



Q2 2025 RETAC Meeting Notes

June 18, 2025

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Pacific)

Microsoft Teams Webinar

Meeting Attendees

James White, Chelan PUD
Robert Bogataj, City of Seattle
Kenji Spielman, Energy Trust Oregon
Todd Greenwell, Idaho Power
Michelle Wildie, Puget Sound Energy

Andrew Pultorak, Puget Sound Energy
Suzanne Frew, Snohomish PUD
Ammi Amarnath, EPRI
Lauren Kerr, Portland General Electric
Ritika Kumbharkar, MN CEE

NEEA Staff: Adam Gage, Alisyn Maggiora, Chris Wolgamott, Dana Bradshaw, Kristen Aramthanapon, Lynne Mosley, Mark Rehley, Noe Contreras, Wendy Preiser, Becky Walker

Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Announcements	Mark Rehley	NEEA
Round Robin	RETAC Members	
Hot Air Hot Water Forum & EFX '25 Conference Debrief <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motor-Driven Systems Update• Commercial HPWH• Open Discussion	Kristen Aramthanapon Adam Gage RETAC Members	NEEA

Resources

- Agenda and Packet Materials: [Q2 2025 RETAC Agenda Packet - Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance \(NEEA\)](#)
- Slide Deck: [Q2 2025 RETAC Meeting Slides - Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance \(NEEA\)](#)
- Q2 2025 Emerging Technology Newsletter: [Q2 2025 Emerging Technology Newsletter - Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance \(NEEA\)](#)

Welcome, Announcements

2025 Meeting Dates:

- Q1 – Thursday, March 13
- Q2 – Wednesday, June 18
- Q3 – Wednesday, September 24
- Q4 – Thursday, December 4

Upcoming conferences:

June 28 – July 1 – [BOMA International Conference](#), Boston, MA

July 16 – 18 – [ACEEE Industrial Summer Study](#), Charlotte, NC

July 19 – 22 – [Electrical Apparatus Service Association \(EASA\) Convention](#), Nashville, TN

September 10-11 – [CEE Industry Partners Meeting](#), Austin, TX

September 17-19 – [AIA Montana Fall Conference](#), Billings, MT

September 17-19 – [BOMA Pacific Northwest](#), Portland, OR

September 27 – October 1 – [WEFTEC 2025](#), Chicago, Ill.

Product Council

Do you have a topic you would like to see NEEA cover in an upcoming Product Council? Visit [Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance \(NEEA\) | Product Council Submit...](#) to submit your idea, or contact productcouncil@neea.org.

Recent Session(s):

June 24, 2025 – [Empowering Meaningful Measurement & Verification with EcoDash](#)

July 1, 2025 – [Distributed Pumping for Commercial HVAC Systems](#)

July 8, 2025 – [AHPC Spring/Summer Webinar](#)

Upcoming sessions are being confirmed. Watch the website for more information!

Round Robin

1. Ammi Amarnath, EPRI
 - a. EPRI is doing a great deal in the realm of Artificial Intelligence (AI.) They have created an AI Center for Excellence and established an initiative called Open Power AI to collect data from their stakeholders to gauge how well AI performs in the energy industry and how it affects the grid.
 - b. EPRI also has a big initiative called DC Flex, which is exploring how energy can be used, how energy can be used most effectively, as well as grid connectivity for Data Centers.
 - c. Working on several CEC projects around industrial demand flexibility. One focus is on industrial refrigerated warehouses and how they can operate more flexibly. EPRI is also a partner in the Industrial Flex Hub, a large CEC award in California in partnership with Berkeley Labs, UC Davis, Stanford, and others.

2. Todd Greenwell, Idaho Power
 - a. IP is conducting on-going research on heat pumps, including work with the RTF on air-source heat pumps and ductless heat pumps, and the importance of energy efficiency in their integrated resource plan.
 - b. A huge construction boon is happening in ID right now, with building permits up 14% this year, so lots of savings potential in moving to more energy efficient options.
3. Jim White, Chelan PUD
 - a. Work continues with the Young Energy Champions program, with another nine in training currently. This doubles staff under contract to use automatic metering to go on “treasure hunts” after hours to find opportunities to reduce energy use. It’s had great success, with a 50% reduction in an area high school.
 - b. On the industrial side, Vacuum Swing Absorption is another way of creating a controlled atmosphere. Instead of compressed air, it uses a vacuum and saves about 30% of the energy with this method.
4. Kenji Spielman, Energy Trust Oregon
 - a. ETO recently published a study on cannabis indoor grow lighting, which provided some useful insights and is informing their midstream residential grow offering to get more efficient lighting in the market.
 - b. Coming soon, there will be a study on indoor agriculture dehumidifiers.
5. Michelle Wildie and Andrew Pultorak, Puget Sound Energy
 - a. PSE is exploring what can be done/leveraged with AI, but still in early stages.
 - b. Adding several things to their Virtual Power Plant portfolio and exploring leveraging opportunities like smart panels, smart switches, DLC, how/if it integrates, etc.
 - c. Integrating EE and DR offerings into non-wires/non-pipes alternatives to avoid infrastructure cost increases and encouraging customers to use more EE rebates.
 - d. Moving business lighting incentives application to an online form, as well as exploring thermal energy networks.
6. Lauren Kerr, Portland General Electric
 - a. Four focus areas for strategic innovation at PGE: business enhancement, transportation, load flexibility and decarbonization at scale.
 - b. PGE recently participated in a study of a ductless heat pump with claims to have demand response capabilities. I have only seen preliminary data thus far, but the level of load volatility during demand response scenarios was eye-opening.

Recent Conference Debrief

(Slides 17-18)

Reports from recent conferences (Hot Air/Hot Water Forum and EFX '25) from NEEA staff, as well as open discussions on any other events members have attended.

- Kristen Aramthanapon (NEEA) shared updates regarding the exploration of expanding the pumps program to include ANSI B73 general purpose process pumps, as well as the introduction of a new industrial motors by ITT Goulds.
- Adam Gage (NEEA) shared insights from EFX '25 focusing on central system heat pump water heaters in multifamily applications, as well as small commercial heat pump water heaters.
- Ammi Amarnath (EPRI) provided insights from the Utility Energy Forum, where emerging technologies and market transformation of heat pump water heaters were key topics. Ammi also shared his insights from the Demand Flexibility Summit, which focused on California's goal of achieving 7000MW of demand reduction by 2030. Discussions included both short- and long-term strategies.