DW26 Charging Ahead: DWEA's 2026 Annual Conference

Residence Inn Capital View Hotel, Arlington, VA

Sunday, February 22-Wednesday, February 25

DW26 Program Committee: **Jim Duffy, Brett Pingree, Ryan Storke**
Assisted by: Mike Bergey, David Dunaway, Sonja Ling, Heather Rhoads

Session topics: *DWEA Leadership Panel: State of the Industry; Innovations in DW: Business Models; Transformation into New Opportunities for DW; Upcoming DW-to-Everything Projects: Scaling up with Microgrids & Hybrid Systems; Introducing New Partners & Members: Lightning Round; Charging Ahead: DWEA Federal Policy Agenda; Looking Forward: DWEA Leaders in Action; Updated Tax Provisions in OBBB: New Guidance on FEOC, Safe Harbors; Case Studies of Distributed Wind Projects; Expanding DW Markets; REpowering Schools DW Student Project Intros; Windustry 2026 Community Wind Awards*

Sunday, February 24

7-10p ***All Attendees*** **Informal Networking** SOCCi Italian Restaurant, adjacent to Residence Inn

Monday, February 23

7:30a – 8:15a Registration, Breakfast Buffet for Registered Attendees, and Networking Opportunity

8:15a – 8:20a **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
DW26 Program Committee: **Jim Duffy**

8:20a – 9:25a **DWEA Leadership Panel: State of the Industry**
Moderator: **Ryan Storke**, Stroke LLC

- **Steve Sherr**, Foundation Windpower, leading developer of large-scale behind-the-meter wind projects
- **Ketter Foutz-Ulrich**, Ryse Energy, micro-turbine manufacturer and off-grid hybrid system supplier
- **John Mogensen**, Eocycle Technologies, manufacturer of farm and commercial wind turbines
- **Mike Bergey**, Bergey Windpower, manufacturer of residential and farm wind turbines

9:30a – 10:10a **Keynote Address: *"Emerging Role of DERs with Microgrids, Grid Strengthening, and Assisting with Data Center Load Growth"***
Peter Asmus, Thought leader on microgrid strategies and cutting edge energy trends

10:10a - 10:25a **Networking Break**

10:25a – 11:15a **Innovations in DW: Business Models, Technologies, Key Players**

Moderator: **Erika Boeing**, Accelerate Wind

- **Dr. Phil Hofmeyer**, New Leaf Energy: *Upping the Ante with Larger DG Wind Turbines – Are We Crazy?*
- **Brian Steinkamp**, HSI Solar: *Evolving Renewable Energy Business Models – Collaborative Technologies – Reasons for Optimism*
- **Mike Bergey**, Bergey Windpower: *The DER-Sales Business Model for Rural Electric Cooperatives*

11:15a – 12:00p **Transformation into New Opportunities for DW**

Moderator: **Jorge Rodriguez**, DAKI Green Energy

- **Chris Connor**, Northern Power Systems: *Opening New Doors for NPS 100C Power Converter with Electrical Certification to UL 1741 Supplement B*
- **Sonja Ling**, eFormative Options: *Innovative Opportunities in WA: Integrating ElectricFish 350² with DERs*
- **Jennifer Ralston**, Vita Energia: *How Might We Use Distributed Wind to Strengthen the Grid? Brainstorming: Jot your ideas on post-it notes!*

12:00p-1:10p **Networking Lunch** (included in registration)
Slideshow Spotlight on Platinum Sponsors: Bergey Windpower, Power Grid Partners, Stroke LLC

1:10p – 2:00p **Upcoming DW-to-Everything Projects: Scaling up with Microgrids & Hybrid Systems**

Moderator: **Charles Newcomb**, Hoss Consulting

- **Andy Mackey**, ProtoGen: *Wind in the Mix - Integrating Distributed Wind into Microgrid Modeling*
- **Mike Murray**, Generac: *Perspective from 100 Microgrid Projects*
- **Cameron Brooks**, Think Microgrid: *A National Outlook on Resilient, Clean Energy*
- **Matt Abele**, North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association: *Microgrids for Disaster Recovery and Long-term Resiliency*

2:00p – 2:50p **Introducing New Partners & Members: Lightning Round**

Moderator: **Isai Ayala**, ICC-SWCC

- **Antonio Matias**, DAKI Green Energy
- **Alexander Morgan**, Leitwind
- **Hemkant Limaye**, Pioneer Wincon Energy Systems
- **Becky Pettit,** HSI Solar

2:50p-3:05p **Networking Break**

3:05p – 4:00p **Charging Ahead: DWEA Federal Policy Agenda**

An overview of DWEA's 2026 federal policy initiatives and priorities led by Lloyd Ritter with Green Capitol, DWEA's Washington representative, followed by a Q&A session. Speakers will cover the impact of the Administration and Congress on legislation and policies important to the DW industry.

Moderator: **Steve Sherr**, Foundation Windpower

- **Lloyd Ritter**, Green Capitol
- **Mike Bergey**, DWEA President
- **Brian Steinkamp**, HSI Solar

4:00p – 5:00p **Looking Ahead: DWEA Leaders in Action**

Moderator: **Drew Gertz**, Northwind Engineering

- **Heather Rhoads**, DWEA Executive Director: *Prioritizing States and DWEA's other Strategic Plans*
- **Ian Brownstein**, XFlow Energy: *Opportunities for Industry Collaboration*
- **Ken Kotalik**, Northern Power Systems: *Breathing New Life into Old Wind: Repowering the NPS100C*
- **Dean Davis**, Windward Engineering: *Future of Distributed Wind: Signals From the Field*

5:00p **First Day Closing Comments,** DW26 Program Committee

5:00p Adjourn

5:00-5:30 **Lobby Day Team Leads Prep Talk,** *Renaissance Main Foyer*

5:15 – 7:30p **Monday Happy Hour – Networking Opportunity** – cash bar
SOCCi Italian Restaurant, Renaissance Arlington Capital View (adjacent to the Residence Inn)

Tuesday, February 24

7:30a – 8:15a Registration, Breakfast Buffet and Networking Opportunity

7:30a – 8:15a **Women in DWind Meetup,** Terrace Room
All ***Women of Renewable Industries and Sustainable Energy*** *members and allies welcome*

8:15a – 8:20a **Welcome and Opening Remarks**, DW26 Program Committee

8:20a – 9:50a **Updated Tax Provisions in OBBB: New Guidance on FEOC, Mfg 45X, Safe Harbors, Energy Communities, Prevailing Wages**
Moderator: **Mike Bergey**, Bergey Windpower

- **Jim Duffy**, Nixon Peabody
- **Tony Grappone**, Novogradac
- **Chris Diaz**, Seminole Financial Services
- **Forest Milder**, Nixon Peabody

9:50a-10:05a **Networking Break**

10:05a – 10:40p **Case Studies of Distributed Wind Projects**
This session will feature case studies of noteworthy Distributed Wind projects covering different sizes and applications. Project details, including costs, performance, and economics will be presented.
Moderator: **David Dunaway,** eFormative Options

- **John Fellhauer**, PowerGrid Partners: *Repowering Distributed Wind Turbines*
- **Todd Hammen,** Iowa Energy Alternatives: *Iowa DW Case Studies*
- **Rocky McIntosh**, Sonsight Wind: *Developing & Testing Sonsight 3.5kW Wind Turbine at Beech Mountain*
- **Ketter Ulrich**, Ryse Energy: *Ryse Energy: Powering Possibility with Distributed Wind*
- **Joe Spossey**, REInnovations: *Case Study of DW Certification Projects*

10:40a – 11:20p **Expanding DW Markets: Financing Opportunities**
Moderator: **Paul Rowan**, Windurance

- **Malek Tawashy**, Northern Energy Capital: *Wind Energy in Rural and Remote Communities*
- **Becky Pettit**, HSI Solar: *Challenge Us: Using Customized Creativity to Expand Distributed Markets through Financing Opportunities*
- **Aaron Morris**, Madison One: *USDA's Future in Distributed Wind Energy*

11:20a – 12:00p **REpowering Schools Student Presentations**

As at DW25, REpowering Schools is hosting a parallel workshop on Tuesday for college students and faculty engaged in renewable energy research. This session offers a unique platform for participants to present their project results to industry leaders. Additionally, student posters will be showcased during the Tuesday evening DW26 reception, providing a prime networking opportunity for distributed wind companies to recruit top talent for internships and full-time roles.

Moderator: **Remy Pangle**, REpowering Schools

Expected presenters include:

- **Jack Eberl**, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, VA
  Streamlining REAP: A Framework for Small Business and Agricultural Energy Projects
- **Adam Wagih**, Wilbur Wright College, Chicago, IL
  Enhancing Clean Renewable Energy Research through Hands-On Solar Energy System Design and Analysis
- **Bushra Alkarmi**, Harry S Truman College, Chicago, IL
  Exploring and Understanding Applications of Renewable Energy
- **Eliazar Lovis**, City Colleges of Chicago, IL
  Analysis of Solar and Wind Experimentation for Renewable Energy
- **Kobe Williams**, City Colleges of Chicago, Truman College School of Engineering, IL
  Advanced Experimentation for the Outlook of Solar Panels due to Renewable Energy

12:00 – 12:15p Windustry 2026 Community Wind Awards – presented by Lisa Daniels and Jim Duffy

12:15p DW26 Charging Ahead: Scaling up with Microgrids & Hybrid Systems
Conference Closing Remarks – DW26 Planning Team

12:20p Adjourn

12:20-1:30p **Networking Lunch & AgWind Strategy Session** Terrace Room *(included in registration)*

1:30p – 5:00p **National Industry Research Collaboration**

Building on last year's dialogue focused on collaborative research challenges to lower energy costs, enhancing power system reliability, and expanding domestic energy related manufacturing, this half-day collaboration session will work to incorporate industry feedback and participation into near-term lab-based research efforts. Participants will obtain an understanding of lab research priorities and be able to provide direct feedback on project efforts, including continued industry participation.

1:30p – 1:40p **Welcome, Research Overview, and Afternoon Activities**

Moderator: **Ian Baring-Gould**, National Lab of the Rockies

1:45p – 4:30p **Topical Roundtables –** Three sets of three concurrent facilitated Roundtables

1:45p – 2:35p **Round 1 Roundtables** (40 min dialogue, 10 min combined summary)

- Competitiveness Improvement Project: **Brent Summerville** (NLR), **Matt Korey** (ORNL), **Rachid Darbali-Zamora** (SNL)
- WindWatts: **Caleb Phillip**s (NLR), **Danielle Preziuso** (PNNL)
- Energy Cooperative Engagement: **Ian Baring-Gould** (NLR), **Gen Starke** (NLR)

2:40p – 3:30p **Round 2 Roundtables** (40 min dialogue, 10 min combined summary)

- Integration of Power Electronics: **Rachid Darbali-Zamora** (SNL), **Ian Baring-Gould**
- Irrigation and On-Farm Power: **Danielle Preziuso** (PNNL), **Suzanne MacDonald** (NLR), **Steve Reese** (INL)
- Aeroelastic Modeling / dWAM: **Brent Summerville** (NLR), **Kevin Moore** (SNL)

3:30p-3:45p **Networking Break**

3:45p – 4:35p **Round 3 Roundtables** (40 min dialogue, 10 min combined summary)

- Turbine and Drivetrain Reliability: **Shawn Sheng** (NLR), **Ian Baring-Gould** (NLR)
- Distributed Wind Standards Development: **Brent Summerville** (NLR), **Rachid Darbali-Zamora** (SNL)
- Distributed Wind Analysis: **Caleb Phillips** (NLR), **Danielle Preziuso** (PNNL)

4:35p-4:55p **Open Discussion of Industry Needs**

4:55p-5:00p **Closing**

5:00 Adjourn

5:15 – 7:30p **Tuesday Poster Reception & Networking Opportunity** – cash bar

Main Foyer, Renaissance Arlington Capital View

Slideshow Spotlight on Platinum Sponsors:

Bergey Windpower, Power Grid Partners, Strorke LLC, and Gold Sponsors: RE Innovations, Ryse Energy, Windurance

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Wednesday, February 25

7:00a – 8:15a **Hill Day prep,** Breakfast Buffet for Registered Attendees, **Potomac Room**

8:30 Teams Lyft/Uber to Hill: *formal business attire*

Hill Meetings

Lunch with Team

Hill Meetings

5:00 Hill Day Debriefing & Networking, *Bullfeathers on the Hill, 410 First Street SE, Washington, DC*

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