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So far 2019 has been full of activity, travel (including CES and NAIAS 2019) and some pretty significant weather (Polar Vortex!) for our team at NextEnergy. We're excited to have some new(er) faces and voices to share our experiences and expertise with you via this newsletter, on social media and through speaking opportunities at industry events. As always, we love hearing from you, so if you'd like to discuss any of the topics covered below, or opportunities to work together, please feel free to reach out to the authors, or connect with me directly. Until then, stay warm!



Polar Vortex 2019: Why a Raging Fire Sparked a Request to Turn Down the Heat

Nathalie Osborn
Director, Smart Grid Initiatives
NextEnergy

If you live in the Midwest you are all too familiar with winter and how quickly the weather can shift to dangerous conditions. Mother Nature has certainly taken her toll on us this winter with extreme weather ranging from the Polar Vortex to damaging ice and high winds. Michigan residents received an added punch when our two largest utilities asked all customers to reduce both electric and gas usage despite below freezing temps. Read [more](#).

Industry Updates & Observations



NAIAS 2019 Recap: What's Happening in Mobility

Tim Slusser
Director, Smart Mobility Initiatives
NextEnergy

As one of NextEnergy's newest team members, I'm excited about this first opportunity to share my thoughts on the future of mobility with our network of innovators, manufacturers, non-profits, government, start-ups, investors and others who share an interest in this space. I hope this is just the beginning of many meaningful conversations about future mobility solutions and the human behaviors that will shape them. Read [more](#).



CES 2019 - The "Marathon" Show for Consumer Technology & Innovation

David Jackson
Director, Business Development & Industry Partnerships
NextEnergy

I had an opportunity last month to return to the [Consumer Electronics Show \(CES 2019\)](#) in Las Vegas (my first time representing NextEnergy) with my colleague Nathalie Osborn. This year more than 180,000 people attended the show, along with 6500 media and analysts. Whether you were able to attend or not, we thought it might be helpful for us to share our insights on the activity relevant to the spaces we are working in. Read [more](#).

The IN2 Channel Partner Strategic Award at Work



In 2017, [NextEnergy](#) and [ProspectSV](#) applied for an [IN2 Channel Partner Strategic Award](#) to address the gaps and opportunities in the sustainable transportation market. They proposed a partnership with the goals of connecting the cleantech innovation pipeline to industry players and market opportunities and bringing private sector/industry partners together with government and NGO services to focus on serving low-to moderate-income market segments.

The proposal stood out and theirs was one of eight projects encompassing 19 organizations selected for an IN2 Channel Partner Strategic Award 2017. That year, more than \$1M in funding was awarded to address gaps in clean-energy technology development and commercialization. Read [more](#).

Investment & Tech Startup Opportunities

[Startup Story Night 2019-Call for Submissions](#)

Mar. 21 | Detroit

[New Economy Initiative](#) (NEI), in partnership with [Model D Media](#), announce the 3rd-annual Startup Story Night--a platform for entrepreneurs in Southeast MI to share their experiences in opening, owning and running their own businesses. This year's theme? "Don't Call It a Comeback". NEI is looking to hear stories of entrepreneurs who took their businesses back from the brink and overcame startup struggles.

Submit your story at startupstorynight.com by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15!

[DTX Launch Detroit](#)

Feb. 19 | Info Session @ Techtown

DTX Launch Detroit is an intensive 10-week summer accelerator for college students and recent graduates aspiring to launch a technology startup. Attend the info session to learn more! RSVP [here](#).

[Pitch Club Michigan](#)

Feb. 27 | Ann Arbor

Hosted by [Kvyba Innovations](#), Pitch Club is a unique mentoring and funding program hosted across the state of Michigan. Ongoing monthly events provide entrepreneurs the opportunity

to learn from seasoned entrepreneurs and are meant to educate, network, inspire and provide valuable experiences for being investable. Register [here](#).

Upcoming Events

View our full list [here](#)



[Shared Mobility Summit](#)

Mar. 5-7 | Chicago

Network with leading mobility experts, change-makers, and practitioners to learn about the latest research, policy advances, and mobility experiments. Meet up-and-coming innovators in the Startup Spotlight and the Shared

Mobility Expo.



[Microgrid Global Innovation Forum](#)

Mar. 18-20 | Wash., D.C.

The conference emphasis is on maximizing the business case for microgrids, integration into the larger grid, and sharing real-world case studies of both grid-tied and off-grid/remote environments.



SMART CITIES
CONNECT
CONFERENCE & EXPO

[Smart Cities Connect Conference](#)

Apr. 1-4 | Denver

The most comprehensive conference, exposition and accelerator of smart city innovation in North America, delivering premium networking and educational opportunities with a focus on city leaders and their priorities.



[SAE World Congress Experience](#)

Apr. 9-11 | Detroit

Experience three days of expert-led technical education, peer-to-peer networking, a technology-driven exhibit floor and global mobility solutions that are shifting the marketplace.



[Michigan Energy Summit](#)

Apr. 25 | Grand Rapids

Enroll today for the Michigan Battle of the Buildings 2019! Open to all Michigan commercial and industrial buildings, the program is a way to encourage energy-efficient practices across the state. [Sponsor & exhibit](#) opportunities are available.

[Smart Energy Summit](#)

Feb. 18-20 | Austin

[The NEW Michigan Energy Code & ASHRAE Standard Update Seminar](#)

Fed. 27 | Warren

[Midwest Energy Solutions Conference](#)

Feb. 20-22 | Chicago

[SEPA-Electrifying Transportation: Customer-Centric Utility Strategies](#)

Mar. 7 | Webinar

[15th Annual Michigan Forum on Economic Regulatory Policy](#)

Feb. 22 | East Lansing

[Industry of Things World USA](#)

Mar. 7-8 | San Diego

[USGBC Detroit Region/Detroit 2030 Solar Lunch & Learn](#)

Feb. 26 | Detroit

[Automotive Cyber Security](#)

Mar. 27-29 | Detroit

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Battery Recycling Prize and and Battery Recycling R&D Center

Deadline: TBD

Awards: \$5.5M

The DOE seeks entries for the Battery Recycling Prize and the establishment of an associated Battery Recycling R&D Center. The goal is to develop technologies to profitably capture 90% of all lithium-based battery technologies in the United States. Currently, lithium-ion batteries are collected and recycled at a rate of less than 5%.

OPEN +

ARPA-E announced \$12M in funding for five projects as part of its first-ever OPEN+ program.

Inspired by the high quality of applicants in the agency's recent [OPEN 2018](#) funding opportunity, this first cohort will focus on ways to advance nuclear power by overcoming challenges in high performance materials science.

Campus Cyberinfrastructure

Deadline: Feb. 20, 2019

Awards: \$17M

The Campus Cyberinfrastructure (CC*) program invests in coordinated campus-level networking and cyberinfrastructure improvements, innovation, integration, and engineering for science applications and distributed research projects.

Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer (SBIR/STTR)

FY 2019 Phase 1 Release 2

Deadline: Feb. 25, 2019

Awards: \$37M

The SBIR and STTR program encourages U.S.-based small businesses to engage in high-risk, innovative research and technology development with the potential for future commercialization. This release covers solar energy technologies.

Advanced Manufacturing

Deadline: Proposals accepted anytime

Awards: TBD

The NSF seeks proposals that address issues related to national prosperity and security and advancing knowledge to sustain global leadership. Areas of research include manufacturing systems, materials processing, manufacturing machines, methodologies, and manufacturing across the length scales.

Grid Optimization (GO) Competition

Deadline: Apr. 1, 2019

Awards: Up to \$4M

The GO Competition is a series of challenges to develop software management solutions for a resilient and secure American electricity grid. Consisting of multiple challenge rounds, the first will focus on the problem of Security Constrained Optimal Power Flow (SCOPF), wherein competitors must use software to route power to customers across a simulated grid in a reliable and cost-effective way.

Solicitation on Topics Informing New Program Areas

Deadline: Dec. 19, 2019

Awards: \$18M

This announcement is purposely broad in scope, and will cover a wide range of topics to encourage the submission of the most innovative and unconventional ideas in energy technology. The objective of this solicitation is to support high-risk R&D leading to the development of potentially disruptive new technologies across the full spectrum of energy applications.

<<<Rolling>>>

[Business Accelerator Fund](#)

[The Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Loans for Michigan Businesses](#)

[Energy Foundation Grants](#)

[Invest Michigan](#)

[Michigan Emerging Technologies Fund](#)

[Motor City Match](#)

[The Scherman Foundation Rosin Fund—Environment](#)

[Rural Energy for America Program Renewable Energy Systems & Energy Efficiency Improvement Loans](#)

<<<Upcoming>>>

[RFI: Efficient and Flexible Building Loads](#)

Application Deadline: Mar. 1, 2019

This RFI is Issued by the DOE, Building Technologies Office (BTO) is seeking input from industry to better understand where flexible building loads research goals can be refined to reflect market needs and inform related R&D activities. Efficient and flexible building loads provide options to increase electricity system reliability and energy affordability, while also supporting a portfolio of generation options in grid modernization.

[NOI: Fiscal Year 2019 H2@Scale Funding Opportunity Announcement](#)

Deadline: TBD

Awards: TBD

The EERE intends to issue, on behalf of the FCTO, the FY19 H2@Scale FOA as an initiative to enable affordable and reliable largescale hydrogen generation, transport, storage, and utilization in the US across sectors. Once the FOA has been released, EERE will provide an avenue for potential applicants to submit questions.

Energy Solutions & Funding Programs



The [Lighting Technology Energy Solutions \(LITES\)](#) program aims to reduce the energy footprint in small and medium commercial buildings by accelerating the adoption of advanced lighting controls solutions through training and technology deployment.



Administered by NextEnergy and funded by the MEDC, [MATch Energy Grant](#) provides cost-share and/or commercialization funds to eligible Michigan small businesses and university researchers applying for advanced energy- or transportation-related, non-SBIR/STTR federal funding from the DOE, DoD, NSF, DOT, etc.

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