanearachchi, NRG • Colin Gibbs, Sense
4:00 PM	Moderated plenary: AI impacts for a resilient grid • Jason Glickman, PG&E • Bonnie Titoni, Duke Energy

Join all the speakers and attendees at our Tuesday night reception

When our first day ends, all GridFWD 2025 attendees are encouraged to walk a few blocks to our networking reception at the Barns at Cooper Molera. We'll enjoy drinks, food and great company as we wind down in this unique and historical setting right in the heart of downtown Monterey.



October 8 main conference sessions and speakers

Day 2 continues the deep dive into key topics, featuring these speakers (more to come).

Wednesday, October 8	
8:00 AM	Opening plenary: Fireside chat with CEO, LADWP • Janisse Quiñones, LADWP
9:00 AM	Optimally serving data centers: Timely and clean(er) energy • Brian Janous, Cloverleaf Infrastructure • Dado Slezak, QTS Blackstone • Matt Futch, Black & Veatch • Aaron Bloom, NextEra Energy
	Regulatory Evolution: Creating policy frameworks for AI in energy systems • Mark Kolesar, former Alberta Utilities Commission chair • Vincent Dufresne, CGI • A. J. Goulding, London Economics • Berkshire Hathaway Energy
1:00 PM	Using AI to accelerate the interconnection process • Maeve Allsup, Latitude Media • Brian Fitzsimons, GridUnity • Nadim Verani, PG&E • Deb Levine, CAISO • Joachim Seal, LVNL
	Unlocking insights of visual information with AI • Joel Berntsen, Noteworthy AI • Sonia Kastner, Pano AI • Fiona Spruill, Overstory • Kaitlyn Abertoli, Buzz Systems
2:00 PM	Strategic grid investment: Planning for growth, capacity and constraints • Rob Gramlich, Grid Strategies • Casey Cathey, SPP • NVIDIA • Hitachi
	Keeping utility service safe, reliable and affordable: AI for good • Josh Poduska, PG&E • Tricia Yamagata, Southern California Edison • Craig Connelly, POWER Engineers
3:00 PM	Closing plenary: Moving forward with AI for a modern, affordable grid • Marie Steele, NV Energy • Bryce Yonker, Grid Forward

[Register Now](#)

Grid Forward events regularly sell out.
Register today to reserve your spot.



Enter the Grid Innovation Pitch Competition

In our annual Grid Innovation Pitch Competition, emerging tech companies have five minutes to impress a panel of expert judges in front of our highly qualified audience. If you want to give your "AI and the Grid" pitch at GridFWD 2025, enter now.

- Coaching provided, must be present to participate
- Winners get exposure, networking and investment/advisory rewards
- **ENTER BY AUGUST 1**, competitors chosen by end of August

[Learn More](#)











See the leading edge of AI for the grid in action





Zero in on the Transition Today case studies

GridFWD 2025 will feature dedicated “Transition Today” case studies, presented by utilities and their tech partners, showing practical, real-world results of using AI across a wide range of challenges to the grid.

Tuesday, October 7

9:30AM	Scaling AI-powered predictive analytics to transform asset management		
9:30AM	Accelerating data center interconnection with GETS and advanced power flow controls		
10:30AM	Future-proofing the Grid: Workforce transformation for a resilient, AI-driven energy future		
10:30AM	Optimizing interconnection with AI-augmented workflow automation		

Wednesday, October 8

1:00 PM	From permit to power: Accelerating permitting and licensing with generative AI		
1:00 PM	Using AI to make the most of customer batteries		

“I come to GridFWD for the community and for the opportunity to have deep and meaningful conversations about where we are driving the business as well as the technology of our grid and our systems going forward. I get to learn from my peers, I get to see my customers and my partners, and I bring my team to GridFWD because of the value of learning and connecting that we get in this community.”

Hanna Grene, Global Operations & GTM Leader, Energy & Resources Industry, Microsoft



Drop in on first-hand AI demos at the Innovation Pavilion

To cut through all the hype around AI, we're creating a space where attendees can see a wide range of real applications in a relaxed, up-close environment. In the GridFWD 2025 Innovation Pavilion, utilities and providers alike will be ready to show you their AI apps in action through short demos and informal small-group Q&As.

Grid Forward is actively recruiting utility teams and AI solution providers for the Innovation Pavilion. If you have an AI app you can share with our event attendees, please contact our team.

- Utility teams: [Kaitlyn Albertoli](#)
- AI solution providers: [Ryan Fedie](#)

UTILITIES



TECH PROVIDERS



"We're using AI to give utilities new capabilities to operate a clean, modern, and reliable grid that will better serve the people and businesses connected to it. At GridFWD 2025, the industry can come together to recognize its potential as well as its limitations and ensure there are proper checkpoints." **Marissa Hummon, CTO, Utilidata**

Bring your ideas and questions to the interactive huddle discussions

GridFWD 2025 small-group huddle discussions are facilitated by topic experts but designed to make it easy to get to your most important questions. We're planning on 15 huddles to give you plenty of opportunity to jump in! Here are the first confirmed huddles and some organizations leading the discussion.

Humans in the Loop: making AI more accessible to the workforce

Industry collaboration to build trust in and accelerate use of AI

Unradical transparency: bringing the customer along on the AI journey

Streamline regulation: making regulatory processes routine and scalable

AI for Asset Health: Rethinking reliability at the grid edge

Managing change as AI enters the control room

AI and the dynamic operating envelope for flexible interconnection permitting

Evolving cybersecurity risks in the age of emerging AI

Advanced planning using AI applications to support AI load growth

How better data can improve the speed and quality of AI apps



Some of the organizations leading GridFWD 2025 huddles



Tour nearby Microsoft and NVIDIA AI facilities

GridFWD 2025 attendees have the opportunity to visit Microsoft and NVIDIA facilities in Silicon Valley and hear directly about their AI work. Tours start at 1PM on Monday, October 6. Afterwards, a shuttle bus will transport them to Monterey. **Spots on the tours are available on a first-come limited basis, so complete your registration soon.**



Get together with GridFWD attendees, Monterey-style

One hallmark of GridFWD events is unique and region-specific activities arranged by Grid Forward.

They are scheduled before and during the event, so it's easy for you to join in the fun and camaraderie with the sponsors and attendees. Below are the kinds of adventures that you will have a chance to sign up for (on a first-come, first-served basis).

- 1 Learn Monterey's natural history and wildlife along the recreation trail.

Sponsors:



One sponsor slot available

- 2 Join the group for a guided bike ride along the coastline. Sponsor:



- 3 Guided kayaking among the bay and mellow coastal waters. Sponsors:



One sponsor slot available

- 4 Grab three of your new associates and take a leisurely tour of the waterfront in a surrey. Sponsors:



- 5 Join a naturalist on a shuttle tour of the fabled 17-Mile Drive. Sponsors:



Register now

Get your tickets early to ensure your spot in your chosen activity.



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An invigorating event setting close to a nexus of AI and grid tech innovation

GridFWD 2025 will be hosted at the Monterey Conference Center in downtown Monterey, just 90 minutes from Silicon Valley. This modern facility is connected to the Monterey Marriott and the Portola Hotel & Spa, with other hotels within blocks. Attendees can walk to the waterfront Fisherman's Wharf and dozens of attractions and restaurants.

The Monterey Marriott: Grid Forward has a discounted room block at the Marriott, our event hotel. [Click here to reserve your room](#) quickly as they are in high demand.

San Jose Airport: 74 mile drive, [Groome Shuttle](#) is a convenient choice.

Monterey Airport: 4 mile drive, use taxi or car sharing services.

Tour Shuttles: After the Microsoft and NVIDIA tours on Monday October 6, we will have shuttles available to the Monterey Conference Center leaving around 3PM.

Weather: October is a great time to visit Monterey, with days in the low 70's and nights in the 50's and very little rain.

Monterey and so much more

Enjoy all of California's central coast. In addition to the charming town, take in the famous aquarium, nearby world-class golf courses, spas, wineries, and the majesty of Big Sur and other nearby natural attractions.



Meet the GridFWD 2025 sponsors

We thank these organizations who are providing the expertise and backing to make this event possible. Come to Monterey to see what they have to offer!

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Why take part in GridFWD 2025?



Check out the GridFWD 2025 landing page for more information

Register now to reserve your ticket: GridFWD events regularly sell out.

The time is now

AI is making huge strides in how we plan and manage our electrical grid, even as it threatens to drive up loads across the continent.

Deep-dive small-group discussions enhance knowledge and connections.

The place is here

GridFWD events are renowned for gathering the most informative topics, presenters and discussions on grid modernization and innovation.

Enjoy unique and rewarding networking opportunities.

Collaborate with peers

Pinpoint uses cases that make a difference now, and which ones have the best future potential.

Support a revitalizing community gathering in an inspiring ocean-side locale.

Grid Forward is a 501(c)(6) non-profit, member-driven trade association dedicated to promoting and accelerating innovation on the regional electric system. We deliver community, expertise and resources for leaders who are working to modernize the grid. Learn more and become a member at GridForward.org.