



Global Smart Energy Federation
Formerly known as Global Smart Grid Federation

NEWSLETTER

May 2025

EEI INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS AND APUA MEMBERS CONVENE A SPECIAL ROUNDTABLE ON PREPARING AFRICAN UTILITY CEO'S FOR THE PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF "MISSION 300"



"MISSION 300" IS AN INITIATIVE TO CONNECT 300 MILLION AFRICANS TO ELECTRICITY BY 2030

Global Smart Energy Federation's Charter Member, ASSOCIATION OF POWER UTILITIES OF AFRICA (APUA) and EDISON ELECTRIC INSTITUTE (EEI's) INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS convened a Roundtable focused on the practical aspects of implementing "Mission 300" from May 7th to 8th, 2025, in Washington, DC. Prior to the Roundtable, the delegation of African Electric Utility CEO's led by APUA participated in the Global Electrification Forum 2025 (GEF), held from 5th to 6th May 2025. GEF stands at the forefront of shaping the future of global electrification. It is a pivotal gathering of electric power industry leaders, policymakers, investors, and innovators from around the world, dedicated to addressing the most pressing challenges and opportunities facing the electrification of our society. APUA and EEI have maintained a partnership since 2019 through which they have collaborated on issues pertaining to electrification and energy transition.

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The Roundtable was dedicated to the practical aspects of implementing “Mission 300”, an initiative announced in January 2025 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania by 38 African Heads of State along with the African Development Bank, the World Bank, the Rockefeller Foundation, and others to connect, 300 million additional Africans to electricity networks by 2030. Pledges of over several billion were made at the meeting to fund the initiative. African electric utilities, members of APUA, will be at the forefront of the implementation of this potentially transformative initiative. In preparation of the challenges involved in the implementation of the initiative, the participating African CEOs met with Electric Utility leaders from other parts of the world to share experiences and lessons learned.

EEl’s member companies around the world make significant investments to transform their energy grids smarter, stronger, cleaner, more dynamic, and more secure. The electric grid (Transmission and Distribution) infrastructure is the backbone of a country’s economy. Electric companies integrate diverse resources and technologies into the energy grid while maintaining reliability and affordability. Efficient transmission and distribution systems reduce the cost of delivering energy and help to keep electricity affordable by optimizing the grid’s performance, reducing congestion, enabling the deployment of innovative technologies, and enhancing reliability and resiliency. African Electric Utility CEO’s and several international utility executives participated in the discussions.

At the conclusion of the Roundtable, several more African CEOs committed to joining EEl as full international members.

Article contributed by Abel Dider Tella, Director General, APUA

Announcing India Smart Utility Week (ISUW 2026)



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Global Stories on Smart Grid

MHI Notifies Scheme Guidelines for Manufacturing of Passenger EVs in India

The Ministry of Heavy Industries (MHI), Government of India has notified the detailed guidelines for the “Scheme to Promote Manufacturing of Electric Passenger Cars in India”. The scheme permits approved applicants to import completely built-up electric four-wheelers manufactured by global group companies with a minimum cost, insurance and freight value of USD35,000 at a reduced customs duty of 15 percent for five years. The total duty foregone under the scheme is capped at INR 6.48 billion or the actual investment committed by the applicant under the scheme, whichever is lower.

Read More: <https://shorturl.at/Sgu8O>

CERC Issues Draft Guidelines for VPPAs Under Power Market Regulations, 2021

The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) has issued draft guidelines for virtual power purchase agreements (VPPAs) under the CERC(Power Market Regulations), 2021. The draft aims to enable designated consumers to meet their renewable energy consumption obligation (RCO) targets through bilateral, non-tradable, and non-transferable over-the-counter contracts classified as non-transferable specific delivery agreements.

Read More: <https://shorturl.at/bn7jL>

World Bank Approves USD350 million Grant for Hydropower Storage Project in Malawi

The World Bank has approved a USD350 million grant to support Malawi's Mpatamanga Hydropower Storage Project. The grant has been approved by the International Development Association. The project was co-developed by the Government of Malawi and the International Finance Corporation, which is a part of the World Bank Group, as a public-private partnership. The overall expected cost of the project is over USD1.5 billion, including financing costs during the construction period. The capacity of the project is 358.5 MW. Upon completion, it is expected to enhance the country's installed capacity and deliver 1,544 GWh of clean energy annually.

Read More: <https://shorturl.at/NsUL7>

South Africa's New DEE Outlines 2025-30 Renewables and Transmission Targets

South Africa's newly created Department of electricity and energy (DEE) has outlined its strategic targets for the 2025-30 period, calling for the procurement of 22 GW of renewable energy capacity and the addition of 5,044 km of power transmission lines. After being separated from the Department of mineral and petroleum resources, DEE commenced independent operations on April 1, 2025. DEE unveiled its vision for the sector to lawmakers at the portfolio committee on electricity and energy on April 23, 2025, declaring its plans to increase the installed renewable base from 11 GW to 33 GW by 2030, with local content in these projects rising to 60 percent.

Read More: <https://shorturl.at/zKzox>

LONGi and ENGIE Forge Powerful Partnership to Drive Solar Innovation with Hi-MO 9 BC Technology

LONGi, a world leading solar technology company, has secured a significant agreement with ENGIE, a renowned global energy group, to deploy its advanced Hi-MO 9 modules for major utility-scale solar projects in Middle-East and North-Africa (MENA) region. This collaboration signifies a pivotal moment in the evolution of large-scale solar energy, highlighting the industry's increasing recognition of back contact (BC) technology as a game-changing solution for high-performance renewable energy installations.

Read More: <https://bitly.cx/h996r>

EDPB issues draft Blockchain Guidelines (Part 1)

On 8th April, the European Data Protection Board (EDPB) published draft guidelines on the processing of personal data through blockchain technologies. These guidelines aim to help controllers use blockchain technology while complying with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Stakeholders can comment on these guidelines until 9th June 2025. This article summarises the key points relevant to data controllers using blockchain.

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/2jh47cuk>

Global Stories on Smart Grid_____

What Is Covered Under Web 3.0 Market?

Web 3.0 refers to the next generation of the World Wide Web and is often associated with the evolution of the Internet. It represents a vision for a more intelligent, decentralized, and user-centric web experience. It brings forth a range of potential benefits that could reshape the digital landscape.

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/ytk3754r>

Toshiba Starts Sample Shipments of "SCiB™Nb", its Innovative Rechargeable Lithium-ion Battery with Niobium Titanium Oxide Anode

As Toshiba Corporation readies to start sample shipments of its latest innovation in lithium-ion batteries, the "SCiB™Nb," in June 2025, a battery that will advance the electrification of buses, trucks and other commercial e-vehicles where high operating rates are essential, it is offering potential users the opportunity to evaluate the battery for themselves, and accepting sample purchase orders on a dedicated website, SCiB™Nb Sample Purchase Reservation.

Read more: <https://tinyurl.com/y55dpavd>

Malaysia Introduces Community-Based Rooftop Solar Aggregation Scheme to Accelerate Clean Energy Access and Grid Decentralization

In a landmark move to boost decentralized renewable energy adoption, Malaysia's Ministry of Energy Transition and Water Transformation (PETRA) has launched the Community Renewable Energy Aggregation Mechanism (CREAM) — the nation's first structured rooftop solar aggregation program. The initiative enables homeowners to lease or rent out their rooftop spaces to third-party developers, who will then install solar photovoltaic (PV) systems to generate green electricity for nearby users. The electricity generated will be supplied to local commercial and domestic consumers located within a 5-kilometer radius, as specified in the program's framework published by the Energy Commission.

For more details : <https://bitly.cx/TXGZ5>

IFC Invests \$5 Million in Husk Nigeria To Build 108 Solar Mini Grids

The International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, has announced a \$5 million investment in Husk Power Energy Systems Nigeria Limited (Husk Nigeria) to support the deployment of up to 108 solar hybrid mini grids across Northern Nigeria, aiming to deliver renewable electricity to approximately 115,000 people and businesses.

For more details : <https://bitly.cx/x4l7H>



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Member Updates

PLN'S ELECTRICITY BUSINESS PLAN (RUPTL) 2025-2034, A BOLD INITIAL STEP TOWARD NZE 2060



Mr. Bahlil Lahadalia, Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources of Indonesia

On 26 May 2025, Indonesia's Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Mr. Bahlil Lahadalia, officially announced PLN's RUPTL 2025-2034. It stipulates the list of generation power plants (type, capacity, each COD schedules) that intends to be built in the next 10 years.

As PLN is a State-Owned Enterprise which electricity supply covers most of the country, the RUPTL is reflecting government policy on electricity sector for the next 10 years. Electricity sale in 2024 was 306 TWh, and it is predicted to become 511 TWh by 2034.

Mr Bahlil highlighted that the RUPTL shows the commitment of Indonesia to renewable energy transition. Despite he was acknowledging that some nations are wavering on their Paris Agreement commitments, RUPTL is firmed on energy transition, targeting 76% of its new 69.5 GW generation capacity from New and Renewable Energy (NRE) and storage systems by 2025-2034. NRE development will consist of solar (17.1 GW), wind (7.2 GW), geothermal (5.2 GW), hydro (11.7 GW), and bioenergy (0.9 GW), with 10.3 GW energy storages consist of Pumped Hydro Energy Storages (6 GW) and Battery Energy Storage (4.3 GW).

The scale of the planned investment, totaling Rp2,967.4 trillion (approximately \$185 billion USD), will require private participation, with 73% of this capacity slated for Independent Power Producer (IPP) schemes.

The RUPTL is also giving emphasis on strengthening and modernizing transmission and distribution infrastructure (nearly 48,000 km-circuits of transmission networks and 108,000 MVA of transmission substations) directly addresses a common hurdle in renewable energy integration in Indonesia – grid stability and VRE hosting-capacity. This proactive approach to grid modernization enhances the attractiveness of renewable energy projects by ensuring effective power evacuation and reliable delivery, mitigating risks often associated with intermittent renewable sources.

The RUPTL is part of the Government's economic policy, i.e targeting economic growth of 8% in 2029. while ensuring that economic development goes together with environmental sustainability.

The RUPTLs projected creation of over 1.7 million new jobs presents a significant socio-economic benefit. Furthermore, the targeted electrification of 5,758 unlit villages and the goal of 24-hour electricity service for 780,000 households through the Village Electrification program highlight a strong social equity component. This commitment to energy access, particularly for remote and underserved communities, resonates positively with sustainable development agendas.

Certain aspects of the RUPTL might raise concerns within the international energy community. The planned new fossil fuels power plant in the initial five years (9.2 GW gas, 3.5 GW completing coal-fired plants) and even a residual 3.9 GW in the second five-year period, could be seen as a point of contention. Mr Bahlil acknowledged that it might draw criticism from climate advocacy groups prioritizing immediate and drastic decarbonization. He explained that this gradual phase-out is required to ensure energy security and affordability. It is also required by Indonesia's overarching economic strategy, particularly the down streaming of its vast mineral resources. The development of processing facilities for nickel, bauxite, and other strategic minerals is extremely energy intensive. In the short term, the massive and firmed baseload power required by these industrial complexes cannot yet be fully supplied (at a reasonable cost) by the nascent green electricity infrastructure, which often faces challenges with intermittency and grid integration. Thus, a continued role for conventional power generation is deemed essential to fuel this critical economic transformation and create value-added products domestically, rather than exporting raw materials.

The introduction of nuclear energy with two small reactors (250 MW each) in Sumatera and Kalimantan also introduces another concern. While nuclear power is a low-carbon energy source, it carries inherent concerns related to safety, waste disposal, and proliferation, which are typically subject to rigorous international scrutiny and regulatory frameworks. Indonesia will develop the nuclear power plants with robust transparency and adherence to the highest safety standards to build confidence.

RUPTL implementation challenge lies in the sheer scale and complexity of project implementation. Indonesia's will need to streamline permitting processes, manage land acquisition issues, and ensure transparent tender mechanisms to avoid delays and cost overruns. Any significant setbacks in project execution could impact the overall timeline for energy transition.

Article contributed by Harry Harytoyo, Head of Regulation and Policy, PJCI, Indonesia

EPRI CLIMATE READi RESILIENCE FRAMEWORK RELEASED

Background

Climate READi (Resilience and Adaptation Initiative) is a major effort launched by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) in early 2022 to help the power sector address the rising risks posed by extreme weather and climate change. Its primary goal is to enhance the planning, design, and operation of a resilient electric power system by providing utilities and stakeholders with a science-based, data-driven framework for climate risk assessment and adaptation.

The initiative included input from over 40 utilities and 100+ organizations, including national labs, regulators, government agencies, and academic institutions. After three years of this collaborative research, EPRI has published the final deliverables for the initiative, including the comprehensive framework for assessing the risks to the power system associated with climate change, incorporating these risk assessments into the planning process and evaluating investment options for dealing with these risks.

Focus Areas

Climate READi has three primary focus areas –

1. **Physical Climate Data and Guidance:** Provides methodologies for applying climate data to power system analysis and hazard assessments.
2. **Power System Asset Vulnerability Assessment:** Evaluates climate-related vulnerabilities across all types of power system assets and explores adaptation options.
3. **System Modeling and Investment Prioritization:** Integrates climate impacts with other planning factors (like load growth and decarbonization) to inform resilience investments and long-term planning.

Climate READi Power Framework

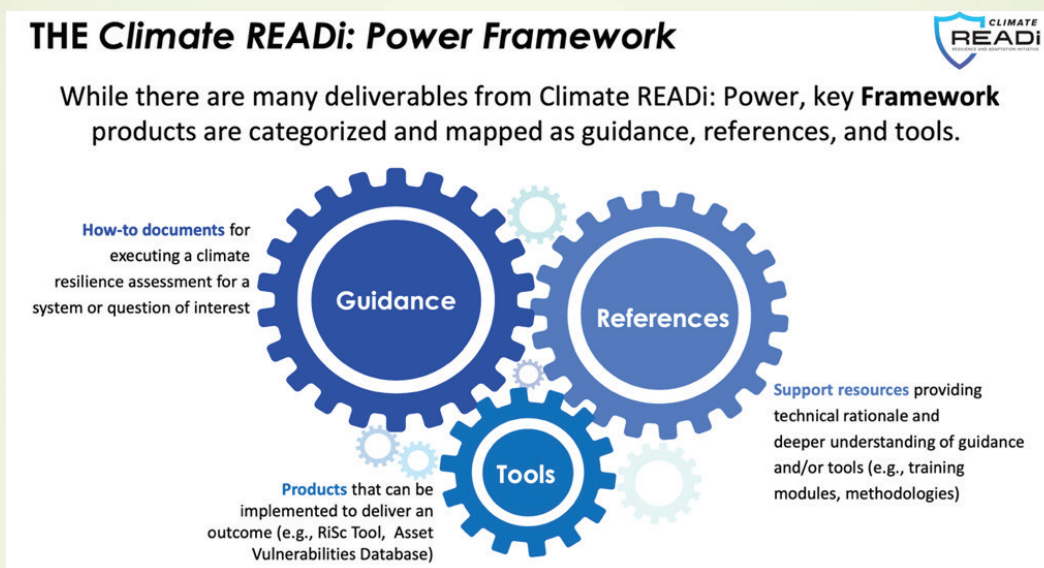
All of the Climate READi framework materials, including technical guidance and tools, are freely available to support resilience-informed decision-making across the power sector.

The cornerstone deliverable is the Climate READi: Power Framework, released in May 2025 after three years of collaboration with over 40 utilities and 100+ stakeholders, including national labs, regulators, and government agencies. The framework is public and provides:

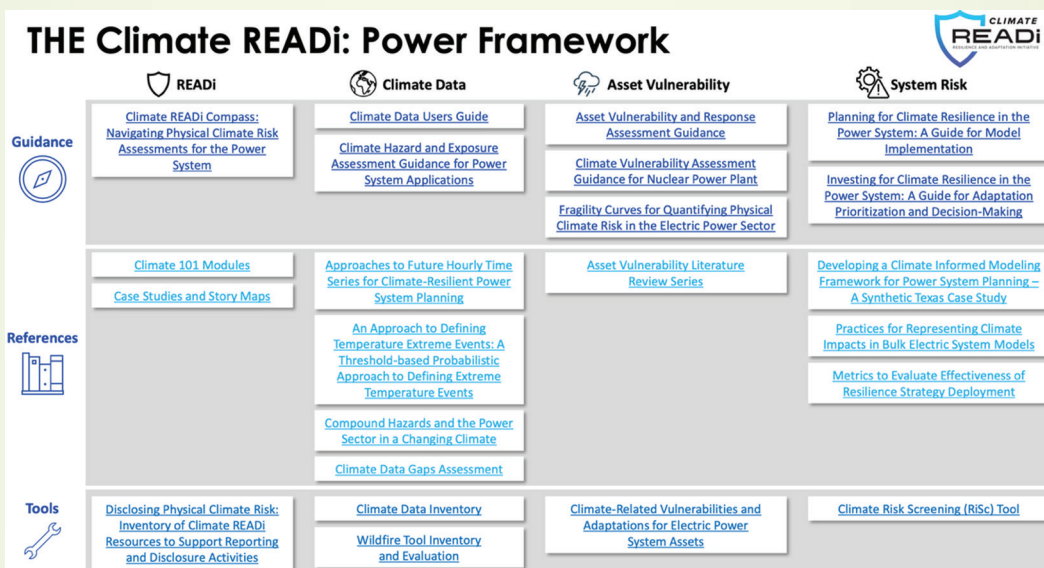


1. Guidance, references, and tools for localized hazard assessments, asset-level vulnerability and adaptation studies, and system-wide risk assessments.
2. A methodology to support resilience-informed planning and investment decisions for utilities and stakeholders.

All deliverables, including technical briefs, white papers, literature reviews, and training modules, are freely available to the public and can be accessed from the EPRI Climate READi website - <https://www.epri.com/research/sectors/readi>. This includes the three part series of webcasts describing the Framework that were held May 29, June 5 and June 12.



Categories of the deliverables that are part of the Climate READi Framework.



Overview of Climate READi deliverables (publicly available)

Summary

The EPRI Climate READi initiative's final deliverables and webcasts provide a robust, freely accessible framework and suite of resources to help the power sector address climate risk. These outputs emphasize proactive, science-based adaptation and resilience strategies, offering practical guidance, tools, and economic justifications for utilities, regulators, and stakeholders worldwide.

Article contributed by Mark McGranaghan, Fellow, EPRI



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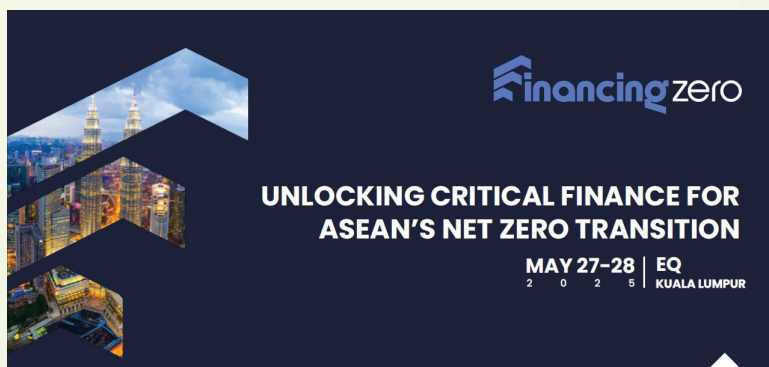
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AMI SHOULD BENEFIT ALL CONSUMERS

In my earlier articles, I have written about Inverter Based Resources (IBRs) and other new technologies both in the context of distributed generation and utilization. Here I explore why certain utilities get to accommodate these much faster and more easily.



The justification for investments in Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), which includes smart meters, backhaul communications, backend Meter Data Management System (MDMS), and then billing/bill delivery systems, etc. have been in vogue for over 20 years in many developed countries and for over 10 years in developing countries. In many jurisdictions, this has enabled time-of-use (TOU) rates. From erstwhile Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) to AMI 1.0 then AMI 2.0 now AMI 2.0+ (prepaid), the falling cost of this technology is moving the business needle towards mass deployment.

The ability to “time slice” energy consumption (and hence derived demand profiles) in 15-minute intervals, is seen as a very valuable move to get a good insight on consumption patterns and contribution to co-incident peaks. This was not possible with traditional mechanical meters. Utilities for their part rely on these “time slices” to get short duration aggregated loads on a given feeder for better real-time load management, rather than be limited by a static planning assumption. This allows better insight into the maximum load “headroom” on each individual feeder based on its own load characteristics, rather than a blanket standard. However, there is no published data, that there has been any substantial value release in utility asset utilization because of this “headroom”.

Smart meters enable remote turn-offs, raise-lower power limits and better cash management (through pre-paid schemes). AMI has eliminated labour costs associated with monthly meter readings. Smart meters have also enabled a much easier way of catching energy thefts. Evaluating historic data, current load patterns, and sub-feeder loadings, such thefts are more easily discernable than with mechanical meters. In India and Brazil, smart meters are built physically robust, electronically tamper-proof and 4KV “zap” proof, as part of meter standards.

However, AMI also has a few business and technical challenges i.e. (1) escalating costs due to rapidly changing telecom standards (faster obsolescence relative to utility power assets); (2) lack of analytical support to residential load flexibility to avoid unnecessary service upgrades; and (3) inability to provide value to small consumers in helping them budget electricity costs. One would argue that AMI offers no direct benefits to small consumers as data is available only as historical records. While such records influence long-term choices (energy efficient appliances and avoiding TOU peak rates), they do very little else, especially in real time load management. The consumer’s own smart meter data is yet to be monetized for the consumer’s benefit.

In a roundtable discussion at the India Smart Utility Week 2025 held in March in New Delhi, the value of AMI across all consumer segments was discussed. The participants included central/state policy makers, regulators, utilities, industry and other practitioners and experts. While there was consensus that utilities benefited the most (operations, optimization, pre-paid scheme, remote disconnects and theft prevention), there was no consensus that the millions of residential and very small retail businesses benefited from AMI (particularly, those that had tariff-subsidy for the first 300 kWh and others with very low monthly consumption <700 kWh).

Broadly speaking, an AMI rollout of one million smart meters together with its telecom backhaul and MDMR, etc. likely costs about \$80-100 million even with a low-cost smart meter averaging \$30/meter. Then there is ongoing maintenance, IT operations, and technology obsolescence upgrades. For example, the conversion from 3G to 4G or 5G requires extensive upgrades to the AMI system. The question is, should the above cost be borne by residential and small retail customers who derive little or no benefit from AMI.



In a recent article published in T&D World by Nora M. Brownwell (former FERC Commissioner, former NARUC President and former Chair of PG&E), “Smart Meters Alone Can’t Fix Our Problems: Why We Need a New Approach to Consumption Data”, she articulates capturing time-use-data for consumer load flexibility (EV charging, peak usage management). In other words, provide digital data-driven tools for consumer betterment. This data should also ensure low-to-moderate (LMI) consumers empower themselves to make effective choices regarding costs. The article further states, “despite significant market penetration, AMI/AMR have yielded few practical benefits for end-customers”.

In my view, the value of AMI can be enhanced in select areas, where the consumer benefits directly. Whether provided by the utility or by third-party, the real-time availability of meter data allows better load management. These are outlined below:

1. Provide Smart Meter Data Hop-to-Homes: Alter the “star-topology” data flow (meter-MDMR-consumer) with a “duplicate” spin-off reading wirelessly to the home Wi-Fi network (much like security systems). This would be akin to the old M30 spinoff reading in analog metering. This would enable third-party software decision support platforms to better manage load flexibility.
2. Provide Prepaid Meter Decision Support: Pre-paid consumers receive top-up text alerts. Such alerts are binary (“pay-up or else”) raising budget concerns for the poor consumers. However, if early actionable text messages are sent, such as “5 days prepaid left - limit A/C use”, it will go a long way to manage bills.
3. Enable Load Flexibility: Residential loads need prioritizing to manage its heavy appliances (EV charger, air conditioners, hot water tanks, space heating and dishwasher, heat pump, etc.). Either an in-house platform or a subscription-based cloud platform could use smart meter data and run algorithms to ensure priorities are met without sacrificing comfort and needs.
4. Incentivize Load Management for Grid Stability: Utilities should offer rebates and “influence” load management based on network congestion, stability, power quality and generation imbalance. This could be offered as “well-done” one-time rebates or a subscription-based scheme for limited load control.

There is so much more to be done using AMI data to help consumers and not just utilities. If utilities are not wanting to go down this path, then smart meters and AMI investments should not be put in rate base but rather be viewed as utility’s in-house tool to improve their operations.

The true value of AMI should directly benefit consumers and offer ways of lowering their bills

Article contributed by Ravi Seethapathy, GSEF Ambassador for Americas



India Smart Grid Forum



Energia Eficiente





Global Smart Energy Federation

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04 - 05 August 2025 | SAO PAULO, BRAZIL

ISGF & GSEF In partnership with ECOEE is taking an International delegation to The Latin American Smart Grid Forum scheduled from 04 - 05 August 2025 in São Paulo, Brazil. This will be followed by visit to Utilities in Rio De Janeiro on 07 - 08 August 2025

To join the Delegation please contact :
Aashima | Phone: 9871752530 | Email id: aashima@indiasmartgrid.org







Smart Grid Events

20th – 22nd May 2025

The 49th IPA Convention & Exhibition 2025, Indonesia
<https://convex.ipa.or.id/>

27th – 28th May 2025

Financing Zero 2025, EQ Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
<https://www.financingzero.com/>

27th - 29th May 2025

World Utility Congress (WUC), Abu Dhabi, UAE
<https://www.worldutilitiescongress.com/>

02nd - 06th June 2025

Asia Clean Energy Forum, Manila, Philippines
<https://asiacleanenergyforum.adb.org/>

3rd – 4th June 2025

Brussels, Belgium Eurelectric 2025 Power Summit
<https://www.eurelectric.org/events/power-summit-2025/>

3rd – 4th June 2025

2nd Annual National Virtual Power Plant Summit,
Denver, CO
<https://energyconferencenetwork.swoogo.com/vpps25/6802249vpps25/6802249>

16th – 19th June 2025

CIRED, Geneva, Switzerland
<https://www.cired2025.org/>

18th - 20th June 2025

Japan Energy Summit & Exhibition, Tokyo
<https://www.japanenergyevent.com/>

9th - 10th July 2025

Solar & Storage Live Vietnam 2025, Vietnam
<https://solarandstoragelive.com/>

4th - 5th August 2025

17th Latin American Smart Grid Forum, São Paulo, Brazil
<https://www.smartgrid.com.br/eng>

27th -29th August, 2025

Clean Energy Ministerial, Busan, Korea
<https://www.cleanenergyministerial.org/>

9th -11th September, 2025

Enlit ASIA, Bangkok, Thailand
<https://www.enlit-asia.com/>

07th – 08th October, 2025

Innovation for Cool Earth Forum, Tokyo
<https://www.icef.go.jp/>

27th -31st October 2025

Singapore International Energy Week, Marina Bay Sands
<https://www.siew.gov.sg/>

18th - 20th November, 2025

Enlit Europe, Bilbao, Spain
<https://www.enlit-europe.com/>

02nd – 05th February 2026

DistribTech International, San Diego, CA, USA
<https://www.distributech.com/>

10th -14th March 2026

12th India Smart Utility Week (ISUW 2026), New Delhi
<http://www.isuw.in/>

17th - 19th March 2026

EN26 Conference & Exhibition, Adelaide Convention
Centre, South Australia
<https://www.energynetworks.com.au/events/en26-conference-exhibition/>

25th – 27th March 2026

ASEAN (Bangkok) Smart Energy & Energy Storage
Expo 2026, Bangkok, Thailand
<https://www.aseancleanenergyexpo.com/>

GSEF AT A GLANCE

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Association of Power Utilities of Africa

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