

February 2020



## Monthly Update

Jim Saber, President & CEO

It has been a busy month for the team at NextEnergy!

Our smart mobility deployment with SmartCone, the winner of our [NextChallenge](#) Smart Cities competition, is now live in the city of Grosse Pointe Park with their AutoGuardian solution.

The [NextChallenge](#) Smart Cities program sought innovative solutions from around the world to compete for the opportunity to deploy technologies in southeastern Michigan. [Read more.](#)

## Join our Network!

Whether you are an innovator offering smart mobility or smart grid technology solutions, or a community, city or organization in need of solutions to address your most pressing challenges; our established network can provide opportunities and connections to help you achieve your goals.

[Learn more and apply!](#)

## NextEnergy Blog



## Tapping into Tomorrow's Innovation Today

Wayne Snyder  
Director, Technology Department

*"The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking."*

- The New Quotable Einstein (2005)

As our world changes, so too must our thinking about how we plan, design and build resilient cities.

A couple weeks ago I had the privilege to volunteer as an Engineering Society of Detroit (ESD) member judge at the 2020 ESD Michigan Regional Future City Competition, a DiscoverE national program that brings 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students together to imagine, research, design and build cities of the future. The sustainability theme this year was "Clean Water: Tap Into Tomorrow". [Read more.](#)

NextEnergy has named Grosse Pointe Park as the pilot location for **SmartCone Technologies'** innovative technology safety solution. **SmartCone**, an Ontario-based leading developer of a modular IoT (Internet of Things) eco-system, was the Demonstration Grant Award winner of NextEnergy's NextChallenge: SmartCities.

Tenille Houston, CEO of **AutoGuardian by SmartCone** explains "Working with NextEnergy and forward-thinking cities like Grosse Pointe Park, to put their citizens first and collaborate on new solutions to create safer roads for all is exciting and rewarding. Our system not only provides a municipality with data collection to better understand mobility within their city, but also expands to create intelligent warning systems that are designed to give motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians the time they need to act and be safe."

Check out the video below to learn about the goals for this public-private partnership.



## LiTES Webinar

In Case You Missed It! On February 4, 2020, NextEnergy, in partnership with Consumers Energy and DTE hosted a webinar to share key findings from the DOE-funded [Lighting Technology Energy Solutions \(LiTES\) Program](#).



We invite you to [listen to the webinar recording](#) or [download the webinar slides](#).

The LiTES Program Reports are also available for download on our [website](#).

## Featured Conference

**We're Energized About Electrification 2020: Join Us!**

At NextEnergy, we're proud to be a Supporting Organization at the [Electrification 2020 International Conference & Exposition](#), hosted by the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) on **April 6-9, 2020** in Charlotte, North Carolina. The conference will address the latest questions on end-use electrification across industry sectors, and explore the answers to help advance electrification initiatives and create sustainable solutions.



With unparalleled access to industry influencers and compelling content, you will have continuous opportunities to learn, share and connect — and enhance progress in reaping electrification's significant benefits. For more information and registration, visit [www.electrification2020.com](http://www.electrification2020.com).

## Upcoming Events

[Climate Leadership Conference](#)  
March 4-6 | Detroit, MI



CLIMATE  
LEADERSHIP  
CONFERENCE

The annual Climate Leadership Conference is North America's premier event dedicated to addressing the climate crisis through policy, innovation, and business solutions. The conference brings together forward-thinking leaders from business, government, academia, and the non-profit community to explore energy and climate solutions and opportunities, and to showcase climate leadership.

Join us in Detroit to build strategic connections across diverse sectors, gain key insights and best practices, celebrate the organizations and individuals who are making a difference, and collaborate with local and national decision-makers.

[Use code CLC-Next-15 for 15% off registration!](#)

[Microgrid Global Innovation Forum](#)  
March 10-11 | Chicago, IL



11th Edition

**MICROGRID**

GLOBAL INNOVATION FORUM  
& VPP-DERMS SUMMIT • NORTH AMERICA

Join **NextEnergy** at the 11th Microgrid Global Innovation Forum in Chicago on March 10-11, 2020, where our **Director of Smart Grid Initiatives, Nathalie Osborn**, will be moderating a panel on "How Utilities are Leveraging Energy Storage & Microgrids."

This session will explore how utilities are looking to the future, including ways both investor-owned and municipal utilities are exploring the role energy storage and microgrid projects will play in their portfolios. Southern Company will share lessons learned from their Birmingham Smart Neighborhoods® Initiative which incorporates a community-scale microgrid, rooftop solar, battery storage, energy efficiency and smart home technologies. Xcel Energy will provide an overview of their Peña Station NEXT connected community powered by a microgrid, renewables and enhanced mobility solutions. Finally, the Lansing Board of Water & Light will provide the municipal utility perspective on how they are investing in community solar and energy storage projects.

## What we're reading

We've asked the NextEnergy team to share the industry-related news, stories and information that have grabbed their attention this month. We hope you find it useful! For more recommendations you can explore past editions on our [website](#).



**Jim Saber, President & CEO**

**What he's reading:** [Hydrogen Safety-An Opportunity for Investors](#)

**Media:** Medium

**What makes it interesting:** Interesting article on opportunities within the hydrogen economy.



**Nathalie Osborn, Director, Smart Grid Initiatives**

**What she's reading:** [Smart city implementation: Nine tips to get you started](#)

**Media:** Plante Moran

**What makes it interesting:** Smart city solutions create benefit, yet aren't always simple to implement. These nine tips hit the mark for what to consider as you get started and ensuring long term success. Have a smart city project you're considering? Let us know about your community's needs via our [Join our Network](#) form.



**Tim Slusser, Director, Smart Mobility Initiatives**

**What he's reading:** [Airstream looks to electrification for its future campers](#)

**Media:** CNET

**What makes it interesting:** Vehicle electrification has reached the recreational vehicle market. Manufacturers like Airstream are investigating ways to support towing of trailers by electric vehicles in order to extend range and create collaborative systems between the towing vehicle and the trailer.



**Wayne Snyder, Director, Technology Department**

**What he's reading:** [Ensuring American Leadership in Automated Vehicle Technologies - Automated Vehicles 4.0](#)

**Media:** United States Department of Transportation

**What makes it interesting:** The latest in a series of reports from the US Department of Transportation, Automated Vehicles 4.0 demonstrates a clear opposition to the Federal Communications Commission proposed rulemaking to open up the 5.9 Ghz band to non-safety wireless applications such as WiFi. Interestingly, what USDOT used to call "5.9 Ghz band" they now call "Safety Band". Will this new messaging sway rulemakers enough to maintain dedicated spectrum for transportation safety applications?



**Eric McDonald, Director, Facilities & Infrastructure Development**

**What he's reading:** [Collaborative to Expand Nationwide EV Charging Network](#)

**Media:** T&D World

**What makes it interesting:** ChargePoint and the National Association of Truck Stop Operators will leverage \$1billion USD to install EVSEs at more than 4,000 travel plazas and truck stops over the next ten years.

## Funding Opportunities

[View our full list here](#)

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Funding Opportunities

### [Solar Energy Technologies Office FY 2020 Funding Program](#)

**Deadline:** May 21, 2020

**Awards:** \$125.5M

The Solar Energy Technologies Office (SETO) works across the solar energy technology spectrum with the goal of improving the affordability, reliability, and performance of solar technologies on the grid, so more Americans can benefit from the declining costs of solar. This FOA supports early-stage research, development, and demonstration of solar technologies, including PV hardware, thermal energy storage, AI applications for solar energy, and agricultural applications.

**Tags:** Active Funding Opportunities

### [American-Made Geothermal Manufacturing Prize](#)

**Deadline:** July 20, 2020

**Awards:** \$3.25M

The Geothermal Prize is a series of four progressive competitions which harness the rapid advances that additive manufacturing can provide in tool design, fabrication, and functionality. It incentivizes innovators and entrepreneurs to discover new advanced manufacturing solutions. This rapid, scalable approach to prototype development not only provides cash prizes, but also engages America's unique innovation ecosystem to help participants achieve their goals.

**Tags:** Active Funding Opportunities

[FY 2020 Geothermal Technologies Office Hydrothermal and Low Temperature Multi-topic FOA](#)

**Deadline:** April 8, 2020

**Awards:** \$18.8M

This multitopic funding opportunity aims to drive down costs and risks associated with the discovery of hidden geothermal systems in the basin and range region of the western United States, and to enhance energy system resilience through utilization of Reservoir Thermal Energy Storage (RTES), Deep Direct-Use (DDU), and other geothermal direct-use applications. These applications can be deployed at military installations, hospital complexes, and other large energy end-uses across the U.S., such as university campuses.

**Tags:** Active Funding Opportunities

**[NOI: Solid Oxide Fuel Cell \(SOFC\), Electrolyzer and Hybrid Technology Development](#)**

**Deadline:** June 1, 2020

**Awards:** TBD

There are multiple areas of interest that are anticipated for this FOA which could include, but are not limited to, small-scale (nominally 5-25 kWe) distributed generation SOFC systems; hydrogen production from SOEC systems; and development of material and systems required for the improving the cost, performance, and reliability of single and multiple cell SOFC systems using natural or synthetic gas as fuel.

**Tags:** Upcoming Funding Opportunities

**[Hydrogen Fuel Cell-Battery Powered Hybrid Emergency Relief Truck: "H2Rescue"](#)**

**Deadline:** March 31, 2020

**Awards:** \$1.1M

This a joint FOA through the U.S. Department of Defense and the U.S. Department of Energy to support the development and deployment of a fuel cell-battery powered hybrid emergency relief truck that could enhance their emergency relief and disaster management capabilities. Expected benefits include clean, quiet operation, load-following microgrid-capable exportable power, water production, and heat.

**Tags:** Active Funding Opportunities

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[Business Accelerator Fund](#)

[Critical Aspects of Sustainability](#)

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

[Energy Foundation Grants](#)

[Invest Michigan](#)

[Motor City Match](#)

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