

**25th Annual Ohio**

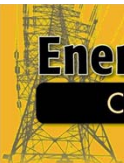
# **ENERGY**

**Savings & Management**

**Conference and Virtual Institute**

**Tuesday–Thursday, February 16-18, 2021**





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## Question 1- Climate Change

Last month, Joseph R. Biden, Jr. was sworn in as the 46th President of the United States. During his campaign, he promised widespread adoption of policies to address climate change. At the same time, many companies have announced goals of being carbon-neutral by 2050, and some companies and state policymakers are even advancing their goals to 2040 or 2030.

What climate change initiatives do you think we can realistically expect to see implemented over the next two years and how will they impact Ohio consumers?

What technological or regulatory advances do you think are needed for these objectives to be met?

Do you think we can meet carbon-neutral objectives without driving up the cost to Ohio consumers?

*Answers in Order by Panelists:*

Mr. Belcher, Commissioner Conway, Mr. Pritchard, Ms. Spiller, Mr. Sundararajan, and Mr. White

## Question 2 – Transmission Costs

Over the past few years and continuing into 2021, Ohio consumers are **experiencing** significant increases in transmission costs.

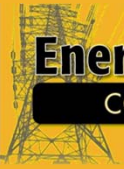
What improvements to the current regulatory process would you recommend to ensure that utility investments are producing the biggest bang for the buck for those who have to pay for the investments?

How should FERC, and the PUCO in its advocacy role before FERC, ensure that all such investments are necessary and represent the most efficient means of addressing system needs?

What commercial options could be developed to allow customers with interruptible capabilities to partner with transmission owners to incorporate that peak demand reduction capability into the transmission planning, cost allocation, and pricing processes?

*Answers in Order by Panelists:*

Commissioner Conway, Mr. Pritchard, Ms. Spiller,  
Mr. Sundararajan, Mr. White, and Mr. Belcher



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## Question 3 – RPS/Renewables

Ohio's renewable portfolio standards have now been in place for over a decade and Ohio has seen growth in renewable energy located in Ohio over this timeframe, with significant development of large-scale solar projects. Recently, the federal government extended significant investment and production tax credits for renewable facilities.

Are Ohio-based, statutory renewable mandates necessary to support development of renewable energy in Ohio?

What barriers exist under the current statutory and regulatory structure in Ohio to deployment of renewable energy in the state?

What market tools exist and could be implemented to better position Ohio's residents and businesses to support renewable, zero carbon, or reduced carbon emitting resources?

Are there material differences between development of large-scale renewable projects and customer-sited renewable projects that warrant different regulatory treatment?

*Answers in Order by Panelists:*

Mr. Pritchard, Ms. Spiller, Mr. Sundararajan, Mr. White,  
Mr. Belcher and Commissioner Conway

Question 4 – Pandemic/Economic Development  
Close to a year after it started, the coronavirus pandemic continues to impact businesses and impact our daily lives. Government experts project that vaccination efforts will not be completed for many months.

What steps are being taken to address the impacts of the pandemic on commercial and industrial energy consumers in Ohio?

What steps should the Ohio state legislature, PUCO, Ohio natural gas and electric utilities, and others be taking over the next 6-12 months to help reverse the pandemic's negative impact on Ohio's economy?

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*Answers in Order by Panelists:*

Ms. Spiller, Mr. Sundararajan, Mr. White, Mr. Belcher, Commissioner Conway and Mr. Pritchard

## Question 5 – ESPs

With the significant ESP-related litigation over the past decade, the divestiture of the legacy generation assets from electric utilities, and competitive bidding for default service, is it time for Ohio to consider eliminating or revamping the ESP statute?

What revisions to the process do you see as necessary or beneficial to set up Ohio for future success?

*Answers in Order by Panelists:*

Mr. Sundararajan, Mr. White, Mr. Belcher,  
Commissioner Conway, Mr. Pritchard and Ms. Spiller