



# Midwestern Legislative Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

## MLC ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

August 30-Sept. 2, 2026

InterContinental St. Paul Riverfront | St. Paul, Minnesota

### Committee Agenda & Related Sessions

Sen. Laura Ellman, Illinois, Co- Chair | Rep. Pauline Wendzel, Michigan, Co-Chair  
MLA Erika Ritchie, Saskatchewan, Co-Vice Chair | Kansas Rep. Lauren Bohi, Co-Vice Chair

#### SUNDAY, AUG. 30 | COMMITTEE MEETING | Great River I & IV, First Level

2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

##### Bring Your Own (BYO) Power: Answer or Illusion?

From sanctioning behind-the-meter power generation and virtual power plants to the emerging interest in plug-in solar panels, the concept of residential and industrial consumers bringing their own power to the table offers some intriguing options for policymakers looking to ensure that the supply of electricity can accommodate increasing load demand. This session will explore the possibilities and pitfalls lawmakers should know about “BYO.”

##### Speakers:

*Jeff Ostermayer, Senior Vice President, HBW Resources*

*Matthew Land, Senior Associate, Subnational Energy Action, Rocky Mountain Institute*

3:30 – 4 p.m.

##### Committee Roundtable Discussion | Great River I & IV

Committee members will discuss any proposed policy resolutions, and all attendees will engage in a round-table discussion of recent policy developments in their states or provinces.

#### TUESDAY, SEPT. 1 | PLenary SESSION | Minnesota Ballroom, Lower Level

3:15 – 4:30 p.m.

##### Data Centers, A Balancing Act

Data centers dominated legislative sessions during 2026, evoking strong feelings about economic development and resource consumption to ratepayer protection to worries about location, noise and proliferation. This session discusses how policymakers can consider how to balance these legitimate, competing concerns when crafting legislation.

##### Speakers:

*Nicol Turner-Lee, Brookings Institute*

*Brad Tietz, Director of State Policy, Data Center Coalition*

##### Moderator:

*Reid Wilson, Founder & Editor, Pluribus News*

(See next page for Learning Lab opportunities)

## *Learning Labs on Energy and the Environment*

MONDAY, AUG. 31 | LEARNING LAB | State Suite I, Lower Level

7:30 – 8:45 a.m.      **Maximizing the Grid: How States are Getting More Energy from Existing Infrastructure**

Electricity demand is rising, and states across the Midwest are facing growing pressure to improve grid capacity and reliability without increasing costs for consumers. Hear from state lawmakers and policy and technology experts about innovative, bipartisan solutions being adopted around the country that maximize existing infrastructure to strengthen grid performance. This session will provide actionable examples, model policy frameworks, and lessons adaptable to your state to enhance reliability and affordability.

*This Learning Lab is presented by Pew Charitable Trusts*

TUESDAY, SEPT. 1 | LEARNING LAB | State Suite I, Lower Level

7:30 – 8:45 a.m.      **Powering the Heartland with Homegrown Energy: An overview of wind, solar, battery storage energy supply & transmission benefits in the Midwest**

An overview of the supply of wind, solar and battery energy storage in the Midwest, as well as explore the benefits for the region's electricity and transmission infrastructure.

*This Learning Lab is presented by the Clean Grid Association*