



August 12–14, 2025

Chesterton, Indiana

DRAFT AGENDA

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<div><div>Optional Field Trip</div><div>Clean Green Energy Transition in Action: NIPSCO Power Generation Tour</div></div>
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Exhibitor Set-Up
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	Check-in/Welcome Desk
2:00 PM - 2:15 PM	Welcome
2:15 PM - 2:35 PM	<div><div>Why is biodiversity + nature important for energy & transportation lands?</div><div>Dan Salas, UIC Dennis Fallon, UAA</div></div>
2:35 PM - 3:20 PM	<div><div>Panel: Building interest, buy-in, and connections across departments</div><div>Moderator: Katie Surrey, EPRI Tony Tipton, Columbia Gas Sara Sankowich, Unitil Amy Paulson, Meta</div></div>
3:20 PM - 4:15 PM	<div><div>Panel: Trends & best practices in sustainability reporting in energy & transportation sectors</div><div>Moderator: Ellie Murphy, MPLX Ashlyn Anderson, Stantec Keith Weber, NiSource Kari Harris, CN Railroad</div></div>
4:15 PM - 4:25 PM	Stretch Break
4:25 PM - 5:25 PM	<div><div>Roundtable: Identifying nature-based business risks/opportunities</div><div>Moderators: Dan Salas, UIC and Josiane Bonneau, Freeport-McMoRan</div></div>
5:25 PM - 5:35 PM	Wrap-up
5:35 PM - 7:30 PM	Welcome Reception



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WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13

8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<div>Field Trips</div> <div>Option #1 - Bringing It Together: Managing Ecosystems, IVM, and Partnerships Tour</div> <div>Option #2 - Seeding Sustainability: Stantec Native Plant Nursery Tour</div>	
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	<div>Alternate Working Session</div> <div>Take the LEAP into Nature-Business Connections</div>	
12:00 PM - 1:10 PM	<div>Lunch</div> <div>(introduction and transition to breakout rooms)</div>	
1:10 PM - 2:20 PM	<div>Breakout #1: Crash course in vegetation management for sustainability or environmental managers</div> <div>Matt Goff, Georgia Power</div> <div>Carolyn Mahan, Penn State University</div> <div>Ashley Bennett, EPRI</div> <div>(transition back to main room)</div>	<div>Breakout #2: Crash course in sustainability reporting for vegetation managers</div> <div>Norman Shafto and Katie Surrey, EPRI</div> <div>Amanda Young, Toyota</div> <div>Additional speakers pending</div> <div>(transition back to main room)</div>
2:20 PM - 3:20 PM	<div>Panel: Connecting vegetation management practices and sustainability through research and data</div> <div>Moderator: Darrell Russell, Corteva</div> <div>Lew Payne, NYPA</div> <div>Ronan Mason, TC Energy</div> <div>Chris Kline, Doral</div>	
3:20 PM - 3:40 PM	<div>Refreshment Break</div>	
3:40 PM - 4:30 PM	<div>Panel: Utilizing IVM as a component of nature-based solutions</div> <div>Moderator: Brandon Hughson, ProtecTerra</div> <div>John Steelman, Grow With Trees</div> <div>Scott Sharpe, MPLX</div> <div>Jason Grossman, Liberty Utilities</div>	
4:30 PM - 5:10 PM	<div>Panel: Lessons from the nature-positive journey</div> <div>Josiane Bonneau, Freeport-McMoRan</div> <div>Ellie Murphy, MPLX</div>	
5:10 PM - 5:20 PM	<div>Wrap-up</div>	
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	<div>Offsite Dinner Reception</div>	



DRAFT AGENDA

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM	Networking Breakfast	
8:30 AM - 8:40 AM	Welcome / Reflection	
8:40 AM - 9:55 AM	<div>Panel: Case studies in good governance, planning, and communications</div> <div>Moderator: Victoria Wittig, Northwest Indiana Urban Waters Ambassador</div> <div>Steve Barker, NiSource</div> <div>Mary Youpel, API</div> <div>Donnie Garrison, Shell</div> <div>Sara Race, ComEd</div>	
9:55 AM - 10:15 AM	<div>Stretch Break</div> <div>(transition to breakout rooms)</div>	
10:15 AM - 11:45 AM	<div>Breakout #1: Tools, resources, field methods for tracking and reporting</div> <div>Ashley Bennett, EPRI</div> <div>Caroline Hernandez, UIC</div> <div>Ralph Grundel, USGS</div> <div>(transition back to main room)</div>	<div>Breakout #2: Goal-setting for biodiversity</div> <div>Dan Salas, UIC</div> <div>Norman Shafto, EPRI</div> <div>Additional speakers pending</div> <div>(transition back to main room)</div>
11:45 AM - 12:10 PM	Lunch Buffet	
12:10 PM - 1:10 PM	<div>Working Lunch: What is green-washing and how to avoid it?</div> <div>Speakers pending</div>	
1:10 PM - 1:30 PM	Wrap-up	