

THE POWER SOURCE

IGNITING THE FUTURE OF FLORIDA



June 2024

Stephanie Smith

**Vice President, State & Regional
Affairs**

Tampa Electric Company

Stephanie, you are relatively new to the energy industry but not new to your profession in government relations, policy, and advocacy. What led you to pursue a career in energy and what inspires you to stay involved?

I was drawn to the energy sector because it's where some of the most exciting innovations are happening – like advances in renewable energy, smart grid technology, artificial intelligence and distributed generation. These developments are reshaping how we produce and consume energy.....[Read More](#)

The policy work you do can be underestimated but we believe it is critical to sound regulatory practices and energy delivery. How do you explain the relationship between work before the Legislature and day-to-day energy delivery of services?

Policy work before the legislature directly supports the daily delivery of energy services. It involves emphasizing the impact of proposed regulations, highlighting their value, and ensuring that policymakers understand how regulations could affect energy delivery..... [Read More](#)

You are no stranger to civic service and currently, you also serve on CareerSource Florida. What are two major issues impacting today's energy workforce?

The energy workforce faces two main challenges: evolving technology and a growing skills gap. As technology advances, jobs are transforming, but the supply of skilled talent hasn't kept up with the demand.....[Read More](#)

Included in this issue:

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FWELF Agenda Titles and Times Announced

**Read
Full Interview**



EDPR NA Distributed Generation Acquires Renewable Properties' Community Solar Portfolio in Illinois

EDPR NA Distributed Generation LLC ([EDPR NA DG](#)) recently announced the acquisition from Renewable Properties, LLC of a portfolio of four Illinois Community Solar projects under development, growing the company's development pipeline in Illinois and its mission to provide communities throughout the state with clean, reliable, and sustainable energy. The 20 MWac portfolio is expected to generate an estimated 42 GWh of solar energy annually, the equivalent of more than 5,000 Illinois homes. These projects add to an extensive portfolio of solar energy assets being developed in Illinois, which will contribute to the continued growth of EDPR NA DG's current 310 MWp of overall operational capacity across 538 active sites.

EDPR NA DG is the distributed generation arm of EDP Renewables North America LLC ([EDPR NA](#)), a top five renewable energy owner and operator in North America. Renewable Properties is a preeminent community solar developer based in San Francisco that develops, owns, and operates DG solar projects in the U.S. Renewable Properties has over 1 GW of solar, energy storage, and EV infrastructure under development across 15 states and has over 155 MW under construction or in operation.

"EDPR NA DG is proud to support Illinois' commitment to clean energy and is grateful to partner with Renewable Properties to contribute to the state's renewable energy goals," said Joao Barreto, Chief Executive Officer, EDPR NA Distributed Generation. "Community solar installations bring energy independence and economic empowerment to towns across the country, and this portfolio will help us further support Illinoisans in their transition to a clean energy economy."

[Read more](#)

All-Female Arborist Crew Harnesses LiDAR Tech to Ensure Reliable Service



Via FPL Newsroom

Carolina Olivera, Erin Schreck and Olivia Johnson are the first group of female arborists at Florida Power & Light Company (FPL). They're part of a team beginning to use the most advanced state-of-the-art tech: Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) technology. "We're currently at the forefront of the most innovative tech," Schreck said. "It's amazing to work with this technology in a company that's leading the industry. No other utility is performing multiple comprehensive LiDAR collections like we are."

One of the leading causes of power outages is trees and other vegetation hitting power lines. This new system uses LiDAR, a laser-scanning technology that precisely maps the surrounding environment in 3D, alongside satellite imagery and photogrammetry, which creates 3D models from overlapping images. This comprehensive understanding of how plants and trees are positioned along the company's power lines helps FPL proactively maintain the energy grid and vegetation growing near it. The "smart trimming" technology allows the company to trim more effectively and efficiently year-round and restore power faster following a storm.

"FPL is always looking for tools and technology to help keep power lines clear so we can safely deliver reliable service to our customers, in good weather and bad," said Olivera. "LiDAR provides invaluable insights, especially in areas that are flooded or impassable, giving our crews the information they need to work safely and quickly." [Read More](#)



Siemens Energy Teen Summer Role Model Series

WIN@SE (Women's Impact Network @ Siemens Energy) is looking for students approximately ages 12- 19 years old (with an emphasis on young women) that are interested in a career in and around STEM. We want to introduce and discuss female leadership in various functions at our STEM-focused company! WIN@SE will be showcasing phenomenal women who will discuss their journeys and careers within Siemens Energy. The agenda will be an introduction, a short interview and an open discussion. The open discussion will focus on the children. Please bring questions and feel free to attend with your child!

For more information, please contact Madison O'Connor



Teen Summer Role Model Series

Do you have a child interested in a STEM Career?

The Women's Impact Network at Siemens Energy (WIN@SE) is looking for Siemens Energy employee AND customer children approximately ages 12- 19 years old (with an emphasis on young women). We want to introduce and discuss female leadership in various functions at our STEM-focused company! WIN@SE will be showcasing phenomenal women who will discuss their journeys and careers within Siemens Energy. The agenda will be an introduction, a short interview and an open discussion. The open discussion will focus on the children. Please bring questions and feel free to attend with your child!

Where: Microsoft Teams
When: 12pm-1pm EST

- July 11th- Digital Operations & Innovation Discussion with Brittany Benson & Tonya Klingen
- July 18th- Communications & Human Resources Discussion with Claire Marczak & Ebony Kemp
- July 25th- Sales & Finance Discussion with Jessica Jensen & Florencia Rodriguez Lamas
- August 1st- Safety, Quality & Engineering Discussion with Susan Van Gorder & Teri Lindsey

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Register here:



[siemens-energy.com](https://www.siemens-energy.com)



Duke Energy Strengthens the Grid, Increases Resiliency Ahead of the 2024 Hurricane Season



A recent Duke Energy press release highlighted their 2024 hurricane season preparation, citing [The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#) predictions of an above-normal hurricane season with 17 to 25 named storms this season, including 8 to 13 hurricanes, and 4 to 7 of those becoming major hurricanes. This year's forecast predicts around 30% more storm activity compared to the number of storms predicted last year.

"We understand the importance of reliable power, especially when severe weather strikes," said Scott Batson, Duke Energy senior vice president and chief power grid officer.

"We are prepared for this year's storm season, with thousands of line and vegetation workers, and advanced technologies and equipment ready to respond to storm-related outages when customers count on us the most."

Duke Energy has been strengthening the electric grid against severe weather, upgrading thousands of poles and wires to increase reliability and better withstand storms, strategically placing outage-prone lines underground in some areas, managing trees and vegetation, and installing smart, self-healing technology that can automatically detect power outages and quickly restore power when an outage occurs. In 2023, self-healing technology helped to avoid more than 1.5 million customer outages, saving more than 3.6 million hours of total lost outage time across the company's six-state service area. Nearly 50% of Duke Energy customers now benefit from self-healing and automated restoration technologies, more than double the number of customers served by smart restoration systems two years ago.

The company also recently completed a multi-year modernization project to construct seven new grid control centers across the company's six-state service area. These advanced facilities help efficiently manage crews and outage response after storms, and can monitor millions of data points across the power grid in real time to give operators more control over system reliability every day. The new facilities and ongoing grid improvements are also essential to supporting the company's transition to cleaner energy options. [Read more](#)

FLORIDA'S WOMEN IN ENERGY
LEADERSHIP FORUM

**FWELF 2024:
THE POWER OF
COLLABORATION**

OCTOBER 21-23 | THE JW MARRIOTT | TAMPA, FL

**Early Bird
Registration
Extended Through
June, Register Today!**



Florida Public Power Leaders and Utility Recognized with National Awards

According to a press release from the Florida Municipal Electric Association (FMEA) Three Florida public power leaders and one Florida public power utility earned national honors for their contributions and service to their communities and municipal electric utility customers. Recognized today by the American Public Power Association (APPA) were Lynne Tejeda (General Manager and CEO for Keys Energy Services), Stephanie Madden (Commissioner, City of Lakeland), Jody Finklea (General Counsel and Chief Legal Officer for Florida Municipal Power Agency and General and Regulatory Counsel for Florida Municipal Electric Association), and JEA in Jacksonville. JEA received the Sue Kelly Community Service Award, which recognizes utilities for their "good neighbor" activities that demonstrate commitment to the local community. Through its volunteer program, JEA team members contribute time and resources to nonprofit organizations and projects that improve the quality of life in the Jacksonville community. In fiscal year 2023, employees volunteered 4,329 hours in the JEA service territory. [Read more](#)



Lynne Tejeda received the James D. Donovan Individual Achievement Award, which recognizes people who have made substantial contributions to the electric utility industry with a special commitment to public power.



Stephanie Madden received the Spence Vanderlinden Public Official Award, which recognizes elected or appointed local officials who have contributed to APPA's goals.



Jody Finklea received the Harold Kramer-John Preston Personal Service Award, which recognizes member utility employees who have made significant contributions toward APPA's goals and enhanced its prestige.

Amy Zubaly Appointed to APPA Executive Committee



Congratulations to Amy Zubaly, Florida Municipal Electric Association Executive Director and member of the Board of the Directors of the American Public Power Association (APPA), on her recent installment to serve with the officers of the APPA Executive Committee. Zubaly will continue to represent Region 5, which includes Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia and West Virginia as part of her three-year term to the APPA Board.



FWELF 2024

The Power of Collaboration

Announcing Agenda
Titles and Times



We are thrilled to announce Florida's Women in Energy Leadership Forum 2024 *The Power of Collaboration*, agenda titles and times and a sneak peak into our keynote speakers. A full agenda will be released late summer with speaker details. Early bird rates are extended through June 2024 and hotel rooms are filling up quickly, **reserve your spot today.**

Day 1

Monday, October 21st, 2024

- **11:00 a.m.** Registration Desk Opens (*Will remain open for the entirety of the Forum*)
- **1:00 p.m.** Welcome Remarks
- **1:15 p.m.** Keynote: Helen Wesley, President and CEO, Peoples Gas
- **1:45 p.m.** Presentation of FNG Scholarship Awardees
- **2:00 p.m.** Unveiling the Future: Predictive Insights Into the Energy Industry
- **3:00 p.m.** Keynote: Chairman Mike La Rosa, Florida Public Service Commission
- **3:30 p.m.** Networking Break
- **3:50 p.m.** Keynote: Chris Womack, President and CEO, Southern Company
- **4:45 p.m.** Panel Discussion: Impact of Natural Gas on Booming Economy
- **6:00 p.m.** Welcome Reception hosted by Gunster
- **7:30 p.m.** Dinner (**On Your Own**) Please NETWORK

Day 2

Tuesday, October 22nd, 2024

- **7:00 a.m.** Breakfast (On Your Own) Please NETWORK
- **8:15 a.m.** Keynote: Armando Pimentel, Jr., President and CEO, Florida Power & Light Company
- **9:00 a.m.** Panel Discussion: Synergy in Collaboration: Bridging Engineering and Energy for a Sustainable Future
- **10:00 a.m.** Fireside Chat: CEO Perspective on Collaboration in the Energy Industry, Archie Collins, President, TECO and Melissa Seixas, President, Duke Energy Florida
- **11:00 a.m.** Networking Break
- **11:20 a.m.** Fireside Chat: Breaking Down Silos: How Organizational Culture Can Enable the Energy Transition
- **12:30 p.m.** Presentation of FWELF/AABE Florida Scholarship and Siemens Energy Scholarship
- **12:45 p.m.** Lunch Keynote Presentation TBA
- **2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Breakout Session:** Community Collaboration in Renewable Energy
- **2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Breakout Session:** Collaboration in Economic Development
- **3:00 p.m.** Coffee Break
- **3:15 p.m.** Keynote TBA
- **3:45 p.m.** Panel Discussion: The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Energy Delivery and Customer Experience
- **4:45 p.m.** Keynote: Sandhya Ganapathy, CEO, EDP Renewables NA
- **6:00 p.m.** FWELF Annual Dinner (Open to All Forum Attendees)

Day 3

Wednesday, October 23rd, 2024

- **7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.** Breakfast (provided)
- **8:30 a.m.** Dale Carnegie Workshop: How to Connect with Confidence
- **9:45 a.m.** Panel Discussion: A Collaborative Legislative Process
- **10:45 a.m.** Best Practices in Developing Florida's Energy Workforce Collaboration with Education Institutions
- **12:00 p.m.** Closing Remarks and Adjourn