ACP Siting and Permitting Conference 2025

Call for Speakers

Speakers should identify their presentation format of choice from one of three categories: **Panel**, **POWER Talks, Tutorial**. All talks will be delivered in person, no virtual option. If not selected for your desired session, you may be offered a poster presentation. Not all topics listed will ultimately become sessions at the conference.

Panel Sessions

Panel Speaker

Panels are 60-minute structured conversations featuring a group of experts or thought leaders who share their perspectives on a specific topic. Each panelist provides their insights and experiences, followed by discussion and/or moderated Q&A from attendees. This format promotes a deep dive into the subject matter, encourages diverse viewpoints, and fosters a comprehensive understanding of the topic through expert analysis and dialogue.

You must specify which session you are applying to speak in. Speakers applying to this category will be placed on a panel with other speakers in the selected session. Speakers may apply to more than one of the topics (must submit separate proposals). If you don't squarely fit into one of these defined topics, select Other and propose a session that is not listed below with reasoning.

Full Panel

You may submit an abstract for a full panel with multiple speakers. All speakers must be identified and confirmed. **Please note:** the program planning committee may decide to use only select speakers or a part of the concept. If proposing a full panel, select the desired topic, and include all confirmed speakers in the proposal description.

Fireside Chat

You may submit an abstract for a fireside conversation with 2-3 panelists. All speakers should be identified in the proposal. These will be 45-minute discussion style conversations built around hot topics or current policy issues with minimal or no PPT. These slots would also be ideal for agency or administration leaders. If proposing a fireside conversation, select the topic Other, and write in your intended topic.

Panel speakers are asked to submit:

- **Paragraph** describing the topic you will present as an individual speaker in one of the defined panel sessions; paragraph describing your proposed full panel; or paragraph describing the proposed fireside chat.
- **Summary** of relevant expertise / experience; include public speaking or conference credentials. Describe how your experience and qualifications are relevant to your proposal and how you as a panelist would bring a new and interesting perspective to the topic.

POWER Talks Presentations

POWER Talks are fast-paced and dynamic. Each session will feature two back-to-back ~12-minute high-energy presentations (think TED Talks) within a 30-minute session delivered by a single speaker presenting from center stage using the most relevant / minimal graphics and videos (5 slides max). These talks are flashy, cutting-edge and future focused, featuring the best-of-the-best speakers to share insights, strategies, stories, or solutions on a specific topic.

POWER Talks speakers are asked to submit:

- **Paragraph** outlining the 12-minute talk you would deliver as a solo speaker center stage. Example topics are provided. Please choose Other to add a topic.
- **Summary** of relevant expertise / experience; include public speaking or conference credentials and **links to your public speaking engagements** which demonstrate your high-energy speaking skills. Describe how your experience and qualifications qualify you as an expert to speak on your chosen topic and what new and interesting perspective you would bring.

Tutorials, Roundtables, Small Groups

In these 45-minute sessions, experts will share practical insights about a specific siting and permitting policy or strategy. These should include real-world examples, case studies, successes and failures, tools and methods used, insights on emerging issues, or how-tos.

If your topic would lend itself to a smaller breakout group session like a roundtable discussion or workshop activity, please note this in your proposal. We may have space for several interactive smaller group sessions.

We are seeking topics including but not limited to the tutorial topic list. Please propose your own topic if you have a great idea that's not listed.

Tutorial presenters are asked to submit:

- **Paragraph** outlining your tutorial material, desired learning outcomes for your session, and proposed delivery format (lecture/presentation, roundtable, small group, etc).
- **Summary** of relevant expertise / experience; include public speaking, conference, or teaching/training credentials. Describe how your experience and qualifications qualify you as an authority to deliver content on your chosen topic.

Posters

Submissions to this category will not be considered for speaking opportunities. Posters provide a visual and interactive platform for presenting research, projects, or ideas and allow for informal, yet substantive, exchanges of information. Poster sessions showcase a variety of topics, provide direct engagement with attendees, and facilitate networking and collaboration.

Posters will be presented during a poster reception at the conference. Use of the ACP poster template is required, and ACP will print your poster and deliver it to the conference venue for you. Sales pitches will not be accepted.

Poster presenters are asked to submit a short paragraph describing the topic you will present as a poster.

Panel Sessions

Natural and Cultural Resources Panels Track

- **Wildlife Behavior and Designing Clean Energy and Transmission to Minimize Disturbance (Multi)**
    - As wind, solar, storage, and transmission facilities are expanding on the landscape, they are increasingly interacting with wildlife, habitat, and migratory corridors. At the same time, we have traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) of the landscape and centuries of wildlife research. Knowledge keepers and researchers are expanding their fields to better understand interactions between wildlife and clean energy infrastructure. This panel will focus not only on that knowledge, but also how it is being incorporated into the siting, design, and operations of these facilities.
- **Wildlife Habitat Restoration and Mitigation (Multi)**
    - The development of energy infrastructure, including transmission, requires trade-offs that may include unavoidable temporary or even permanent impacts on the landscape, including wildlife habitat. This panel will focus on the multi-stakeholder and -disciplinary process of defining suitable habitat, analyzing and quantifying impacts, and assessing solutions. These may include habitat restoration, mitigation, or added ecosystem benefits. Panelists are encouraged to propose case studies and

detail the regulatory agencies, species, mitigation providers, and other partners involved.

- **Siting Clean Energy in a Changing Climate (Natural Disasters, Insurance) (Multi)**
    - When siting clean energy infrastructure, there are so many considerations—point of interconnection, grid capacity, community reception, regulatory framework, topography, tribal participation and more. In the past few decades, extreme weather events have become increasingly common and have repeatedly devastated certain areas of the country. Although the industry is racing to alleviate the effects of climate change, it must also manage the existing challenges. As a result, developers, investors, insurers, and other interested parties are seeing the economic implications of development in at-risk areas. The discussion will center on planning for and evaluating this issue and what it means for future development. Panelists may also provide guidance on how to manage projects hit by extreme weather, including consideration of the community and media relations.
- **Vegetation Establishment, Maintenance, and Landscape Screening (Solar)**
    - Following precedent in other countries and industries, and in search of ways to improve soil, water quality, and biodiversity, stakeholders and tribes have challenged energy developers to consider vegetation as a solution. While there are existing standards and well-accepted practices for utility rights-of-way, managing vegetation through the construction and operations of large-scale solar facilities is a relatively new challenge requiring considerations for operational safety and reliability as well as project aesthetics. This panel will focus on lessons learned and opportunities for the industry to work with interested parties to develop reasonable and effective vegetation management strategies.
- **Stormwater Management Planning and Achieving Notice of Termination (Multi)**
    - Most large-scale energy projects require the development of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan under the Clean Water Act, which includes required conditions to minimize erosion and stormwater runoff during construction. Given the scale of these projects, with construction phases occurring over multiple seasons, these projects are challenged to maintain BMPs including vegetation throughout the entire project site. This conversation will focus on best practices for stormwater management, vegetation establishment, and policy.
- **Permitting on Public Lands: Regulatory and Legislative Changes Affecting Federal Lands and Federal Permitting (Multi)**
    - The past year saw many changes to the regulatory environment for projects developed on federal lands, including multiple legislative changes (e.g., PLREDA, EPRA) as well as regulatory changes (BLM Final Western Solar PEIS, BLM Conservation and Land Health Rule, BLM Renewable Energy Rule, BLM Sage Grouse Resource Management

Plan Amendment, NEPA Phase II Reforms, updated ESA Section 7 regulations). These changes function independently and interact to modify the processes for permitting on public land. The panel will explain these updates and provide recent case studies for successfully navigating the new requirements.

- **The New Methods: Measuring Biodiversity and Soil Health Improvements at Solar Sites for ESG (Solar)**
    - There is growing interest from industry, regulators, and researchers to evaluate improvements in biodiversity and soil health following construction of utility-scale solar facilities to inform best practices and assess regulatory or ESG targets. Panelists will describe methods for accurate, replicable sampling and discuss ideas for future improvements in efficiency and standardization.
- **Cultural Resources and Nationwide Permits (NWP)/Clean Water Act (CWA) Permitting (Multi)**
    - The Nationwide Permit (NWP) program under the Clean Water Act requires projects to comply with general and regional conditions that include ensuring that construction activities avoid cultural artifacts. The approach to compliance varies across Corps districts and developers especially with an ever-changing definition of waters of the United States. The panel will highlight multiple approaches to compliance across regions.
- **Managing Monarchs and other Listed Insects at Generation Facilities and in Rights-of-Way (Multi)**
    - Energy generation facilities and rights-of-way provide exciting opportunities to contribute to the conservation of monarchs and other sensitive or protected insects through the establishment and management of suitable habitat for these species. However, there are important practical, biological, and legal considerations associated with these opportunities. This panel will focus on key considerations and best practices to ensure a successful outcome for both the insects and the facilities.
- **Nuisance Species Management (Multi)**
    - Energy project infrastructure may overlap with existing wildlife habitat or may encourage new species into the project area because there is less disturbance and new nesting opportunities. Projects may have the potential to disrupt these species, and these species also have the potential to cause significant risk to project infrastructure and human safety. Managing nuisance species requires creative solutions, and local communities and wildlife groups may want to participate in problem solving. This discussion will focus on the solutions to manage these species and examples of stakeholder outreach.

Community, Tribal Partners, and Stakeholder Engagement Track

- **Combating Misinformation about Clean Energy (Multi)**
    - In an increasingly polarized society, misinformation and false narratives—on everything from wildlife to human health—are purposefully being spread to stop projects from progressing, particularly at the local level. This session will focus on key strategies for developers and other clean energy stakeholders to create narratives of truth around projects using various communication tools and engagement strategies, as well as lessons learned from the field.
- **Fundamentals of a Land Campaign and Processes for Better Community Engagement (Multi)**
    - First entry into communities typically begins with a land campaign, often setting the stage for long term relationships and lasting impressions of the developer and the project. Learn how to create and define a comprehensive and organized land campaign that incorporates meaningful outreach and long-term engagement with landowners and other stakeholders that extends throughout construction and operation.
- **Partnerships with NGO Communities and Industry (Multi)**
    - NGO communities are increasingly interested in supporting clean energy projects and aligning on the fight against climate change. With strong member bases and significant resources, they can be key allies, particularly at the local or chapter level. This session will delve into ways NGO communities can wield their influence from both regulatory and grassroots perspectives and how these important stakeholders can be a critical tool in progressing projects and mobilizing support with the right partnerships.
- **Engagement with Tribal Governments (Multi)**
    - Tribal communities are important stakeholders in the development of renewable energy. Developers are responsible for conducting thoughtful engagement by respecting and understanding cultural and historical significance and meaning. Policymakers and developers together have a role to play in maximizing benefits for tribal communities, but only after clear strategies are created. Learn from representatives of tribal communities and hear about effective engagement that leads to successful long-term success in these communities.
- **Environmental Justice: Energy Communities, Redevelopment, Workforce Training / Storage (Multi)**
    - The Biden administration has created incentives within the Inflation Reduction Act and other avenues to amplify the nexus between renewable energy and communities that have been historically impacted by fossil fuel generation. Learn how developers can identify these communities and deliver projects that create jobs for the energy

expansion, while understanding the policies that can support deployment, jobs, and community uplift.

- **Effective Communication with Agricultural Stakeholders (Multi)**
    - The perception and reality of land competition and land conflict in agricultural communities continues to present itself as developers deploy more clean energy on land that is currently or formerly used for farming. Learn how developers can have effective engagement in these communities by hearing from farmers, agricultural organizations, and other rural stakeholders about how the energy transition and farming can be a win-win. Consider ways of engagement that include agrivoltaics, land stewardship, and emphasis on land regeneration
- **Preparing Landowners and Community Stakeholders for Beyond Development (Multi)**
    - Many communities experience a lack of emphasis and unintended disengagement when projects progress from development to construction and operations. Learn what strategies and tools can be deployed to ensure the transition periods are as smooth as possible from partnerships with landowners, construction companies, operations and maintenance providers, and other stakeholders.

Emerging Technology and Policy Track

- **Local Permitting by Jurisdiction, Comparison of Processes (Multi)**
    - Many clean power developments, transmission lines, and associated activities are required to undergo local, county, and state permitting to familiarize the public with proposed projects, comply with local regulations, and work with local and county governments to ensure responsible and transparent action during all project phases. The discussion will include examples across jurisdictions to highlight the differences / challenges in regulatory approaches to permitting.
- **Regional and State Siting Guidelines and Legislation (Solar)**
    - Regulators and NGOs have written numerous guidance documents across states on how to responsibly site solar projects. Panelists will share their knowledge of the origins of these efforts, observations of trends at the regional and state levels, opportunities to inform and influence development of new guidelines and legislation, and experiences in responding to these new expectations including providing specific project examples.
- **Long-distance/Multi-state Transmission Specific Challenges/Policy (Transmission)**
    - As the nation's need for long distance transmission grows to meet demand for clean energy, the industry is witnessing new federal policies aimed at streamlining approval processes. The first part of the discussion will focus on Backstop Transmission Siting Procedures outlined in FERC Order 1977, as it highlights FERC's new expanded authority to approve the siting of interstate transmission lines in instances where

states have either denied an application or failed to act within a reasonable timeframe, typically one year. The second part of the discussion will focus on the Department of Energy (DOE) designation process for National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors (NIETC) where transmission capacity issues negatively impact consumers and summarize the federal financing and permitting tools made available to transmission lines sited within these geographic areas. Panelists will provide an overview of each topic, status of policy development, and expected opportunities and challenges to implementation.

- **Strategies and Approaches for Wildlife and Natural Resources Permitting in a New Administration (Multi)**
    - Following the 2024 presidential election, clean power and transmission industry stakeholders are looking to continue moving the nation's energy development goals forward. Panelists will discuss their involvement in ongoing efforts to develop project or programmatic level permitting tools and give their observations on how strategies may be adjusted given the positioning of the new administration. This session will include regulatory, legislative, and/or guidance and policy updates on the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Bald & Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA), Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), Clean Water Act (CWA), and others as applicable.
- **Policy of Siting on Brownfields, Tribal Brownfields, and Disturbed Lands (Multi)**
    - The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Brownfield Response Program offers an opportunity for developers to partner with stakeholders including Tribal Nations to site new clean energy developments on brownfield sites. Panelists will discuss their involvement in the EPA brownfield program, the potential advantages and challenges of it, including benefits to participating Tribal Nations, and other experiences with policies or initiatives intended to identify clean development opportunities on disturbed lands.
- **Agrivoltaics Policies, Market Incentives, and Implementation (Solar)**
    - Given the growing interest in agrivoltaics, panelists will discuss strategies for identifying sites and how to safely and feasibly implement agricultural practices at utility-scale solar sites. Practitioners will share industry lessons learned in the U.S. as agrivoltaics has scaled over the last several years. The conversation will also focus on policies that support agrivoltaics through market-based incentives, the growing market for dual use facilities, and the benefits to agricultural communities.
- **Optimizing GIS, Satellite Imagery, and Lidar in Siting (Multi)**
    - There are numerous new technologies developed to support developers, regulators, NGOs and other interested parties in siting clean energy facilities and transmission. This conversation will present some of those tools, demonstrate how they inform the siting process, and identify future needs in technology.

- **Programmatic Permitting for Wildlife (Multi)**
    - Responsible development of renewable energy and transmission facilities at a pace necessary to meet the nation's clean energy targets across the landscape requires programmatic wildlife permitting solutions. Panelists will reflect on the impact (to conservation, to regulators, to industry) of the most recent programmatic permitting tools available to renewable energy, potentially including discussion of the Monarch CCAA, the Eagle General Permit program, and/or the Condor Conservation Plan. Panelists may also provide an overview of programmatic permitting tools in development, such as the Bumblebee Agreement and/or conservation plans for bats, and their anticipated benefits. Lastly, panelists may share observations on additional programmatic permitting needs for the renewable energy industry.
- **Radar, Airspace and Communication Issues (Multi)**
    - An Aircraft Detection Lighting System (ADLS) radar tower and associated infrastructure are innovative additions to wind generation facilities that reduce the occurrence of flashing lights at the top of operating wind towers. If planning to include within a project, developers should be aware of federal NEPA permitting requirements through the Federal Communications Commission. This session will provide an overview of the review analysis and documentation for compliance with NEPA and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).
- **Distinguishing Repowering from New Development (Multi)**
    - As aging generation facilities and transmission lines are repowered or upgraded, project proponents may face uncertain or unclear permitting requirements, data collection practices, and agency communication expectations. Panelists will discuss how projects have approached these topics and other decision-making during the repowering process. Case studies and examples are encouraged.
- **Planning and Siting to Mitigate Fire Risk (Multi)**
    - Fire safety and response planning is a critical consideration for operational facilities. Speakers will share best practices that can be applied earlier during the planning and siting phase to prevent fires from occurring. Speakers are encouraged to share experience with developing fire safety programs, planning emergency response and community engagement, fire mitigation strategies (including fire roads, breaks, or other measures), and overlap with vegetation management planning.

POWER Talks Sample Topics

- High-tech Models & Tools for Siting & Permitting: AI, Satellite Imagery, GIS Tools, Synthetic Aperture Radar & Lidar, Wildlife Avoidance Technology, Drones, and Remote Imaging in Clean Energy Development, Construction, or Operations
- Current State of the Grid/Future Demand
- Hot off the press policy updates
- Case studies with exciting / surprising outcomes
- Other – add your own topic!

Tutorials, Roundtables, Small Groups Sample Topics

- Key Policies in IRA for communities, siting and wildlife
- Survey Methods & Metrics, i.e. biodiversity/soil health
- Steps to Preparing Local Permits
- Cultural Sensitivity for Work with Tribes
- Tips for Good Communication with Landowners/Communities
- What to Put in Vegetation Management Plan
- Siting and Permitting Long-distance Gen-tie Lines
- Fire mitigation planning for BESS / solar / transmission
- Working with Turbine OEMs on Bat Curtailment
- Case study: Esmeralda projects in NV (6 solar projects on BLM land with programmatic EIS)
- Other – add your own topic!

Please contact Emily Berriochoa at eberriochoa@cleanpower.org with any questions.