



# Midwestern Legislative Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

## The New Energy Economy: Extending the Benefits to American and Canadian Farmers and Rural Communities

CSG Midwest-Canada Energy Subcommittee  
Virtual meeting

July 13-14, 2020

### *Draft Agenda*

*The meeting will offer an opportunity for legislators from the region to learn how to successfully expand the role of agriculture and rural communities in the production of clean energy.*

*This meeting is being hosted in cooperation with Germany's Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy and includes presenters from Germany. Minnesota Sen. David Senjem, Vice Chair of the Energy Subcommittee, made this connection in order to share information with state and provincial legislators about what works for Germany's active farmers and why.*

*Anticipated attendance: 30-35 legislators from 11 states and four Canadian provinces. All registered attendees are expected to attend the entire two-part meeting. All sessions will be interactive, and participants will be asked to do some "homework" before the meeting.*

**Monday, July 13 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.**

**1:00 – 1:15 p.m.**

***Welcome, introductions, explanation of how this meeting will work***

*MLA Dan D'Autremont, Saskatchewan, Chair, MLC Midwest-Canada Energy Subcommittee  
Sen. David Senjem, Minnesota, Vice Chair, MLC Midwest-Canada Energy Subcommittee  
Rep. Norine Hammond, Illinois, Co-chair, MLC Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee*

**1:15 – 1:50 p.m.**

**Plenary 1**

***The Future of Energy***

**Keynote Speaker: Gerard Reid, Founding Partner, Alexa Capital (not confirmed),**

Gerard Reid has spent the last decade working in equity research, fund management and corporate finance and has developed a strong reputation as a leading global expert in energy. He is also an author, blogger and monthly columnist for Biz Energy Today, the German energy industry publication. His presentation will focus on where the energy sector will be in 2030 and what policymakers need to know and think about in the next year or two to position their states and provinces as winners in the clean energy world.

Q & A period

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- 1:50 – 2:25 p.m.**      **Breakout sessions 1-5**  
***The Future is Already Here: Promising Projects***
1.      Using wind energy to create nitrogen fertilizer and to tackle long-term energy storage
  2.      Innovative wastewater treatment: Cheaper is greener in rural St. Cloud
  3.      How to turn agricultural and food processing wastes into local assets: Le Sueur’s hometown biodigester
  4.      TBD
  5.      Endless energy from deep below: Think geothermal
- 2:25 – 2:40 p.m.**      **Break**
- 2:40 – 2:55 p.m.**      **Plenary 2**  
***Feeling the Pulse: What the Polls Tell Us***  
**Speaker: Adam Seidel, Executive Director Minnesota Conservative Energy Forum**  
Mr. Seidel will discuss key findings from the 2019 *National Clean Energy Survey*.
- 2:55 – 3:35 p.m.**      **Plenary 3**  
**Speakers: One legislator per participating state or province**  
What is going on in your state or province to expand the role of the agriculture sector in the energy transition that we absolutely should know about?  
[1 item only; 3 min. per state/province only]
- 3:40 – 4:15 p.m.**      **Breakout Sessions**  
**8-10 people per room; same topic for each group**  
Brainstorming: How can agriculture and rural communities benefit from future energy initiatives? [moderator to present solutions to plenary later]
- 4:15 – 4:30 p.m.**      **Plenary 4**  
Review collected information/solutions
- 4:30 – 4:45 p.m.**      **Wrap-up Day 1**  
Hosts: Dan and Dave  
Slido poll (ask a question and participants give a one-word answer)
- 4:45 – 5:00 p.m.**      **Opportunity to connect/network in 3 small breakout rooms**

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<b><u>Tuesday, July 14</u></b>	<b>8:00 – 11:45 a.m. CDT/15:00 – 18:45 CET</b>
<b>8:00 – 8:10 a.m.</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions [10 min.]</b>
<b>8:10 – 8:45 a.m.</b>	<p><b>Plenary 5</b></p> <p><b>Is There a Green Hydrogen Future Coming for Rural Communities?</b></p> <p><b>Speaker: Siemens</b> (speaker not confirmed – invite head of the innovation team)</p> <p>Q and A period</p>
<b>8:45 – 9:45 a.m.</b>	<p><b>Plenary 6--Panel Discussion</b></p> <p><b>Speakers from Germany/Canada/US states about successes bringing agriculture into energy production</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Germany: Baerbel Hoehn (former member of the German Bundestag)</li> <li>• Representative of the German farming community (farmers and businesses created a new business together)</li> <li>• Canadian legislator perspectives</li> <li>• State legislator perspectives</li> </ul> <p>Q and A period</p>
<b>9:45 – 10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>10:00 – 10:30 a.m.</b>	<p><b>Breakout sessions</b></p> <p>Small Group discussions - How states, provinces and German states have worked with local communities to address siting concerns</p>
<b>10:30 – 10:45 a.m.</b>	<p><b>Plenary 7</b></p> <p>Review collected information [2 minutes per breakout group report]</p>
<b>10:45 – 11:15 a.m.</b>	<p><b>Breakout sessions – led by meeting chairs</b></p> <p>Discussion about next steps/need for future meetings, virtual or in-person</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What would you like to know more about?</li> <li>○ What topics or details were missing from these discussions?</li> <li>○ Would a future meeting, either virtual or in-person, be useful?</li> </ul>
<b>11:15 – 11:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Plenary 8—wrap-up by meeting chairs</b>
<b>11:30 – 11:45 a.m.</b>	<b>Closing – optional social time</b>