

August 12-14, 2025

Chesterton, Indiana



DRAFTAGENDA

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12

TUESDAY, AUGUS		
8:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Optional Field Trip Clean Green Energy Transition in Action: NIPSCO Power Generation Tour	
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	Why is biodiversity + nature important for energy & transportation lands? Dan Salas, UIC Dennis Fallon, UAA	
2:35 PM - 3:20 PM	Panel: Building interest, buy-in, and connections across departments Moderator: Katie Surrey, EPRI Tony Tipton, Columbia Gas Sara Sankowich, Unitil Amy Paulson, Meta	
3:20 PM - 4:15 PM	Panel: Trends & best practices in sustainability reporting in energy & transportation sectors Ashlyn Anderson, Stantec Keith Weber, NiSource Additional speaker pending	
4:15 PM - 4:25 PM	Stretch Break	
4:25 PM - 5:25 PM	Roundtable: Identifying nature-based business risks/opportunities	
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	Field Trips Option #1 – Bringing It Together: Managing Ecosystems, IVM, and Partnerships Tour Option #2 – Seeding Sustainability: Stantec Native Plant Nursery Tour			
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Alternate Working Session Take the LEAP into Nature-Business Connections			
12:00 PM - 1:10 PM	Lunch (introduction and transition to breakout rooms)			
1:10 PM - 2:20 PM	Breakout #1: Crash course in vegetation management for sustainability or environmental managers Matt Goff, Georgia Power Carolyn Mahan, Penn State University Ashley Bennett, EPRI (transition back to main room)	Breakout #2: Crash course in sustainability reporting for vegetation managers Norman Shafto and Katie Surrey, EPRI Additional speakers pending (transition back to main room)		
2:20 PM - 3:20 PM	Panel: Connecting vegetation management practices and sustainability through research and data Moderator: Darrell Russell, Corteva Lew Payne, NYPA Ronan Mason, TC Energy Chris Kline, Doral			
3:20 PM - 3:40 PM	Refreshment Break			
3:40 PM - 4:30 PM	Panel: Utilizing IVM as a component of nature-based solutions Moderator: Brandon Hughson, ProtecTerra John Steelman, Grow With Trees Scott Sharpe, Marathon Jason Grossman, Liberty Utilities			
4:30 PM - 5:10 PM	Panel: Lessons from the nature-positive journey Josiane Bonneau, Freeport-McMoRan Additional speaker pending			
5:10 PM - 5:20 PM	Wrap-up			
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM	Offsite Dinner Reception			



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