

## **Electric Utility Cost Group (EUCG) News Release**

### **For Immediate Release**

#### **First of Its Kind Photovoltaic Solar Meeting at EUCG's Spring Workshop Provides Unprecedented Benchmarking, Networking Opportunities**

(Reston, VA, May 15, 2018) – The Electric Utility Cost Group (EUCG) hosted the inaugural meeting of its newly formed Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Committee at the EUCG Spring Workshop held April 23-25 at the Hyatt Regency San Antonio in San Antonio, TX. This meeting of electric utility leaders in the solar energy field is the first dedicated operations and maintenance (O&M) workshop of its kind, and provided otherwise unavailable opportunities for benchmarking, troubleshooting, and networking.

In depth discussions and knowledge sharing among utility representatives focused on the need for standardized O&M business practices among utilities, leveraging Battery and Energy Storage technology to improve system reliability, and improving system flexibility in the energy market. PV Solar Chair Ruben Soto of Southern California Edison (SCE-E) remarked, "Finding commonalities confirmed that our focus areas were aligned and similar industry issues were being experienced across our membership. These common industry issues have inspired us to work together and bring resolution once and for all."

Networking among attendees was a key benefit to Workshop attendees. Soto notes, "My understanding is that follow up meetings have already been arranged to share best practices and lessons learned, and various presentations, documents, and contacts in support of committee member's interests have been exchanged." Attendee Tyler Medel, Senior Solar Technician Crew Lead and PV Solar O&M Supervisor at Pacific Gas & Electric (PGE) stated, "Being the first conference of its type that I have attended, I did not have set expectations. The knowledge I gained and contacts that I made far exceeded any preconceptions that I had."

The Committee is working to grow its numbers by 50 percent by the end of 2018. With the first workshop under his belt, Soto is optimistic in considering the Committee's future impact on the solar energy field: "Imagine, industry standards will be an output of this working group's efforts. That's monumental."

The next EUCG Workshop will be in Denver, Colorado from September 9-12, 2018 at the Grand Hyatt Denver. For more information, please visit the EUCG website, [www.eucg.org](http://www.eucg.org).

**About EUCG:** EUCG is a global non-profit association of energy and electric utility professionals who discuss current and emerging industry issues, share best practices and exchange data for benchmarking purposes. The forty-four year old association is organized into committees that represent specific utility functions: Fossil, Nuclear, Hydroelectric, Transmission & Distribution, and Solar. Membership is open to all utility companies worldwide. Interested parties should contact Don Kaiser, EUCG Executive Director, at 703/234-4116 or [Kaiser@eucg.org](mailto:Kaiser@eucg.org).

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Stephanie Maggard, EUCG President, 415/973-2812, [sam6@pge.com](mailto:sam6@pge.com)