We host over 100 programs a year, from small-sized executive forums to large-sized industry conferences; from one-day meetings to five-day schools. Each year, our programs bring together over 5,300 energy professionals. Simply put, we offer something for everyone in the electric and natural gas utility industries. Each of our programs fall into one of the following four categories.

**WEI PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

**2020 AT A GLANCE: BY THE NUMBERS**

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- **Executive Forums, 28%**
  Peer-to-peer sharing around specific functional areas.
  Open to leaders at Member energy companies who work in the forum’s functional area.

- **Executive Leadership Summits, 8%**
  Strategic executive-level programs and development opportunities for Member energy and service companies.

- **Skills Development, 48%**
  Hands-on training workshops and schools to teach essential skills.
  Open to energy and service companies.

- **Industry Forums, 17%**
  Peer-to-peer sharing around broad functional areas.
  Open to energy and service companies.

- **+100 Annual WEI Programs**
- **+6,300 Program Participants**
- **+107,000 Total Instructional Hours**
- **+45 Unique Programs**

2020 Finalist: Lineman Shot 3, Staff Photographer, Ampjack Industries Ltd.
SCHEDULED PROGRAMS

Don’t see what you’re looking for? WEI programs are scheduled continually throughout the year and additional program dates and locations are announced regularly. Please visit westernenergy.org/programs for the most up-to-date listing.

September 30 | Virtual
General Counsel
Contact: Amy Nye
nye@westernenergy.org

October 6-7 | Virtual
Operations Business Strategies
Contact: Jessica Grant
grant@westernenergy.org

October 7 | Virtual
WRMAA Annual Meeting
Contact: Beverly Woolf
woolf@westernenergy.org

October 18-20 | Virtual
Overhead Underground Electric Distribution
Contact: Traci Pepper
pepper@westernenergy.org

October 19 | Virtual
Hydrogen Engineers
Contact: Marco Henkel
henkel@westernenergy.org

October 26-27 | Virtual
Women in Leadership: Excellence
Contact: Diana Zoren
zoren@westernenergy.org

October 27-28 | Virtual
Human Resources
Contact: Jessica Grant
grant@westernenergy.org

November 2-3 | Virtual
Women in Leadership: Brilliance
Contact: Beverly Woolf
woolf@westernenergy.org

November 3-5 | Virtual
Women in Energy Symposium
Contact: Beverly Woolf
woolf@westernenergy.org

November 3 | Virtual
Key Accounts
Contact: Marco Henkel
henkel@westernenergy.org

November 16-17 | Virtual
Integrated Resource Planning
Contact: Marco Henkel
henkel@westernenergy.org

November 15-16 | Phoenix, AZ
Renewable Gases
Contact: Kris Taylor
taylor@westernenergy.org

November 17-19 | Phoenix, AZ
Energy Management
Contact: Kris Taylor
taylor@westernenergy.org

January 30-31 | Newport Beach, CA
Board of Directors
Contact: Anna Sanger Reed
sangerreed@westernenergy.org

February 9 | Virtual
Customer + Corporate Symposium
Contact: Amy Nye
nye@westernenergy.org

March 7-9 | San Diego, CA
Customer + Corporate Symposium
Contact: Amy Nye
nye@westernenergy.org

March 9-10 | San Diego, CA
Customer Connections
Contact: Beverly Woolf
woolf@westernenergy.org

March 23 | Virtual
Operations Conference
Contact: Beverly Woolf
woolf@westernenergy.org

TBD | TBD
Chief Information Officer
Contact: Amy Nye
nye@westernenergy.org

March 28 - April 1 | Cheney, WA
37th Annual Hands on Relay School
Contact: Diana Zoren
zoren@westernenergy.org

March 30-31 | TBD
Corporate Performance Management
Contact: Christopher Lee
lee@westernenergy.org

April 5 | TBD
General Counsel
Contact: Amy Nye
nye@westernenergy.org

April 6-8 | Portland, OR
Claims + Damage Recovery
Contact: Amy Nye
nye@westernenergy.org

April 7-8 | Virtual
Integrated Resource Planning
Contact: Marco Henkel
henkel@westernenergy.org

April 9-12 | Portland, OR
Operations Conference
Contact: Beverly Woolf
woolf@westernenergy.org

TBD | TBD
Emergency Response + Assistance Practices
Contact: Marco Henkel
henkel@westernenergy.org

Aug 25-26 | TBD
Gas Utility Fundamentals + Insights
Contact: Eric Christenson
christenson@westernenergy.org

Aug 30-31 | Portland, OR
Western Utilities Financial Forum
Contact: Amy Nye
nye@westernenergy.org
For the safety of our members, WEI strongly recommends that all attendees be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before attending an in-person program. Attendees who have not been fully vaccinated may be subject to additional restrictions or requirements based on government and/or health agency recommendations as well as regional, local, or venue rules.

The safety of program attendees and WEI employees is our top priority. Therefore, attendees must agree and adhere to the following requirements prior to registering for an in-person program. If an attendee refuses to abide by these guidelines in meeting rooms or in public areas, they may be asked to leave. WEI also reserves the right to ask related questions onsite at each program. If WEI is required to limit capacity leading up to an event due to local rules or recommendations, we will consider registrations in the order in which they were received until the number is met.

WEI continues to monitor all federal level CDC and public health agency recommendations, as well as local ordinances, as a policy baseline for in-person programs. In absence of more restrictive rules set by the local government or venue, WEI requires that attendees adhere to the following:

- Attendees must STAY HOME and not attend any WEI event if they feel ill, actively experience COVID-19 symptoms, or have been exposed to someone who has tested positive or presumed to be positive with COVID-19 within 14 days prior to the event dates. Likewise, any attendee that has tested positive or was presumed to be positive within 14 days prior to the event date, must not attend. A full refund will be provided to any attendee who cancels for these reasons.
- If an attendee becomes ill, begins to experience COVID-19 symptoms, or learns they may have been exposed to someone who has tested or is presumed to be positive with COVID-19, at any time during a WEI event, we ask that they promptly dismiss themselves and notify the onsite WEI staff member via phone immediately so that proper sanitation and additional follow-up measures can be taken, as appropriate.
- Masks may be required at any given time, but fully vaccinated attendees may forego masks if they wish to do so, unless health recommendations state otherwise. WEI does not intend to require proof of vaccination status but reserves the right to do so if required by applicable local health guidance or it deems it necessary.
- All attendees are expected to follow CDC guidelines as it relates to washing their hands after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing and before eating.
- It is the attendee’s responsibility to ensure their own safety and that of others, but WEI will have spare masks, hand sanitizer, and signage with guidance reminders onsite. Steps may also include health and symptom screenings.
- Attendees should follow any social distancing guidelines in place at the time of the event based upon current guidance including the local public health guidance at the event location which WEI will provide links to in advance of registration. In doing so, everyone is asked to be respectful of the different comfort levels of other attendees regarding personal space, contact (including handshaking), or other physical interactions.
- Attendees should read and closely monitor communications from WEI as changes could occur any time including before and during the program.

While COVID-19 is top of mind, there are several other safety measures that WEI takes to keep our attendees safe. Each program will have announcements related to emergency and safety response plans appropriate to the venue. If you have any questions or concerns related to safety, please alert WEI staff immediately.
ANNUAL MEETING  
Meets annually in September

Energy company leaders are constantly facing challenges to adapt in uncharted territories, drive innovation, and collaborate toward shared solutions in the industry. This three-day event brings together the gas and electric utility executive community to encourage discussion and foster new opportunities. Attendees will learn from subject matter experts on a variety of topics such as: customer relations, global economic insights, new business models for utilities in a carbon constrained world, opportunities and challenges of big data, energy supply and demand forecasting, and visions for the utility of the future. This meeting coincides with the semi-annual WEI Board Meeting and the Business Acumen for Emerging Leaders team capstone presentations.

This program is intended for executive level leadership and emerging leaders, as well as professionals responsible for company strategy, and is open to all members.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Meets biannually in January

WEI knows the power of a strong network, and is the premier association connecting business and thought leaders from across the energy industry. This event combines a full day of panels and networking opportunities with our semi-annual WEI Board business meeting. Driven by the yearly theme, the agenda is developed by the WEI President and Board Chair to deliver provocative discussions and identifies strategic drivers that influence energy utilities in North America. Participation is restricted to current board members and special invited guests to ensure a diverse mix of industry representation and perspectives as our members build meaningful relationships that increase understanding and accelerate progress.

This program is open to current board members and by special invitation.

BUSINESS ACUMEN ALUMNI SUMMIT  
Meets annually in the fall.

The Business Acumen Alumni Summit is designed to reconnect Business Acumen for Emerging Leaders alumni. The goal of the program is for alumni to continue their development, expand their network and share stories on leadership and industry trends. It will also be an opportunity to providing input and feedback to help improve the experience for the next wave of leaders in our industry.

This program is offered once a year and is exclusive to those that have completed the Business Acumen for Emerging Leaders Program.
BUSINESS ACUMEN FOR EMERGING LEADERS
Runs February - September

An intensive training for high potential managers and supervisors through exposure to broad perspectives of the utility business, its interrelationships and successful leadership strategies. This year-long program is designed by a utility-driven Curriculum Development Team, and directed by facilitators, and executive and alumni mentors. Program sessions are hosted by member utilities and topics are presented by executives, subject matter experts and formal instructors. The first four sessions focus on leadership development, industry perspectives, customer connections, communications and strategic planning. The program concludes with a capstone project which is delivered to industry leaders at the WEI Annual Meeting. Participants build a broad peer network that continues well into their future careers.

This program is reserved for energy members and Platinum and Gold service company members. The application is available in late summer for the following year.

EXECUTIVE PLANNING COMMITTEE
Meets annually in Portland, OR the second week in May

WEI’s Executive Planning Committee (EPC) is a distinctive group of senior energy leaders who bridge the strategic vision from the WEI Board of Directors and Board Committees into WEI’s programs. The Committee meets annually to identify common issues in four groups, Customer Connections, Corporate Services, Electric Operations, and Gas Operations. A primary function of the EPC is to determine which tracks and topics will be included in two largest industry forums, WEI’s Customer + Corporate Symposium and Operations Conference, and then identify employees for leadership roles for these two events.

This program is open to Executive Planning Committee members only.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP: MENTORING + DEVELOPMENT
Runs November - September

The utility energy workforce is typically only about 25 percent women, as compared to the general population where women make up roughly half of the total workforce. Organizational efficiency is characterized by a balanced workforce both in terms of skill sets and perspectives. This mentorship program addresses some of the opportunities and challenges that women face working in the energy industry, advocates for workplace inclusion and teamwork, and discusses critical issues related to attracting and maintaining a diverse workforce. Formal opportunities for mentorship provide women in the industry with support for increased retention and satisfaction. Mentors and mentees are matched up across companies, and then connect over a ten-month period with two in-person meetings.

This program is by invitation for mentors and application for mentees.
EXECUTIVE FORUMS
Peer-to-peer sharing around specific functional areas.

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER
Meets biannually in March + September

CIOs navigate everyday challenges related to grid implementation, cybersecurity, and data integrity. In addition to the natural leadership pressures of any executive position, CIOs lead the charge for building visionary plans to embrace emerging technology, oversee policy development, and direct the implementation of information systems and processes. This biannual forum provides a unique opportunity for utility CIOs to come together in an exclusive peer-to-peer environment to network and share best practices.

Participation is restricted to Chief Information Officers or senior leaders responsible for the management of their utility’s technology and information systems at WEI member energy companies.

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS
Meets biannually in February + September

Internal and external communication professionals are essential to their organizations in developing strategic plans, managing multiple communication channels, and acting as the face of the utility in times of crisis, transformation, and increasing competition. This biannual forum provides an exclusive, collaborative space for leaders in corporate communications to discuss these challenges and exchange best practices. Participants will gain a new understanding of executive communications strategies, employee communication, branding for recruitment and onboarding, and crisis communication through interactive sessions and roundtable discussions led by WEI member energy companies.

This program is intended for corporate communications senior leaders, directors, and managers.

CORPORATE PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT
Meets biannually in March + September/October

Today’s energy businesses face increasing competition and must have a clear understanding of performance to constantly improve operational excellence and efficiency. Corporate Performance Management participants represent influential leaders in the development and implementation of performance measurement systems, tools, and approaches, as well as metric development, assessment and reporting, and sustained performance improvement. Discussions focus on promoting a scalable performance culture. Presentations typically feature case studies on subjects such as benchmarking, performance measurement, reporting strategies, business transformation, and change management.

This program is for those responsible for business transformation efforts, benchmarking strategies, corporate performance improvement initiatives, and overall company performance management and reporting.
CUSTOMER CONNECTIONS
Meets annually in the spring

Customer expectations are always changing, and utilities need to keep up with those expectations. This annual executive forum meets in person and is focused on conversation interspersed with presentations on topics which include, but aren’t limited to, call center leadership, IT strategies, and workforce solutions. The small size of this program provides a unique environment for sharing with peers and building long-term relationships. This program is intended for executive level leadership responsible for customer strategy and policy and is open to WEI member energy companies.

This program is intended for professionals responsible for customer service and customer contact programs.

ENERGY MANAGEMENT
Meets biannually in May + November.

Professionals in natural gas energy supply, transportation and storage gather for presentations and roundtable discussions focused on Western North America’s demand outlook and factors expected to influence the cost of delivering natural gas. This collaborative atmosphere, combined with the attendees’ high level of expertise, leads to complex and analytical discussions regarding long-term forecasts, international energy demand, H2/RNG/LNG updates, the price of carbon, renewable developments, electric/gas convergence issues, and the influence of storage and infrastructure projects. Open discussion and honest sharing of geographic and regulatory similarities and differences permeates the collaborative spirit of these meetings.

This program is intended for senior level management who are responsible for energy supply, storage, transportation, trading, marketing, transmission, or business development. Electric utilities with gas generation are encouraged to attend.

FACILITIES + OFFICE SAFETY
Meets annually in June

This program is intended for Facilities Directors or the top manager responsible for facilities and office space reintegration plans and re-entry planning. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, this forum will be a chance to collaborate and share information with other utilities on how they are approaching office workspace. Part of the agenda will focus on near-term issues of using physical spaces for the workforce such as work-place planning and management tools, restructuring public space, reducing, or protecting personal workspace, as well as challenges related to testing, HVAC, PPE and janitorial/food services. As we look ahead there will also be conversation around long-term strategy and planning for how utilities will balance remote work, human resources, technology, and office/facilities space needs in the next normal.

This program is intended for directors and top-level managers responsible for facilities and office re-integration plans, Directors of Safety or Emergency Management, and Facilities Directors.
EXECUTIVE FORUMS
Peer-to-peer sharing around specific functional areas.

GENERAL COUNSEL
Meets biannually in February/March + September

As the legal landscape of the utility industry continues to change in the face of decarbonization, regulatory policy, budget pressures, and risk assessment, this biannual forum provides a unique and collaborative space for utility General Counsels to share new insights and opportunities through networking and roundtable discussions. Content for this program is member-driven and topics are chosen directly by participants in advance of each meeting to ensure the relevancy and timeliness of the agenda.

Participation is restricted to General Counsels or senior leaders responsible for the management of legal functions at WEI member energy companies.

HUMAN RESOURCES
Meets biannually in May + November

This semi-annual program provides a roundtable opportunity for human resource leadership to address contemporary, strategic issues in human resource management. Regardless of company size or structure, energy industry human resource professionals face complex challenges related to recruitment and retention, employee assessment and training, succession planning and maintaining safe and compliant business practices. The program considers strategic inclusions such as collective bargaining agreements, benefits, employee diversity, performance management, compensation policies and change management.

This program is intended for senior leaders responsible for management of human resources functions at WEI energy member companies. The small size of this program encourages open discourse, problem-solving and long-term relationship building.

INTEGRATED RESOURCE PLANNING
Meets biannually in April + October/November

An integrated resource plan (IRP) is more than just a plan; it’s an involved process with multiple evaluation criteria that helps to determine both short- and long-term load growth. Planning professionals gather twice a year, both in-person and virtually, to better understand the challenges facing electric and natural gas providers in Western North America. Designed as a mix of interactive roundtable discussions and information-rich presentations, topics such as resource management, data analysis, data modeling, and stakeholder engagement are discussed.

This program is for directors, senior leaders and key organizational contributors who manage the aspects and objectives of their utility’s integrated resource plan.
KEY ACCOUNTS  
**Meets biannually in April/May + October/November**

Utilities proactively partner with industrial, commercial, and other large customers to better understand their needs, anticipate load, improve services, maintain competitive edge, and stabilize the grid in their service territory. Known as key accounts (KA), these partnerships create a unique set of challenges for the utility. Bringing together KA directors and managers to share best and practices and develop creative solutions to KA challenges. This bi-annual meeting features a keynote from the host utility, dedicated roundtable conversations, and breakout sessions designed for focused discussions between members. Overall, program content covers a wide range of topics, including alternative energy, customer communication and education, organizational approaches and metrics for managing KA departments, new customer programs and business development.

This program is for utilities and designed for key accounts directors and managers.

OPERATIONS BUSINESS STRATEGIES  
**Meets biannually in March/April + October**

Designed for electric utility executives, participants engage in best practice roundtables to address electric distribution system and substation reliability and safety. Members share benchmarking and performance study results spanning safety, workforce management, infrastructure improvements and overall performance excellence. The small size of this program provides a unique environment for collaborative thinking, open discourse and building long-term relationships.

This program is intended for senior leaders of WEI energy member companies: vice presidents, directors of electric operations and general managers responsible for maintaining system reliability. The small size of this program encourages open discourse, problem-solving and long-term relationship building.

RENEWABLE NATURAL GAS  
**Meets biannually in March/April + October**

Renewable Gases including biomethane or RNG, hydrogen and syngas present an opportunity for members to reduce the carbon intensity of the gas streams provided to their end use customers. Join utility professionals responsible for carbon reduction efforts at their company as we discuss a wide range of strategic topics from policies, regulatory framework, safety and economics to gas quality and operational issues related to these efforts.

This program is intended for professionals who are involved in Renewable Gas and Low Carbon Initiative efforts at their utility. Electric utilities with renewable gases in their low carbon initiative are encouraged to attend.
EXECUTIVE FORUMS
Peer-to-peer sharing around specific functional areas.

STRATEGIC PLANNING
Meets annually in November/December

WEI’s Strategic Planning program provides a forum for members responsible for their company’s strategic plan to come together to discuss common challenges and opportunities. Topics may include scenario planning, market research, collaborative techniques, changing business models, tools engaging leadership in strategic planning. This annual forum provides a collaborative space for members to focus on strategic issues and compare the planning processes at different companies.

This program is intended for directors or senior managers with strategic responsibilities in supply chain business functions.

SUPPLY CHAIN STRATEGIES
Meets annually in May/June

Utility supply chain needs are becoming increasingly more complex, demanding, and essential for maintaining compliance, incident preparedness and major project timelines. Focusing on the role of supply chain leadership, this forum provides an environment for strategic thinkers to discuss supply chain management responsibilities. Topics include organizational structures, use of technology, data analysis, supplier diversity, category management, vendor contract management, and workforce management.

This program meets once a year in-person and is intended for Directors or Senior Managers with strategic responsibilities.

TALENT MANAGEMENT
Meets annually in September

Energy companies face core challenges to recruit, retain, develop and train their workforce. With changing demographics and a need to identify and develop talent from within, successful organizations are careful to invest in proven development programs for individual contributors and managers. This forum brings together employee development and training experts to share case studies and proven best practices.

This program is intended for key energy company contributors who lead aspects and objectives of their company’s talent recruitment, retention, development and training.
WESTERN UTILITIES FINANCIAL FORUM
Meets annually in August

Finance leaders play a pivotal role in the strategic direction and growth of their utilities. This annual forum is a place for Chief Financial Officers, senior accountants, and finance leaders from western North American to come together to address common challenges and explore best practices in everyday obstacles ranging from financial reporting, rate design, cost management strategies, and beyond.

This program is open to both WEI energy members and non-members.

WILDFIRE PLANNING + MITIGATION
Meets annually in August

This program will bring together senior leaders responsible for wildfire planning and mitigation strategies at WEI member companies for an interactive peer to peer session. We will focus on sharing and discussing best practices around strategies for planning, operations, technology and various other tactics to mitigate and plan for wildfires.

This program is intended for directors and senior leaders responsible for their energy company’s wildfire planning and mitigation strategies.
INDUSTRY FORUMS
Peer-to-peer sharing for energy and service companies around broader functional areas.

CLAIMS + DAMAGE RECOVERY
Meets annually in April

Protecting utility assets and providing excellent customer service can be a balancing act. This annual program focuses on sharing best practices and building relationships with other leaders in claims and collection management and offers insights from guest speakers who have been expert witnesses in claims investigations. Participants will learn about and discuss issues common to Western utilities such as fire and storm recoveries, inverse condemnation, settlement and negotiations, and proper record keeping from industry professionals.

This program is open to both WEI members and non-members.

CUSTOMER + CORPORATE SYMPOSIUM
Meets annually in March

Join over 250 energy professionals to discuss the latest trends, ongoing developments, and best practices impacting the industry now and in the future. This annual event, offered in-person and virtually, brings together specialists, coordinators, supervisors, managers, and directors responsible for a variety of functional areas across corporate services and customer connections. The diverse mix of presentations, panels, roundtable discussions, and networking opportunities allow attendees to share their experiences and develop contacts within the industry. Expect to gain applicable insights on a variety of topics including customer experience; human resources; emerging technologies and services; community engagement; data and business systems; innovation; risk management; and change management.

This program is open to both WEI members and non-members and is an excellent professional development and organizational team-building opportunity.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE + ASSISTANCE PRACTICES
Meets annually in March

Emergency preparedness and business continuity planning is crucial to a timely response to business disruptions whether they are caused by weather, cyber attacks, or equipment malfunction. This forum provides an open discussion on pressing topics surrounding utility emergency planning and operations and offers leaders a platform to develop relationships and share insights that prove beneficial in an emergency.

The Emergency Response + Assistance Practices program is open to utilities and service providers.
FLEET MANAGEMENT
Meets biannually in February + August

Fleet operations and administrative functions are ever changing. Staff management, alternative fuel technology, electric vehicles and the overall role of fleet within an organization are constant challenges fleet management faces. This biannual forum provides fleet leadership professionals an opportunity to discuss best practices and share new processes and technologies. Participants will work collaboratively to select topics that are relevant to all participating organizations.

This program is intended for fleet leadership professionals.

INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM (ICS) LEADERSHIP
Meets annually, month varies

Within a utility organization, the Incident Command System (ICS) strengthens the company’s response to emergencies and can provide a solid base for managing planned events. WEI’s ICS Leadership program brings together utilities from the US and Canada to share best practices, provide practical information on ICS training and implementation, and learn of initiatives at the federal, state and local levels. This annual in-person program is open to anyone.

This program is intended for electricity and natural gas employees with responsibilities in business continuity and emergency management, business resilience, Incident Command System training, first responders, and others considering implementing ICS for their organizations.

HYDROGEN ENGINEERS
Meets biannually

Hydrogen is one of the next steps in the evolution of the energy grid in North America as we strive to decarbonize and combat climate change. This program intends to connect technical professionals within the utility industry and allow them to begin to build a network of colleagues working within this ever-changing landscape. Engineers will share their experiences and questions concerning adding hydrogen to the suite of utility renewable gases.

This program is intended for hydrogen engineers, utility business development professionals, engineering consultants, and product manufacturers.
INDUSTRY FORUMS
Peer-to-peer sharing for energy and service companies around broader functional areas.

JOINT USE CONFERENCE
Meets annually. Month varies

New technology, new regulations and an aging infrastructure continue to change the landscape of joint use. Facing new challenges and responsibilities, it becomes increasingly important for key stakeholders to foster open dialogue and collaborate to adapt to the changing environment, solve shared problems, focus on safety goals, and ensure the equitably of poles and other utility assets. This annual forum features a unique mix of presentations, dynamic power table topics, vendor displays, and networking opportunities to exchange information and best practices.

Considered the premier joint use conference, content is designed for utility, telecomm, wireless and broadband companies; as well as consultants and service companies who deal with joint use, pole ownership and attachments.

OPERATIONS CONFERENCE
Meets annually in April

The Operations Conference is WEI’s largest event. The annual in-person conference brings together hundreds energy industry professionals for three days of education and networking. There is also a virtual component which is complimentary with registration for the in-person conference. In addition to general sessions with industry leaders and keynote speakers, the Operations Conference offers fifteen tracks with breakout sessions targeted to specific operations functions. A limited number of vendor displays and sponsorship opportunities are available to WEI member service companies.

Tracks:
- Asset Management
- Damage Prevention
- Electric Distribution
- Electric Substation
- Electric Transmission
- Grid of the Future
- Grid Resilience
- Low Carbon Fuels
- Natural Gas Emergency Response + Restoration
- Natural Gas Integrity Management
- Natural Gas Operational Excellence
- Operational Leadership
- Safety + Health
- Safety Management Systems
- Workforce Development

This program is open to anyone in the energy industry.
OVERHEAD/UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION
Meets biannually in April/May + October

The technology, application, and specifications for designing, building, and maintaining overhead and underground lines are constantly evolving. This biannual forum brings together electric utility professionals to discuss current standards, materials, and maintenance for distribution operations. Attendees will be given the opportunity to submit questions and receive feedback from their peers, and will leave with practical knowledge to reduce costs and improve efficiency and safety.

This program is intended for operations and maintenance personnel, standards and design engineers, line technicians, as well as T&D supervisors, and suppliers of distribution and substation products and services.

PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT
Meets annually in September

Successful procurement management relies on a well-developed infrastructure, appropriate tactical resources, and thorough analysis. This process is multi-faceted and involves solid relationships within the utility, as well as maintaining healthy relationships with vendors to mitigate risk to the overall supply chain. This forum offers an opportunity for procurement managers and specialists to come together with industry partners and suppliers for roundtable discussions and expert presentations. Topics include KPIs, supplier relationship management, sustainability, and best practices in purchasing and contracting.

This program is intended for professionals responsible for supply chains, inventory, and purchasing.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT
Meets annually in September

WEI's Project Management Forum brings together gas and electric utility project, program and portfolio management leadership and practitioners to discuss the latest industry trends and best practices. The diverse mix of presentations, Q&A panels, roundtable discussions and networking allow attendees to share their experiences and develop contacts between professionals with similar roles throughout the utility industry. Expect to gain applicable insights on methodologies, techniques, tools, change management, and risk management best practices related to project management. There will be three foci for the breakout rooms: PMO Leadership, Construction, and IT. This program is an excellent professional development and organizational team-building opportunity.

This program is intended for utility and contractor professionals responsible for project management office (PMO) leadership, enterprise project office leadership, portfolio management, project and program management, and consultants.
INDUSTRY FORUMS
Peer-to-peer sharing for energy and service companies around broader functional areas.

SAFETY SUMMIT
Meets annually in August/September

Safety is a paramount issue within the utility industry. Safety professionals work tirelessly to manage risk, avoid incidents and ensure safety through a variety of programs and initiatives geared toward employees and consumers. This summit is designed for gas and electric utility safety professionals, and spans across three unique, topical tracks: Safety Strategy + Policy, Electric Safety Work Methods, and Gas Safety Work Methods. Content is designed to promote safety culture through discussions related to the education and training that can influence utility operations, as well as address some of the challenges and successes associated with developing strategy.

This program is intended for managers, supervisors, trainers, safety advocates and anyone responsible for safety work methods (gas and electric) or safety strategy and policy.

SECONDARY NETWORK
Meets annually in September

Secondary networks are vital to systems that support power needs in urban areas. These interconnected pathways improve reliability, but are also complex to inspect and maintain. This annual forum addresses the reliability, safety and protection challenges of spot networks and grid systems that comprise the secondary network. Designed as an open forum, attendees are encouraged to bring their challenges and opportunities for discussion and to share best practices. Attendees also get the opportunity to tour the local vaults of the host organization.

This program is intended for utility professionals involved with power distribution reliability planning, engineering, operation, standardization, protection and control, power quality analysis of secondary spot network and grid systems, also service company professionals who offer support to any aspect of the secondary network system are welcome to attend.

UTILITY POLE + OVERHEAD SYSTEMS
Meets biannually in September

Utility pole structures and related overhead systems provide a unique set of challenges. This biennial program offers over 14 sessions to highlight new technologies, best practices, and to address those unique challenges. This program also features over 25 vendors that offer hands-on demonstrations of the latest pole products and innovations in the industry.

This program will best serve engineers, operations, and purchasing personnel from utilities and service companies.
WESTERN REGION MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT (WRMAA) ANNUAL MEETING

Meets annually in the fall

Mutual Assistance is a key concern for all utilities. In 2003 the Western Region Mutual Assistance Agreement (WRMAA) was created and adopted by gas and electric utilities throughout Western North America to support one another in the event of emergencies affecting generation, transmission, distribution, or other business operations. Signatories meet in person annually to share best practices, discuss key emergency response issues, and elect new members of the Executive Committee and the custodian of the agreement.

This program is open to signatories of the Western Region Mutual Assistance Agreement or by invitation.

WOMEN IN ENERGY SYMPOSIUM

Meets annually in November

Celebrating how far women have come in the energy sector and addressing how far we’ve yet to go! Women are traditionally underrepresented in the energy industry. This program addresses some of the evolving opportunities and challenges that women face and advocates for workplace inclusion and teamwork across gender, racial, and generational demographics. Everyone is invited to attend the Women in Energy Symposium whether or not you identify as a woman. Women in Energy Symposium participants join together to explore areas such as leadership, education, networking and mentorship. We strive to incorporate both professional development and industry evolution on the agenda. With a growing emphasis on cross-functional teams and diverse skill sets, this program supports utility directives to build a cohesive workforce.

This program is open to anyone in all facets of the utility industry.
SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

Hands-on training schools and workshops to teach essential skills. Open to energy and service companies.

DUAL UTILITY FUNDAMENTALS
This course is customized by WEI and hosted by Members for their employees throughout the year.

Today’s utility industry employees need to understand the fundamentals of operations, customer preference, and emerging issues. WEI’s Dual Utility Fundamentals + Insights course delivers an overview of electric and natural gas systems, from generation and extraction, through transmission and transportation, and ultimately distribution to end-use customers. We also discuss emerging issues and educate employees on how utilities make money. Members have the option for this class to be delivered on-site in a one-day format at their chosen facility or virtually over two half-days.

This program will best serve organizational teams seeking to provide their employees a broad overview of the electric and gas industries, especially entry level employees and employees who work with members of the public (e.g., customer service, public policy, and communications).

ELECTRIC UTILITY FUNDAMENTALS + INSIGHTS
This course is hosted by Members for up to 30 of their employees approximately thirty-five times per year and hosted by WEI, open to all energy industry employees, four times annually.

The electric industry is changing every day and today’s challenges require employees to develop a broad understanding of how the industry operates and the interplay between business functions – truly, how the pieces fit together. Topics include:

- Fundamentals of Electricity
- Generation Choices
- How Utilities Make Money
- Western North American Transmission and Electricity Markets
- Customers + Emerging Opportunities
- Distributed Energy Resources
- Integrated Resource Planning

Class delivery is provided according to Member preference, either virtually over two half-days or through a one-day format at the host utility’s chosen location.

This program will best serve employees expanding their career opportunities, those seeking to understand how the pieces of the business fit together, newly hired managers and leaders from outside the utility industry, service providers who want to learn more about their customers, and anyone seeking to understand how the pieces of the energy business fit together.
GAS UTILITY FUNDAMENTALS + INSIGHTS
This course is hosted by Members for up to 30 of their employees approximately fifteen times per year and hosted by WEI, open to all industry employees, four times annually.

The gas industry is entering an age of transformation. Business decisions must consider political pressure and regulatory requirements, operational and asset challenges, and customer preference. WEI’s GUFI course provides Members an overview of operations from well extraction to burn tip, and regulations from PPE in the field to the regulated utility business model, and the interplay between them all. Topics include:

- Extraction + Pipelines
- Distribution Operations
- How Utilities Make Money
- Customers + Usage
- Regulations, Codes, and Safety
- Emerging Issues

Class delivery is provided according to Member preference, either virtually over two half-days or through a one-day format at the host utility’s chosen location.

This program will best serve employees expanding their career opportunities, those seeking to understand how the pieces of the business fit together, newly hired managers and leaders from outside the utility industry, service providers who want to learn more about their customers, and anyone seeking to understand how the pieces of the energy business fit together.

HANDS ON RELAY SCHOOL
Meets annually in March

A truly unique educational experience, offering students the opportunity to network with and learn from leading experts in the field of system protection to exchange ideas, resolve problems and learn preventative and corrective methods through hands-on labs. Eight tracks are available: Basic, Distribution, Transmission, Generation, Electromechanical, Automation/Integration, Computerized Relay Testing and Theory. Students also attend six hours of open classroom lectures covering system protection topics, where they can select from 12 topic choices.

This program is designed for relay technicians, electrical/power plant technicians, engineers and protective relay test specialists. The school is sponsored by Western Energy Institute. CEU credits available.
SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
Hands-on training schools and workshops to teach essential skills. Open to energy and service companies.

NORTHWEST ELECTRIC METER SCHOOL
Meets annually in August

Quality technical training spanning the basics of metering theory, AMI and high-end meter applications offering students the opportunity to network and learn from leading experts in the field of metering by developing skills, to exchange ideas, resolve problems and learn through hands-on labs. With over 66 years of operation, the school curriculum addresses the need for quality technical training with six tracks available: Single Phase Metering, Polyphase Metering, Solid State Metering, Advanced Metering + Communications, Hot Topic Roundtable/Supervisory and Substation/Generation Metering while also integrating fresh technological trends and perspectives.

This course is designed to serve metering apprentices and journeymen in the electric utility industry. Students should select their preferred track according to their level of experience. CEU credits available.

POWER QUALITY SCHOOL
Meets biannually in June + September

The complexity of the system that moves electric energy from the point of production to the point of consumption, combined with variations in weather, generation, demand and changing customer loads, provide many opportunities for the quality of the power supply to be compromised. This course provides students with the fundamental skills to facilitate, quantify, investigate, monitor and solve electrical system problems. Content is taught by industry experts through a combination of presentations, exercises and unique hands-on labs. Building these skills allow utilities and their customers to save money in avoided equipment outages and damage, costly improper solutions, damage claims and lost production. CEU credits available.

This program is designed for utility technicians, engineers and managers in the private sector to provide hands-on experience and practical information that can be applied to troubleshoot, prevent and solve power quality and reliability issues.

WEI WEBINAR SERIES
Meets multiple times throughout the year

In this constantly changing environment of the energy industry the webinar offerings provide you the opportunity to stay engaged and updated on emerging topics along with staying connected with leading industry experts. The various webinars will be a collaboration with energy and/or service company providers on a wide range of timely and relevant topics to provide value to our members.
MEET OUR ENERGY COMMUNITY

WEI represents over 80 energy members from 18 US states and 5 Canadian provinces.

Data as of April 2021. Percentages are weighted to reflect number of employees per company.