

How Smart Distribution Systems and Microgrids will Advance Energy Diversity and Equity

Keynote Session C IV

Date: Saturday, Dec 18, 2021

Time: 09:00 AM-09:55 AM

Speaker: Noel Schulz, Professor, Washington State University, USA

Abstract:

In February 2021, the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) published a report on [“The Future of Electric Power in the United States”](#) that highlighted five major needs for the future U.S. electric power system. The report included recommendations around engineering, business and policy challenges and needed innovations for creating electric power solutions that remain clean, sustainable, reliable, and resilient. This talk will discuss how the energy diversity of the US Pacific Northwest provides an excellent platform for advancing strategies for smart distribution systems and microgrids. Aspects of the integration of electrifying transportation will also be discussed.

The NASEM report also included a need to ‘sustain the “social compact” to keep electricity affordable and equitable’. Dr. Schulz’s presentation will discuss how technical advances in the areas of smart distribution systems and microgrids provide opportunities to advance electricity equity in urban and rural communities. In addition to energy diversity and equity, she will discuss opportunities to increase the participation of underrepresented populations in the energy sector.