

# POWER CONNECTION

Indiana Municipal Electric Association



**EPA's crackdown on power plant emissions is a big first step – but without strong certification, it will be hard to ensure captured carbon stays put**

The U.S. government is planning to crack down on power plants' greenhouse gas emissions, and, as a result, a lot of money is about to pour into technology that can capture carbon dioxide from smokestacks and lock it away. **(Pages 1 – 7)**

## Decentralized Power Generation

Decentralized power generation, or distributed generation (DG), is one of the fastest growing trends impacting the electric grid sector. As prices consistently drop and incentives at the state and federal level combine to reduce the net ownership cost, a growing community of residential and commercial customers are adopting DG. **(Pages 9-13)**

## Gov. Holcomb announces largest EV investment in state history attracting a more than \$3B battery plant

**NEW CARLISLE, Ind.** – Governor Eric J. Holcomb today announced plans to bring a more than \$3 billion EV battery cell plant to St. Joseph County, creating 1,700 manufacturing jobs. The new battery cell plant, a joint venture between Michigan-based General Motors and Korea-based Samsung SDI, is scheduled to begin operations in 2026. **(Pages 15-17)**

## 2023 IMEA Lineworkers Rodeo & Annual Business Meeting

The IMEA Indiana Lineworkers' Rodeo hosted by the City of Lawrenceburg & Lawrenceburg Municipal Utilities is the state's most energizing safety and training event. The only one of its kind for public power lineworkers in the state, the interactive, competitive event is designed to showcase the skills and knowledge of a lineworker in a fun and safe environment. **(Pages 19-20)**

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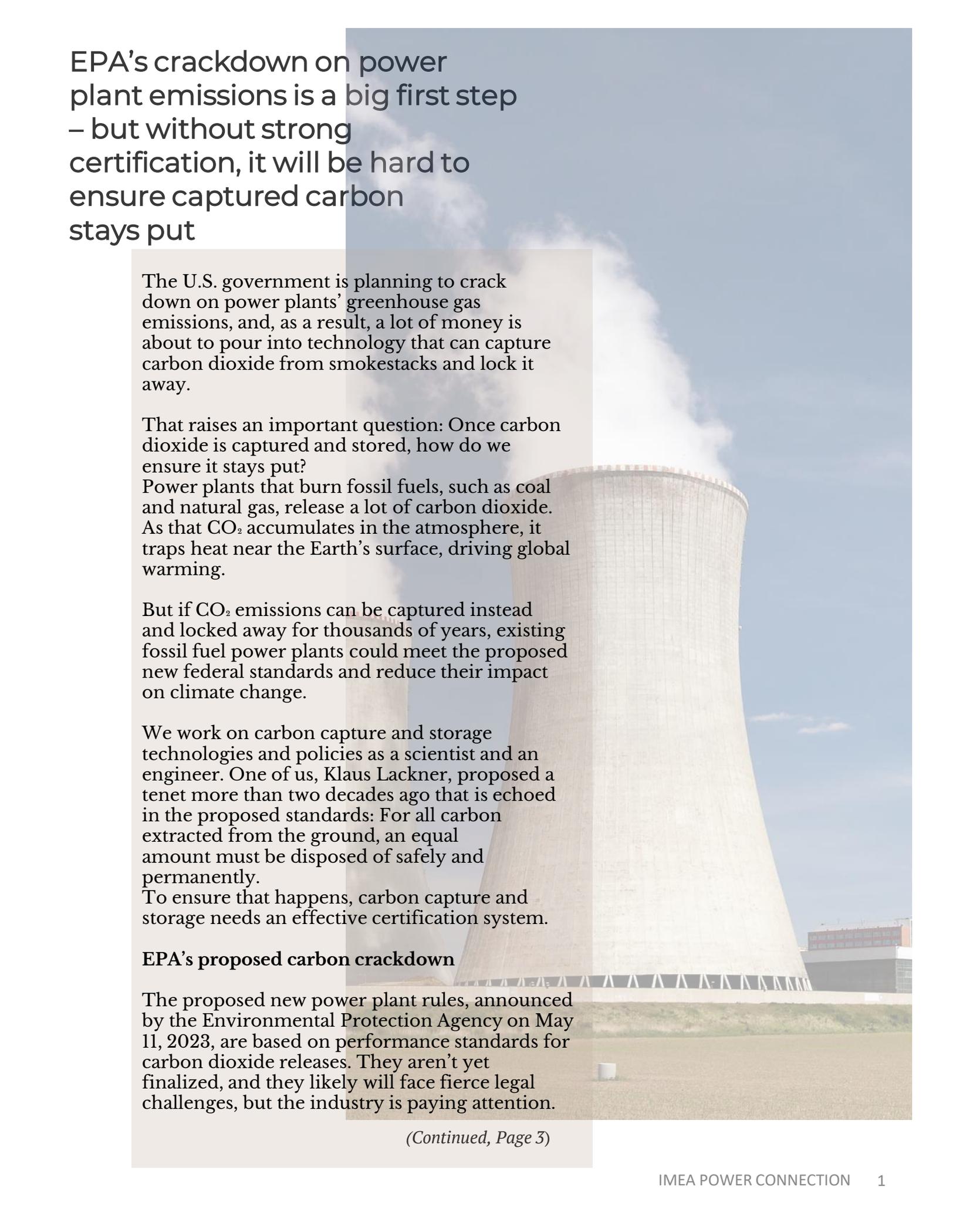
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## EPA's crackdown on power plant emissions is a big first step – but without strong certification, it will be hard to ensure captured carbon stays put

The U.S. government is planning to crack down on power plants' greenhouse gas emissions, and, as a result, a lot of money is about to pour into technology that can capture carbon dioxide from smokestacks and lock it away.

That raises an important question: Once carbon dioxide is captured and stored, how do we ensure it stays put?

Power plants that burn fossil fuels, such as coal and natural gas, release a lot of carbon dioxide. As that CO<sub>2</sub> accumulates in the atmosphere, it traps heat near the Earth's surface, driving global warming.

But if CO<sub>2</sub> emissions can be captured instead and locked away for thousands of years, existing fossil fuel power plants could meet the proposed new federal standards and reduce their impact on climate change.

We work on carbon capture and storage technologies and policies as a scientist and an engineer. One of us, Klaus Lackner, proposed a tenet more than two decades ago that is echoed in the proposed standards: For all carbon extracted from the ground, an equal amount must be disposed of safely and permanently.

To ensure that happens, carbon capture and storage needs an effective certification system.

### **EPA's proposed carbon crackdown**

The proposed new power plant rules, announced by the Environmental Protection Agency on May 11, 2023, are based on performance standards for carbon dioxide releases. They aren't yet finalized, and they likely will face fierce legal challenges, but the industry is paying attention.

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(Continued)

Power plant owners could meet the proposed standards in any number of ways, including by shutting down fossil fuel-powered plants and replacing them with renewable energy such as solar or wind.

For those planning to continue to burn natural gas or coal, however, capturing the emissions and storing them long term is the most likely option.

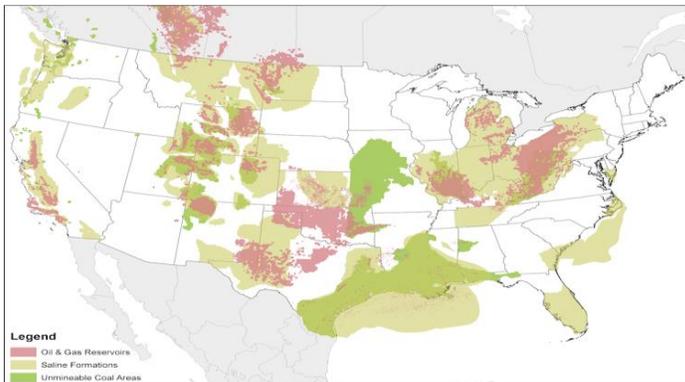
### How CCS works for power plants

Carbon capture typically starts at the smokestack with chemical “scrubbers” that can remove more than 90% of carbon dioxide emissions. The captured CO<sub>2</sub> is compressed and sent through pipelines for storage.

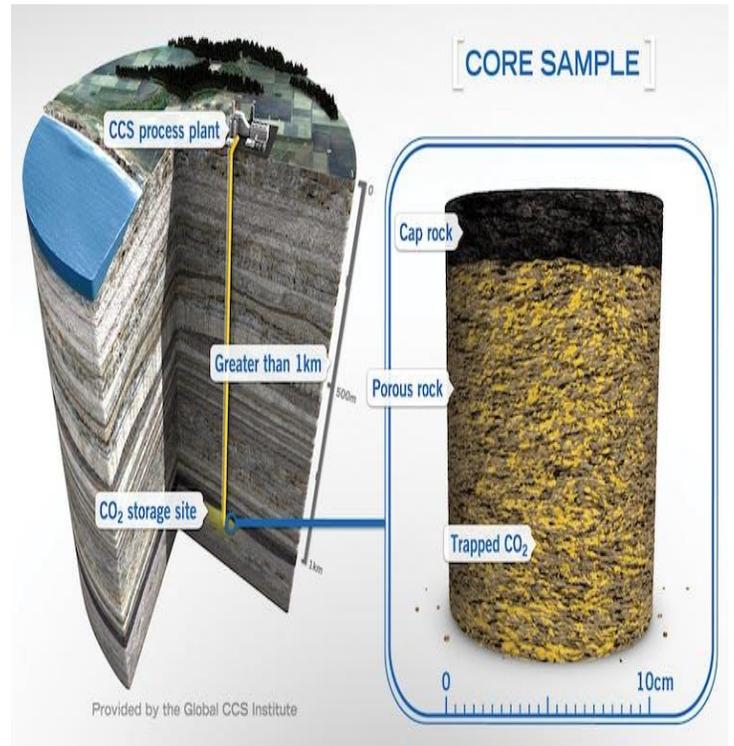
At most storage sites, CO<sub>2</sub> is injected into underground reservoirs, typically in porous rocks more than 3,300 feet (1,000 meters) below the surface.

Geologists look for sites with multiple layers of protection, including impermeable rock layers above the reservoir that can prevent gas from leaking out. In some sites, CO<sub>2</sub> chemically reacts with minerals and is eventually immobilized as a solid carbonate. Carbon capture and storage is currently expensive, and developing the pipeline and storage infrastructure will likely take years. But as more CCS projects are built – helped by some generous tax credits in the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act – costs are likely to drop.

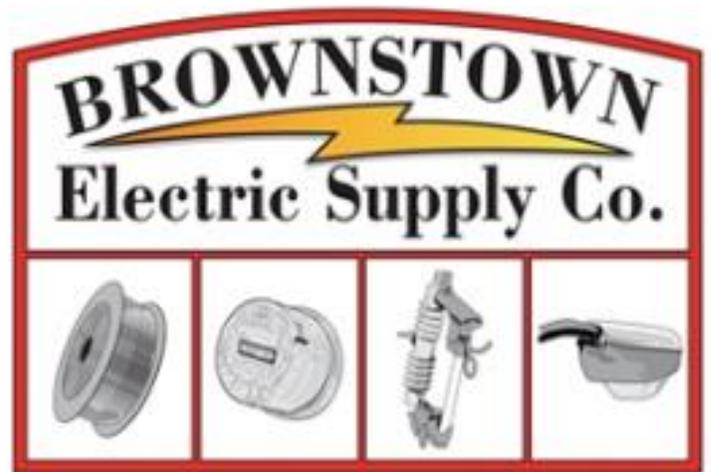
The Sleipner project in the North Sea has been putting away roughly 1 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> a year since 1996. In Iceland, CO<sub>2</sub> is injected into volcanic basalt rocks, where it reacts with the stone and rapidly forms solid mineral carbonates. (Continued, Page 5)



Several regions of the U.S. have geological reservoirs with the potential to store captured carbon dioxide. Environmental Protection Agency



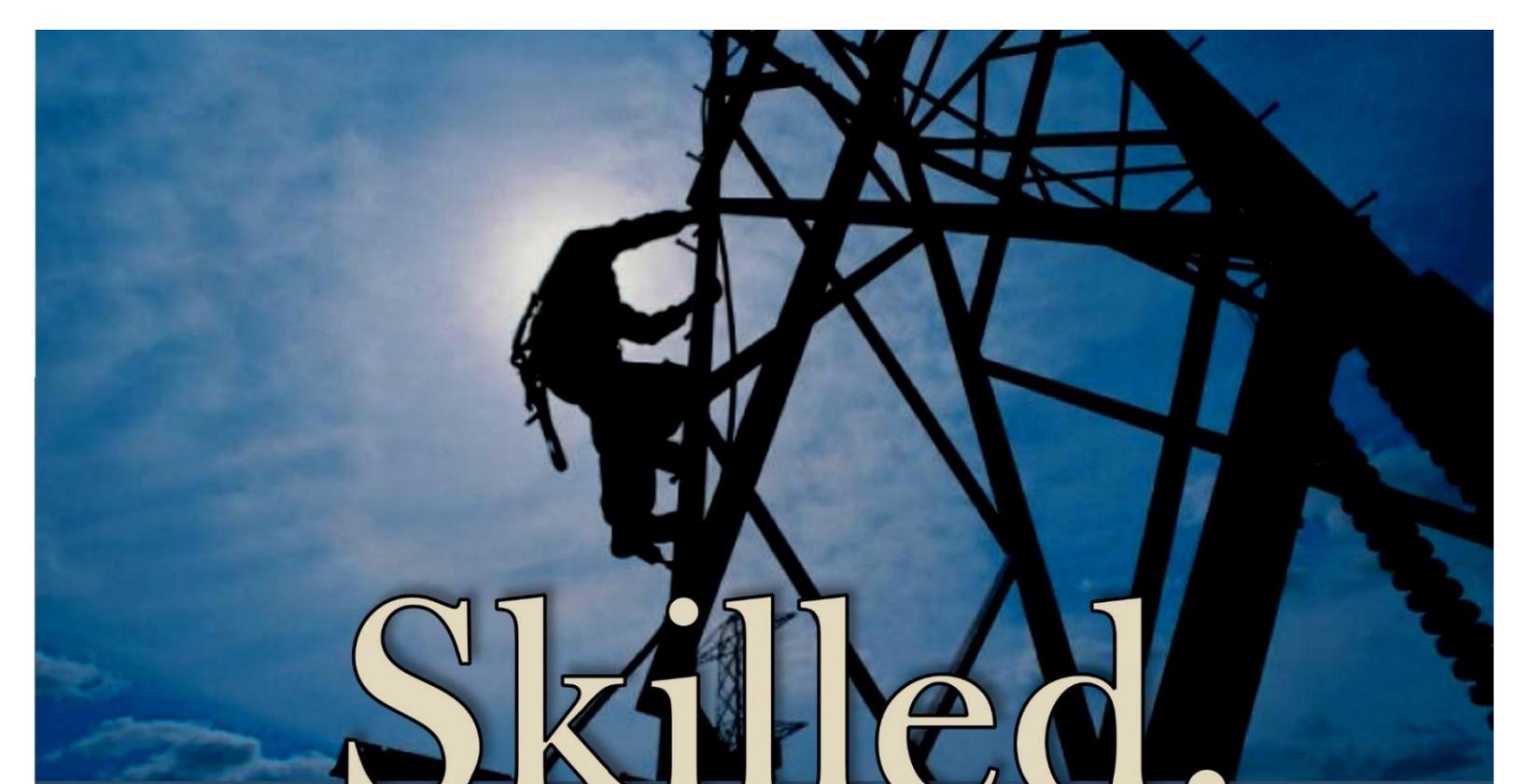
A cutaway of the Earth shows how impermeable rocks cap CO<sub>2</sub> reservoirs. Global CCS Institute



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In the U.S., companies have been injecting CO<sub>2</sub> into underground reservoirs for decades – initially, as a way to force more oil out of the ground. Today, these “enhanced oil recovery” projects can receive tax credits for the CO<sub>2</sub> that remains underground. As a result, some now inject more carbon into the ground than they extract as oil.

While there have been no notable CO<sub>2</sub> releases from geologic storage, other gas storage leaks demonstrate that injection has to follow well-defined safety rules. Nothing is guaranteed.

That’s why monitoring and certification are essential.

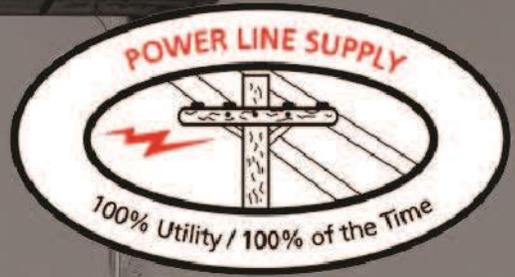
**How to effectively certify carbon storage**

The EPA has rules for CO<sub>2</sub> storage sites, but they are focused on protecting drinking water rather than the climate. Under those rules, monitoring is required for all phases of the project and for 50 years after closing to check the safety of the groundwater and ensure that material injected underground does not contaminate it.

However, the current monitoring techniques don’t measure the amount of carbon stored, and the rules do not require that leaked carbon be replaced.

To provide more direction, we developed a certification framework designed to ensure that all carbon is stored safely and for the tens of thousands of years necessary to safeguard the climate. We envision liability for the captured carbon dioxide shifting from the power plant owner to the storage site operator once the carbon dioxide is transferred. That would mean the storage site operator would be held liable for any leaks.

Under the framework, a certificate authority would vet storage operators and issue certificates of carbon sequestration for stored carbon. These certificates could have market value if, as the EPA suggests, power plant operators are held responsible for the carbon stored. *(Continued, Page 7)*



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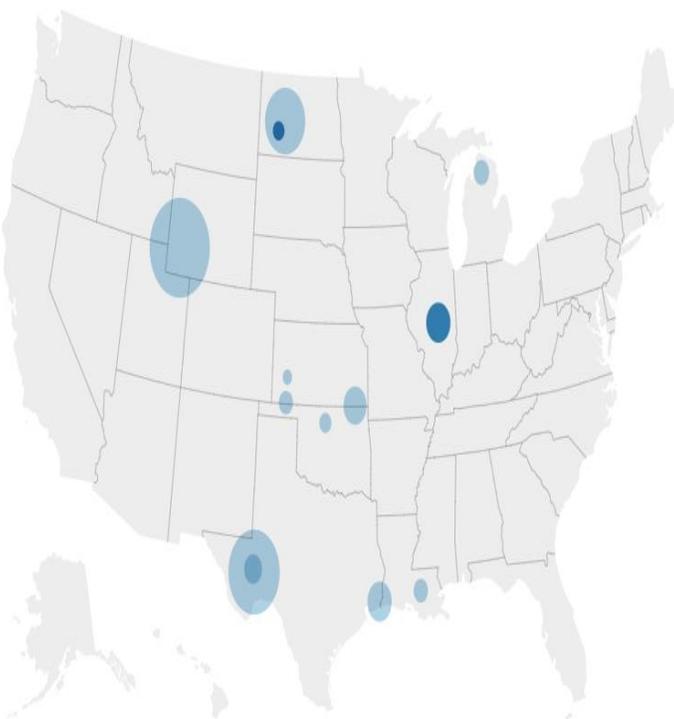
Future regulations could expand this requirement to other emitters, or simply demand that any carbon released is cleared by a corresponding certificate showing the same amount of carbon has been sequestered.

Careful monitoring, paired with certification that requires storage site owners to make up any losses, could help avoid greenwashing and ensure that the investments meet the nation's climate goals.

### US carbon capture and storage sites in operation

The U.S. had 13 facilities capturing and storing carbon as of 2022. All are industrial plants, and all but the two newest sites send their captured carbon for use in enhanced oil recovery.

Map of the US with dots showing locations of carbon capture sites, primarily in the Plains and Midwest Enhanced oil recovery (EOR) Geological storage



Map: The Conversation/CC-BY-ND Source: [Global CCS Institute](#)

Certification can be useful for carbon stored in any quantifiable storage reservoir, including trees, oceans and human infrastructure such as cement. We believe a universal approach to certification that sets minimum requirements and responsibilities is necessary to assure that carbon is stored safely with a guarantee of permanence, regardless of how it is done.

Climate change will cost trillions of dollars, and the federal government is putting billions into research and tax breaks to encourage development of carbon capture and storage sites.

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The Indiana Municipal Electric Association (IMEA) Educational Scholarship Program provides scholarships for up to six (6) college / tech school-bound seniors of IMEA municipal members for continuing education annually. The scholarship aid, in part, is designed to assist the student in attaining the education and skills necessary to compete in today's workforce as he/she works to become a productive and viable member of his/her community. The \$1,000 scholarship, which is non-renewable, is made available in the spring of each year. The award notification is presented to the student prior to graduation by a representative of the Indiana Municipal Electric Association.

We want to celebrate our six scholarship recipients this 2023 for a job well done! Wishing them the very best in their future endeavors!

Bryce Lamar – Hagerstown, IN.

Bryce Howard – Logansport, IN.

Kennedy Hughes – Logansport, IN.

Sydney Nance – Lebanon, IN.

Van Skinner – Scottsburg, IN.

Jocelyn Lumpkins, Auburn, IN.



**Bryce  
Lamar**



**Bryce  
Howard**



**Kennedy  
Hughes**



**Sydney  
Nance**



**Van  
Skinner**



**Jocelyn  
Lumpkins**

# 2023 Scholarship Recipients

You have been  
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## Decentralized power generation



### Challenge

Decentralized power generation, or distributed generation (DG), is one of the fastest growing trends impacting the electric grid sector. As prices consistently drop and incentives at the state and federal level combine to reduce the net ownership cost, a growing community of residential and commercial customers are adopting DG. While DG presents greater energy independence for end customers—and in some cases can reduce cost—widespread emergence of DG on a distribution grid can create a range of issues for today’s electric utility. Examples of challenges associated with DG include greater peaks and valleys in the daily load curve, where daytime PV solar can reduce distributed demand—while the rapid drop-off of PV solar at the end of the day can create a problem to rapidly ramp up traditional central generation in the early evening. Reverse power flow is another potential obstacle to grid stability and outage management related to DG. As distributed networks grow and customer-generated electricity increases, the power can flow in the opposite direction at certain times of the day—which can have a significant effect on grid operations. More consumers are also using batteries to store power in association with their DG deployments to buffer the generated energy for use when they need it most—or for selling it back to the grid when the grid might need supply. This creates challenges for grid operators to balance unpredictable loads with unpredictable power supplies, requiring them to find new ways to address load management.

### Trends

Regulations—such as FERC Order 2222, which requires independent system operators (ISOs) and regional transmission organizations (RTOs) to give aggregated DER access to wholesale energy markets—are requiring ISOs and RTOs to rethink their operating models and delivery systems. Aggregating DERs is akin to developing a VPP. Yet another advancement is the next generation of advanced metering Infrastructure (AMI), which enable distributed computing and intelligence to perform more calculations locally, avoiding the need to send information back to a central processor. This method reduces latency risk, allowing utilities to take energy-saving action more quickly and dynamically manage load. For example, a utility can send a message asking customers to reduce energy use during peak loads. As a result, AMI can be a powerful real-time data tool to enable emerging decentralized generation power flow. Many utilities with deployed AMI could realize greater value of their investment.

**Energy industry transition is taking place in many areas, including technology, delivery model structure, and problem-solving.**

Address reverse power flow. Resolve reverse power flow through power routers that act as reclosers and switches to remap the grid in real time.  
*(Continued, Page 11)*

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## EXPANSIONS CONTINUE TO KEEP UP WITH DEMAND



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*(Continued)*

This process shifts any excess distributed energy generation causing reverse power flow to another power line to flow in the desired direction. Proactively manage DERs. As more DERs are built and interconnected, utilities must find ways to capitalize on these new assets. There's direct value in leveraging these distributed resources for targeted demand-side management and to serve as a lever to improve resiliency in the event of an unforeseen outage. The concepts behind these use cases may be straightforward, but the mechanics are exceedingly complex. Orchestrating the interconnection of DERs in a timely manner, identifying future and necessary grid upgrades, balancing regulatory processes, and investing in the right technologies such as advanced distribution management systems (ADMS) and distributed energy resource management systems (DERMS) is no simple task. But as protocols align, communication standards truly become standard, and the traditional energy market adapts to value DERs in an equitable manner, we will see these unique renewables find their rightful place in the resource stack.

## Data and analytics

### Challenge

Data is becoming the lifeline of modern enterprises—including utilities. To capitalize on it, utilities need a workforce with the required skills, such as the ability to frame better asset investment strategies and establish common data platforms and languages. Data fluency and enterprise-wide data governance are becoming vital to support digital operations. Utilities collect and house a tremendous volume of data; however, true data-driven utilities are difficult to find. It can be a struggle to turn data into a driver for value. Many utilities operate in multiple data silos. Unreliable data originating from disparate systems also muddy the waters, and data is only as good as its quality and integrity. Data governance ensures a uniform model for how everyone in the organization will manage and use data.

**Utilities collect and house a tremendous volume of data; however, true data driven utilities are difficult to find.**

## Trends

Utilities aren't just using data to provide interesting insights to customers about their electricity use. Rather, utilities are analyzing it to improve performance metrics and asset use, and to make more informed and cost-effective decisions such as predictive vegetation management and real-time load balancing adjustments. Utilities are also increasingly using cloud-based services to allow for greater agility—including the ability to scale up or down based on new initiatives—and security in data usage. Because these services are highly adaptable, utilities can try various capabilities offered by providers such as storage, computing power, and machine learning—only committing to those they find most useful. And many utilities see the high level of security that cloud services now offer and are comfortable making the shift with their critical services.

## Financial performance and operational efficiency

### Challenge

Even without the push to transform into digitally run operations, utilities are facing the challenges of growing regulatory scrutiny, shifting customer expectations, and investor demands for consistent returns. With affordability issues and more frequent outages following major weather events, many utilities have been asked to do more with less. Increasing inflation has exacerbated these issues, leading to higher expenses and higher rates.

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*(Continued)*

More DERs are also being added to the grid and energy-as-a-service (EaaS) providers offer an attractive supplemental—and sometimes alternative—energy solution pulling customers further away from their local utility. EaaS is a rapidly growing business model in which energy service providers offer customers an assortment of energy related (and energy efficient) services without requiring upfront capital investment. Many of these solutions have their own proprietary aggregation platforms which can assume the day-to-day role of a utility and help customers save money and reduce their carbon emissions.

## **Trends**

ADMS extends digital capabilities, spanning all departments and unifying many disparate activities into a single dashboard. This approach offers a centralized way to think about impacts on the grid of various actions such as conservation, restoration, peak demand management, and support for microgrids and EVs. To be more responsive, utilities can acquire and analyze data while continuing to monitor the grid for activity like approaching storms and DER activity. Meanwhile, there's a push for transmission and distribution utilities to specialize. The industry is shifting in its view of what a utility can be with the separation of operation from ownership of physical assets. Instead of being an owner-operator, utilities would solely focus on operations.

## **Cybersecurity**

### **Challenge**

The 2021 attack on Colonial Pipeline is a reminder of the seriousness and potential for catastrophic impact a well-organized cyberattack can have on utilities. But utilities may not have the resources to properly assess risk when selecting vendors. Additionally, primary cloud providers such as AWS and Azure don't effectively manage North American Electric Reliability Corporation Critical Infrastructure Protection (NERC CIP) requirements.

Nor do the cloud providers achieve interoperability with business and digital tools and cloud computing, processing, and storage services. The industry has not yet reached consensus on a perspective and approach to these services that regulators entirely support. Cybersecurity investment funding, prioritization, and compliance are important—yet some utilities still have a minimum viable product (MVP) mentality. Utilities need to get used to managing more risk to be successful, a push that will take significant support from leadership. On the other hand, utilities need to be careful not to accept unnecessary risk simply to become more digital.

## **Trends**

Utilities, like other industries, are making greater use of Internet of Things (IoT) and edge computing technologies to maintain equipment, increase efficiency, and contain costs. The downside of this powerful technology is that each IoT sensor introduced creates a new attack vector that utilities need to protect. Supportive tools are available to increase visibility and security. But they're only as good as the people and processes that support them. The keys to solid digital utility operation are finding the right tools for the right purpose and knowing how to maintain the investments in them. For example, more focus has been placed on OT cybersecurity tools to provide visibility to assets and communications. While some utilities may be hesitant to move to the cloud, in this new paradigm it is becoming more secure and, generally, the benefits outweigh the risks. Some utilities are moving more operations into the cloud as they seek to comply with regulations that require a designated level of security. To protect against attacks, utilities are limiting cloud access to only those who need such access to perform their work. Utilities are also vetting third parties more carefully, upgrading new hardware and software, and carefully training team members to understand cybersecurity risks and prevention.

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## Gov. Holcomb announces largest EV investment in state history attracting a more than \$3B battery plant

**NEW CARLISLE, Ind.** – Governor Eric J. Holcomb today announced plans to bring a more than \$3 billion EV battery cell plant to St. Joseph County, creating 1,700 manufacturing jobs. The new battery cell plant, a joint venture between Michigan-based General Motors and Korea-based Samsung SDI, is scheduled to begin operations in 2026.

“GM has long been one of America’s most iconic brands and deeply rooted in Indiana. For decades, Hoosier communities like Marion, Bedford and Fort Wayne have been part of the production of countless firsts for family vehicles. And, now today, I couldn’t be more excited to again see GM alongside one of Indiana’s newest world class companies, Samsung SDI, take this giant leap and make this \$3 billion commitment that will transform the automotive industry aided by our proud Hoosier workforce,” Gov. Holcomb. “This historic investment is further proof that Indiana has turned it up and shifted into a higher gear when it comes to helping create the future of mobility and more customer options out on the open road.”

GM and Samsung SDI, which announced their joint venture in April, will build the plant just east of New Carlisle at Larrison Boulevard and Indiana 2 to supply GM’s growing EV production needs. GM plans to install more than 1 million units of annual EV capacity in North America in 2025 and accelerate from there.

The new facility will house production lines to build nickel-rich prismatic and cylindrical cells and is expected to help significantly increase the accessibility and affordability of EVs. Once complete, the plant will have more than 30 GWh of capacity.

“This joint venture and the 1,700 people there will help supply cells for millions of all-electric vehicles for customers across North America,” said Mary Barra, GM Chair and CEO.



Hometown of New Carlisle, IN.

“The strong support of local and state leaders in Indiana and the combined resources and expertise of GM and Samsung SDI will help us move faster than we could on our own.” “Through establishment of a battery joint venture with GM, we are grateful that Samsung SDI can contribute to boosting the economy of Indiana and creating new jobs here,” said Yoonho Choi, President and CEO of Samsung SDI. “Securing Indiana as a strong foothold together with GM, Samsung SDI will supply products featuring the highest level of safety and quality in a bid to help the U.S. move forward to an era of electric vehicles.”

GM has a considerable presence in Indiana with five facilities across the state that employ more than 5,700 Hoosiers. The company recently announced plans to invest \$632 million in its Fort Wayne Assembly to expand operations and upgrade equipment to support its growing full-size truck business. GM also announced plans to invest \$491 million to expand and upgrade its Marion, Indiana, facility to support its growing EV production.

“GM and Samsung SDI doubling down on their commitment to growing in Indiana further solidifies our state’s pole position in the growing EV space,” said Indiana Secretary of Commerce Brad Chambers. “Indiana has long been a global business destination, and our momentum continues as we further build Indiana’s future-focused economy and usher in incredible opportunities for Hoosiers.

(Continued, Page 17)



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Transformational projects like these not only help bolster Indiana's economy but enrich the surrounding communities and will directly benefit Indiana residents for decades to come."

Construction is planned to begin within the next year and support more than 1,000 jobs during the build. The companies plan to start production in New Carlisle in 2026.

"St. Joseph County is deeply appreciative that General Motors and Samsung SDI have selected our community for its EV battery plant," said Carl Baxmeyer, President of the St. Joseph County Board of Commissioners. "This project represents the largest single investment and job commitment in St. Joseph County in the last 75 years and will impact our region for decades. Our region has a long history of innovation in the automotive industry, and for generations have built vehicles or parts that have been included in vehicles around the world. As the industry evolves, we're thrilled to once again be at the center of this transformational time for the industry, and we look forward to a long partnership with GM and Samsung SDI as they move forward on their first battery plant as partners."

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation is working with GM and Samsung SDI to finalize a performance-based incentive offer to support the joint venture's investment and job creation plans. St. Joseph County, Indiana Michigan Power, and Northern Indiana Public Service Company offered additional incentives.

**About General Motors** *General Motors (NYSE:GM) is a global company focused on advancing an all-electric future that is inclusive and accessible to all. At the heart of this strategy is the Ultium battery platform, which will power everything from mass-market to high-performance vehicles. General Motors, its subsidiaries and its joint venture entities sell vehicles under the Chevrolet, Buick, GMC, Cadillac, Baojun and Wuling brands.*

*More information on the company and its subsidiaries, including OnStar, a global leader in vehicle safety and security services, can be found at gm.com.*

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# IMEA LINEWORKERS RODEO



**Thank You to Our Host**

**THE CITY OF LAWRENCEBURG**

**&**

**LAWRENCEBURG MUNICIPAL UTILITIES**

## **Friday, September 22nd**

**10:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Apprentice & Team Check-in**  
**1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Safety Meeting**  
**2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Q&A**  
**2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. View the Field / Judges Meeting**  
**3:00 p.m. - Conclusion Apprentice Events Begin**  
**Conclusion of Events Cookout**

## **Saturday, September 23rd**

**7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Team Check-in**  
**8:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Judges Meeting**  
**9:00 a.m. - Conclusion Team Events**  
**3:00 p.m. - Concludes Cookout / Awards**



### **Apprentice Events:**

- 1. Pole Top Rescue**
- 2. Mystery Event**
- 3. Mystery Event**
- 4. Mystery Event**

### **Team Events:**

- 1. Pole Top Rescue**
- 2. Mystery Event**
- 3. Mystery Event**
- 4. Mystery Event**

The IMEA Indiana Lineworkers' Rodeo hosted by the City of Lawrenceburg & Lawrenceburg Municipal Utilities is the state's most energizing safety and training event. The only one of its kind for public power lineworkers in the state, the interactive, competitive event is designed to showcase the skills and knowledge of a lineworker in a fun and safe environment. The event is open to anyone who is a practicing lineworker in a municipally owned and operated electric utility in Indiana.

The Competition will consist of four events for both the apprentice and team categories. Three of the four will be Mystery events and the fourth will be Pole Top Rescue. We hope you will join us for our two-day event on Friday, September 22nd & Saturday, September 23rd with a cookout and awards following the conclusion of the event.

***REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE!***



**2023**

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***Annual Business Meeting & Vendor Expo***

***Monroe Convention Center***

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***October 3 - 5, 2023***

**LEADERSHIP • INNOVATION • COLLABORATION**



# Smoky Grilled Dry-Rub Pork Chops with Peach Relish

Sometimes you break out your grill for an event. Sometimes you break it out for a recipe, like these pork chops.

## Ingredients

- 6 (6-ounce) bone-in pork chops
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1/4 c. light brown sugar
- 2 tbsp. smoked paprika
- 1 tsp. ground cumin
- 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp. cayenne pepper
- Canola oil, for grill grates
- 2 c. Peach Relish

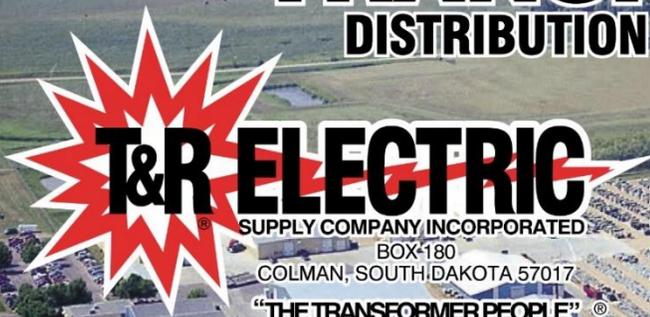
**1.Step 1** Pat pork dry with paper towels. Season with salt and black pepper. Combine brown sugar, paprika, cumin, garlic powder, and cayenne pepper in a bowl. Coat chops evenly on all sides with spice mixture. Cover and chill 3 hours.

**2.Step 2** Set up grill for direct cooking and heat to medium-high. Once hot, clean and lightly oil grates.

**3.Step 3** Grill pork, turning occasionally, until charred and internal temperature registers 145°F on an instant read thermometer, 8 to 10 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes before serving with Peach Relish.

# TRANSFORMERS

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