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2023 Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) Symposium Agenda

Summary

With an unprecedented commitment to climate in the state budget and an infusion of federal incentives, California is rapidly transitioning to a clean, resilient, and inclusive energy economy. As a foundation for this transition, the state is continuing its investment through EPIC – the Electric Program Investment Charge – and other innovation programs. These programs are bringing new energy products and services to market, driving technology performance and cost improvements, and expanding opportunities to all Californians.

Join us to learn how EPIC is helping catalyze California's equitable, zero-carbon, and climate-resilient energy future.

The annual EPIC Symposium brings together leading policymakers, energy researchers, and technology developers, including recipients of EPIC grants, to spotlight the latest clean energy technologies being deployed in the state. This year's virtual event offers engaging conversations with top government and private sector leaders focused on the recent state and federal investments advancing the development and deployment of new clean energy technologies. Gain insight into how these technologies rapidly expand the construction of new long-duration energy storage, improve energy efficiency in buildings, accelerate the rollout of electric vehicle infrastructure, improve grid resiliency and flexibility, and more! Speakers will also highlight how these innovations specifically benefit and uplift under-resourced communities. Energy visionaries will give a behind-the-scenes look at emerging technologies and commercialization challenges, and offer insights and strategies to overcome those barriers by using California's premier clean energy entrepreneurship ecosystem. This will be a valuable opportunity to connect with industry thought leaders, foster new partnerships, and explore future endeavors to bring critical energy technologies to market.

Participate in this year's symposium to discover how EPIC is pioneering energy innovations and forging a brighter future for California!

EPIC is funded by California utility customers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

Day 1: Tuesday - October 3, 2023	
Time	Session Title and Description
9:00 – 9:15 AM	<p>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – David Hochschild, Chair, California Energy Commission – Genevieve Shiroma, Commissioner, California Public Utilities Commission
9:15 – 10:00 AM	<p>LIVING ROOM CHAT: INVESTMENTS AT WORK: BUILDING CALIFORNIA’S CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE</p> <p>While the economic and political landscape have shifted significantly in the past year, both the State of California and the Federal Government have been able to maintain most of their unprecedented commitments to scaling the development and deployment of clean energy technologies to fight climate change. Join Chair Hochschild as he talks with top leadership about the current state of public investment in California and how key innovation initiatives such as the EPIC program are helping accelerate the transition to a safe, reliable, and affordable clean energy future.</p> <p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - David Hochschild, Chair, California Energy Commission <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eleni Kounalakis, Lieutenant Governor, State of California - Jigar Shah, Director, Loan Program Office, U.S. Department of Energy - Steven Powell, President and CEO, Southern California Edison - Josh Becker, Senator, State Senate District 13 – California State Legislature
10:00 – 10:10 AM	<p>TRANSITION – VIDEO BREAK</p> <p>Video features from EPIC grant recipients.</p>
10:10 – 11:00 AM	<p>PLENARY SESSION: CATALYZING INNOVATION THROUGH THE EPIC ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM</p> <p>Since its outset in 2012, EPIC has invested more than \$230 million in the clean energy Entrepreneurial Ecosystem. This investment has helped leverage, align, and expand California’s existing innovation networks to build a more interconnected and inclusive statewide ecosystem that more quickly brings new products to market. Companies in this portfolio have commercialized more than 70 technologies and raised more than \$10 billion in private investment. This session will highlight the different subprograms within EPIC – including CalSEED, CalTestBed, the Bringing Rapid Innovation Development to Green Energy (BRIDGE) initiative, and the Realizing Accelerated Manufacturing and Production (RAMP) initiative – that support companies with technologies at different technology readiness levels.</p>

	<p>Moderator: Alice Reynolds, President, California Public Utilities Commission</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Matt Petersen, President & CEO, Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator - Jason Anderson, President & CEO, Cleantech San Diego - Jill Fuss, Managing Director, Activate Berkeley - Charles Hillyer, Interim Associate Vice President, California Water Institute at California State University, Fresno 		
<p>11:00 – 11:30 AM</p>	<p>NEXT EPIC CHALLENGE VIDEO SHOWCASE PART I</p> <p>Showcase of “Next EPIC Challenge” competition projects that are designing all-electric, mixed-use developments throughout California.</p>		
<p>11:30 AM – 1:00 PM</p>	<p>LUNCH AND VIRTUAL EXHIBIT HALL</p> <p>Networking break or view videos from project partners in the Video Gallery.</p>		
<p>1:00 – 2:00 PM</p>	<p>BREAKOUT SESSION 1.1: DEMOCRATIZING ELECTRIFICATION (Affordability)</p> <p>Electrification is a key strategy for achieving the state’s energy decarbonization goals. This session will highlight new technology innovations that are reducing the costs for customers to electrify. (CPUC Proceeding R.19-01-011, Building Decarbonization)</p> <p>Moderator: Scott Blunk, Deputy Director, Energy Efficiency Division, California Energy Commission</p>	<p>BREAKOUT SESSION 1.2: GETTING TO 7,000 MW OF LOAD FLEXIBILITY (Reliability)</p> <p>In May 2023, California set a new goal enabling the rapid reduction of 7,000 megawatts (MW) of electricity during times of grid stress. This session covers new technologies that improve the accuracy of predictions about grid stress and facilitate grid flexibility in battery storage, buildings, and electric vehicles. (CPUC Proceeding R.20-05-003, Integrated Resource Planning)</p> <p>Moderator: Aloke Gupta, Supervisor of Demand Response, California Public Utilities Commission</p>	<p>BREAKOUT SESSION 1.3: IMPROVING SAFETY IN BATTERY STORAGE (Safety)</p> <p>Increasing battery storage capacity at a rapid rate is a high priority for the state to help address the duck curve, enhance reliability, and lower cost as we move to 100% clean electricity. Improving battery storage safety is critical to maintain momentum on building additional battery capacity. Come learn about the EPIC investments in battery components and manufacturing that are advancing safety. (CPUC Proceeding R.21-06-017, Grid Modernization for High Distributed Energy Resources)</p>

	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vince Romanin, CEO, Gradient - Rebecca Simonson, Director of Programs, Sonoma Clean Power - Spencer Harrison, CEO and Co-founder, NeoCharge - Greg Tropsa, Co-founder and Executive Vice President of Business Development, Blue Frontier 	Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mary Ann Piette, Associate Lab Director of the Energy Technologies Area, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (CalFlexHub) - Rob Morton, President, Stasis Energy - Cliff Staton, Head of Government Affairs and Community Relations, OhmConnect - David Meyers, CEO of Gridtractor and Consultant for Polaris Energy Services 	Moderator: Erik Stokes , Chief of Staff for Commissioner Gallardo, California Energy Commission Speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Richard Wang, CEO and Founder, Cuberg - Jungwoo Lee, CTO, South 8 - Daniel Dumovich, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Grid Alternatives - Shaurjo Biswas, CTO and Co-founder, Liminal Insights Inc.
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Day 2: Wednesday - October 4, 2023

Time	Session Title and Description
9:00 – 9:15 AM	<b style="color: #0070c0;">WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Jonah Steinbuck, Director, Energy Research and Development Division, California Energy Commission – Leuwam Tesfai, Deputy Executive Director for Energy and Climate Policy, California Public Utilities Commission
9:15 – 10:00 AM	<b style="color: #0070c0;">PLENARY SESSION 2.1: PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION AND U.S. ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY-ENERGY <p>Since the EPIC Program’s inception in 2012, the California Energy Commission (CEC) and Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) have coordinated funding and information sharing, resulting in more than \$160 million in funding to more than 30 California companies, attracting more than \$1.7 billion in private investment to the state, and creating more than 1,000 new jobs. In May 2023, ARPA-E and the CEC solidified this partnership by renewing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that identified priority areas of cooperation and methods to advance technologies that reduce energy costs, enhance grid reliability and resiliency, and mitigate environmental impacts of how we generate, deliver, and use energy. This session will highlight how state and federal research dollars advance these priority areas, common objectives between CEC and ARPA-E, success stories from the ongoing partnership, and how partners like utilities can support public research efforts.</p>

	<p>Moderator: Danny Kennedy, CEO, New Energy Nexus</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evelyn Wang, Director, U.S. Department of Energy – Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy - J. Andrew McAllister, Commissioner, California Energy Commission - Fernando Valero, Advanced Clean Technology Director, San Diego Gas & Electric - Arjun Saroya, CEO, SkyCool Technologies
<p>10:00 – 10:10 AM</p>	<p>TRANSITION – VIDEO BREAK Video features from EPIC grant recipients.</p>
<p>10:10 – 11:00 AM</p>	<p>PLENARY SESSION 2.2: PROMOTING SCALABLE AND MEANINGFUL IMPACTS WITH ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES</p> <p>The CPUC and CEC are committed to ensuring all Californians benefit from clean energy research. Consistent with AB 523 (Reyes, 2017) and CPUC guidance, the CEC has prioritized energy equity in its research programs to ensure that disadvantaged and low-income communities and California Native American Tribes benefit from clean energy innovations, with 70 percent of EPIC demonstration and deployment funds invested in under-resourced communities. This panel will explore California’s energy equity policy priorities and how EPIC research investments are providing support. Speakers will highlight lessons learned and identify remaining barriers for communities that are most impacted by pollution and climate-related events. (CPUC Proceedings R.20-08-022, Clean Energy Financing; R.18-04-019, Climate Change Adaptation)</p> <p>Moderator: Noemi Gallardo, Commissioner, California Energy Commission</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Genaro Bugarin, Director of Energy Innovation, The Energy Coalition - Cathy Leonard, Founder and Executive Director, Oakland Neighborhoods for Equity (ONE); Community Liaison, Oakland EcoBlock project - Carla Rodriguez, Director for the Department of Public Works, La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians

11:00 – 11:30 AM	<p>NEXT EPIC CHALLENGE VIDEO SHOWCASE PART II Showcase of “Next EPIC Challenge” competition projects that are designing all-electric, mixed-use developments throughout California.</p>		
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM	<p>LUNCH AND VIRTUAL EXHIBIT HALL Networking break or view videos from project partners in the Video Gallery.</p>		
1:00 – 2:00 PM	<p>BREAKOUT SESSION 2.1: BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND IMPROVING AFFORDABILITY (Affordability) Advancements in building envelopes and air conditioning, among other technologies, are driving efficiency improvements in the building sector. In this breakout session, we will hear from building sector experts about how technology innovations are supporting energy affordability and making efficiency technologies more accessible. (CPUC Proceeding R.19-01-011, Building Decarbonization)</p> <p>Moderator: Henry Stern, Senator, State Senate District 27 – California State Legislature</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Andy Brooks, Director of West Coast Operations, Association for Energy Affordability, Inc. - Aaron Tam, Researcher, EPRI - Curtis Harrington, Senior Research Engineer, UC Davis 	<p>BREAKOUT SESSION 2.2: WILDFIRE PREVENTION & RESILIENCE (Safety, Reliability) Climate change continues to drive extreme weather events in the West, increasing the frequency and severity of heat waves and wildfires and challenging grid reliability. In this breakout session, learn about how EPIC-funded decision-support tools and resilience-enhancing technologies are helping respond to climate impacts in the electricity sector. (CPUC Proceeding R.18-04-019, Climate Change Adaptation)</p> <p>Moderator: Caroline Thomas Jacobs, Director, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - David Saah, Ph.D., Co-Founder and Managing Principal, Spatial Informatics Group, LLC. - Bryan Jenkins, Ph.D., Department Chair, UC Davis Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department 	<p>2.3: ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE INNOVATIONS (Reliability) In 2023, California hit a major milestone: more than 1.5 million zero-emission vehicles are “on the road” in the Golden State. These vehicles represent new potential flexible resources. In this breakout session, we will hear from companies partly funded by EPIC’s \$86 million investment in zero-emission transportation that are developing innovations in bidirectional charging, medium- and heavy-duty vehicle charging, and residential electric vehicle charging. (CPUC Proceeding R.18-12-006, Transportation Electrification)</p> <p>Moderator: Patty Monahan, Commissioner, California Energy Commission</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salim Youssefzadeh, CEO and Co-founder, WattEV

	<p>Western Cooling Efficiency Center</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Martha Campbell, Principal in Carbon-Free Buildings Program, Rocky Mountain Institute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kevin Johnson, Principal in Energy Strategy & Innovation Division, Pacific Gas and Electric - Tony Johnson, Consulting Engineer, Southern California Edison 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ben Goossen, Account Manager, NextEra Energy Resources - Krish Gomatam, Principal Technical Lead on High Power EV Charging Infrastructure, Electric Power Research Institute - Jordan Smith, Consulting Engineer for Grid Technology Innovation, Southern California Edison
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