

Data centers, workforce, and the grid: join the MEPS Economic Development event

1 message

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**Midwest Energy Policy Series: Economic Development**

Tuesday, December 9, 2025 · 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (CST)

IBEW Local 1 · [5850 Elizabeth Avenue · St. Louis, MO 63110](https://www.moenergy.org/events/ibew-local-1-5850-elizabeth-avenue-st-louis-mo-63110)

Hybrid event · In-person and virtual via Zoom

[Register now](#)

In-person seating is limited. Virtual registration is available.

Join the Missouri Energy Initiative and regional leaders to dig into the energy and economic development questions shaping Missouri and the Midwest.

We will look at data center growth, grid impacts, workforce needs, rural transmission and generation, and the future of efficiency on a high-demand system.

What we will cover

- Real story behind data center demand and local price impacts.
- Key economic development and energy stories in Missouri and the Midwest.
- Workforce strategies as retirements and new job needs grow.
- Generation, transmission, and demand in rural communities.
- Energy efficiency in a high-demand grid and what it means for bills and reliability.

Event agenda

7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	Check-in, breakfast, and networking
8:30 – 9:30 a.m.	Workforce Development Innovation
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Meeting Rural Economic Needs (Generation, Transmission, Demand)

10:30 – 10:45 a.m.	Morning break
10:45 – 11:45 a.m.	Biggest Economic Development & Energy Stories
11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Lunch
12:15 – 12:45 p.m.	MEI Rebrand
12:45 – 1:45 p.m.	Real Story on Data Center Demand (Why other countries aren't using as much, what it means)
1:45 – 2:00 p.m.	Afternoon break
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	The Future of Energy Efficiency in a High-Demand Grid
3:00 – 3:15 p.m.	Closing remarks and networking
3:15 p.m.	Event ends

Featured speakers

Sessions and speakers at a glance.

Workforce Development Innovation



Nate Zier
Executive Director
National Institute for Construction Excellence



Lori Jacob
CEO
Junior Achievement



Melody Lo, Ph.D.
Chair and Professor of Economics
Missouri University of Science and Technology

Meeting Rural Economic Needs



Maria Kuhns
Executive Director
Hannibal Economic Development Council (HEDC)



Allie Bennett
Manager of Economic Development and Member Services
Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative



Patti Reardon
Manager Business and Economic Development
Spire



Brandon Atchison, MPA
Executive Director
Missouri Economic Development Council

Biggest Economic Development & Energy Stories



Rob Dixon
Senior Director, Economic, Community, & Business Development
Ameren Missouri



Kevin Gunn
VP of Federal and State Policy
Evergy



Deborah Price
Senior VP, Business Recruitment & General Counsel
Missouri Partnership

MEI Rebrand



Josh Campbell
Executive Director
Missouri Energy Initiative

Real Story on Data Center Demand



Ben Campbell
Assistant Director
U.S. Department of Energy Central Onsite Energy Technical Assistance Partnership



Heather Coil
Sr. Manager State Policy
Data Center Coalition

The Future of Energy Efficiency in a High-Demand Grid



Keith Robinson
Director of Weatherization
Community Action Agency of St. Louis County, Inc.



Steve Skodak
CEO
Building Performance

Sponsor spotlight: Missouri S&T

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Pro tip: open these before MEPS so you can find Dr. Lo and the S&T team with your questions ready.

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Be part of the conversation on energy-driven economic development in Missouri and the Midwest.

Register for MEPS: Economic Development



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