



Midwestern Legislative Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

The Future of the Midwest Energy Workforce: Learning from Germany's Apprenticeship Model

Hosted by:

MLC Energy & Environment Committee and
MLC Education & Workforce Development Committee

Renaissance Schaumburg Convention Center Hotel | Schaumburg, Illinois
November 17-18, 2023

Draft Agenda

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16

6:30 – 7:30 p.m. **Meet-and-greet reception (optional)** [Epiphany Room]

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17

7:00 – 8:15 a.m. **Breakfast** [Epiphany Room]

8:15 – 8:30 a.m. **Welcome and introductions** [Euphoria Room]

Jan Münch, Head of Administration, Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany, Chicago

8:30 – 10:00 a.m. **Overview of the German apprenticeship model**

A description of, and the history behind this proven workforce development program, this session will set the stage for our afternoon site visits to renewable energy companies that have been using it since setting up shop in suburban Chicago.

Mario Kratsch, Vice President, German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest

10:00 – 10:15 a.m. **Break**

10:15 – 11:45 a.m. **Overview of energy sector labor market**

What will the Midwest's renewable energy workforce needs look like in the near future? This session sets our stage by looking at labor market trends in the energy sector.

Dr. Michael Horrigan, *President, W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research*

12:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Boxed lunch and site visits

Enjoy a boxed lunch during a bus ride to our site visits.

WITTENSTEIN: For nearly 25 years, the North America headquarters in Bartlett, Illinois, has been producing mechatronic projects that integrate motors, gearboxes and controls.

HARTING: With its North American headquarters in Elgin, Illinois, Harting is a global leader in manufacturing electrical connectors used in a wide variety of solutions, including power generation.

6:30 p.m.

Dinner [Euphoria Room]

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18

7:00 – 8:30 a.m.

Breakfast [Epiphany Room]

8:30 – 10:00 a.m.

Panel discussion with Midwestern energy-workforce groups
[Euphoria Room]

From a forecast of the Midwestern growth in energy jobs to Illinois workforce training programs mandated by a 2021 law, the Climate & Equitable Jobs Act, to a renewable energy company's workforce development needs, this session will provide examples of how states can enable this growth sector's development.

Larry Dawson, *CEJA North Region Administrator, Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity*

Colleen Smith, *Director of Government Affairs, Invenergy*

Micaela Preskill, *Midwest Advocate, E2 Environmental Entrepreneurs*

10:00 – 10:15 a.m.

Break

10:15 – 11:45 a.m.

Roundtable discussion

This will be an opportunity for legislators to share and discuss energy workforce program and policy developments in their states.

Facilitators: **Illinois Sen. Laura Ellman**, *co-chair, MLC Energy & Environment Committee* and **Ohio Sen. Hearcel Craig**, *co-chair, MLC Education & Workforce Development Committee*

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Closing remarks

The Council of State Governments' Midwestern Legislative Conference gratefully acknowledges the German Consulate in Chicago for its sponsorship in support of this meeting.
