



Q3 2025 RETAC Meeting Notes

September 30, 2025

9:00 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
Keshmira McVey, Bonneville Power
Gilbert McCoy, Washington State Univ.

Michelle Wildie, Puget Sound Energy
Andrew Pultorak, Puget Sound Energy
Ammi Amarnath, EPRI
Ritika Kumbharkar, MN CEE
Matt Iris, Avista

NEEA Staff: Adam Gage, Becky Walker, Chuck Karras, Juan Carlos Blacker, Kristen Aramthanapon, Lynne Mosley, Mark Rehley, Mike Smith, Noe Contreras, Wendy Preiser

Meeting Agenda

Welcome and Announcements	Mark Rehley	NEEA
Puget Sound Energy (PSE) Emerging Technology Update	Michelle Wildie	PSE
Round Robin	RETAC Members	

Resources

- Agenda and Packet Materials: [Q3 2025 RETAC Agenda Packet - Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance \(NEEA\)](#)
- Slide Deck: [Q3 2025 RETAC Meeting Slides - Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance \(NEEA\)](#)
- Q3 2025 Emerging Technology Newsletter: [Q3 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:

October 2 – [BOMA Oregon Product & Services Expo](#) – Portland, OR

October 6-8 – [IEPEC 2025 Program Evaluation Conference](#) – Denver, CO
October 7-9 – [ACEEE Energy Efficiency as a Resource Conference](#), Denver, CO
October 8 – [Pacific Northwest Buildings & Plant Expo](#), Tacoma, WA
October 13-16 – [Hydraulic Institute 2025 Fall Conference](#), Kansas City, MO
October 15 – [2025 Northwest SEM Fall Workshop](#), Portland, OR
October 22 – 24 – [BCxA Annual Conference](#), Pittsburgh, PA

November 3 – 5 – [NAESCO R3 Conference & Expo](#) – Las Vegas, NV
November 3 – 5 – [PLMA Fall Conference](#), Henderson, NV
November 5 – [Smart Buildings Exchange 2025](#), Seattle, WA
November 5-7 – [2025 Joint Engineers Conference](#), Helena, MT

Product Council

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

Recent and Upcoming Session(s):

August 19 – [Bostic Motors Power Badger - Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance \(NEEA\)](#)
October 28 – [Compliance & Conformance: Enabling Grid-Responsive Heat Pump Water Heaters](#)
November 4 – [2025 AHPC Fall Webinar](#)

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

Puget Sound Energy ET Update

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- **Puget Sound Energy Regulatory and Program Updates:** Michelle provided a comprehensive update on Puget Sound Energy's regulatory landscape, including the impacts of House Bill 1589, the status of Initiative 2066, and the introduction of new tariffs and/or programs for electrification, demand response, and distributed energy resources, with Mark and Ammi contributing questions and context.
- **Thermal Energy Networks and Clean Buildings Initiatives:** Michelle presented PSE's activities related to thermal energy networks and the Clean Buildings Performance Standard, including pilot projects, customer engagement strategies, and collaboration with stakeholders, with Ammi and Mark raising technical and strategic questions.
 - **Thermal Energy Networks Overview:** Michelle explained that thermal energy networks (TENs) are district energy systems connecting multiple buildings via underground piping to share heating and cooling loads, aiming to reduce overall energy demand to reduce the need for new utility infrastructure. She described the ideal candidates as large, closely situated buildings, especially in new construction or redevelopment contexts.
 - **Clean Buildings Performance Standard Support:** Michelle described PSE's support for the Washington Clean Buildings Performance Standard, with recent changes such as the introduction of self-service resources, and the piloting of a multifamily cohort with customer segments ranging from small owners to housing authorities. She also noted efforts to help customers comply with both state and Seattle-specific standards.

Round Robin

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- **Regional Utility Round Robin: Program Updates and Collaboration:** Participants including Todd, Adam, Keshmira, Andrew, Kenji, Matt, and James shared updates on their organizations' incentive programs, technology pilots, and research, with several discussions on heat pump water heating, lighting incentives, and opportunities for regional collaboration.
 - **Heat Pump Water Heating Initiatives:** Adam and Keshmira described ongoing efforts to align test methodologies and specifications for commercial heat pump water heaters, including collaboration between NEEA, Bonneville, and other stakeholders. They discussed the development of work papers, the inclusion of central systems in multifamily new construction, and the need for 'last mile' guidance to ensure proper system design and installation.
 - **Lighting Incentives and Mercury Ban Preparation:** Andrew outlined Puget Sound Energy's business lighting incentive updates, including increased incentives for named communities, a new web-based application, and preparations for Washington's upcoming mercury lamp ban (House Bill 1185). He described coordination with other utilities and pilots integrating lighting controls with HVAC systems.
 - **Regional Research and Market Trends:** Kenji shared findings from Energy Trust of Oregon's research on connected thermostats, adjustable wattage fixtures, and the impact of the Oregon mercury ban on school districts and small businesses. He highlighted challenges with TLED compatibility and the need for better market support during technology transitions.
 - **Industrial and Commercial Technology Pilots:** Matt and James discussed pilots and research on thermal energy storage, modular scalable thermal systems, and the use of students for energy audits in schools. James described Chelan County PUD's work with rooftop cold climate package units, thermal energy storage for residential and multifamily applications, and the significant energy savings achieved through student-led audits.
 - **Collaboration Opportunities:** Multiple participants, including Keshmira and Andrew, expressed interest in further collaboration on school energy projects and aligning regional requirements for central heat pump water heater systems, with plans to continue these discussions at the next RETAC meeting.
- **EPRI Research and National Initiatives on Demand Flexibility:** Ammi provided an overview of EPRI's ongoing research and demonstration projects related to demand flexibility, industrial heat pumps, smart panels, and grid connectivity standards, inviting utilities to participate and highlighting recent developments with manufacturers and international initiatives.
 - **Industrial High Temperature Heat Pumps:** Ammi responded to Todd's inquiry about the status of industrial high temperature heat pumps, noting increased activity in the U.S. with companies like Armstrong International, Atmos Zero, Oilon, and others developing systems for steam production and waste heat recovery. He offered to share contacts and recent reports and described EPRI's plans for a new test facility in Atlanta.
 - **Demand Flexibility Demonstrations:** Ammi described EPRI's field demonstrations of variable capacity heat pumps for demand flexibility, involving multiple manufacturers and utilities, and the exploration of connectivity standards such as AHRI 1380. He also mentioned projects with smart panels and smart breakers, including collaborations with Southern California Edison and technology vendors.
 - **Grid Connectivity and Aggregation Standards:** Ammi introduced the Mercury initiative, a global effort to standardize grid connectivity for end-use equipment, and the Flexit initiative, which aims

to develop common protocols for utility-aggregator-device communication, potentially leading to new IEEE standards.

- **Other National Initiatives:** Ammi highlighted EPRI's DCflex initiative for data center flexibility, the Energy Wallet project for holistic household energy cost analysis, and ongoing work with international partners and aggregators like Octopus Energy and Kraken Technology for behind-the-meter optimization.