The development of energy as we know it, from production to conversion to end-use, whether from fossil-fuels, renewable power or other sources, results from an ongoing dynamic interaction between market needs and preferences, progress in technologies and public policy initiatives. Cutting across this to make sense of the ever-changing landscape is the analysis and language of energy economics: the essential ingredient that brings a common understanding of the forces and drivers in play.

The 38th annual USAEE/IAEE Conference provides a forum for informed and collegial discussion of how energy economics is contributing to the current and future thinking of businesses, consumers, technology developers and public policy institutions in North America and around the world as they drive towards the future world of energy.

In 2020, our conference takes place in Austin, Texas. Texas is a state rich in the history of energy as well as a vibrant proving ground for major changes in energy markets. In oil and gas, Texas was the home of the historic Spindletop discovery early in the 20th century; was at the heart of the US oil and gas developments for its first 70 years; and where the Texas Railroad Commission became a globally important regulatory authority. More recently, Texas has seen the birth of the US unconventional oil and gas business with the Barnett Shale in north Texas and the prolific Permian basin. Downstream, Texas is home to major refining and petrochemical plants as well as hosting new LNG export facilities. In electric power, Texas was a pioneer in opening up the market to retail competition and remains one of the few jurisdictions in the US where this remains the norm. And Texas has seen a huge build-out of low-carbon power generation, particularly wind energy, making the state a leader in this field. And last, but not least, Texas institutions like The University of Texas, Rice University, and Texas A&M have been at the forefront of thinking and research about energy science and economics. There is indeed much to discuss and study just in relation to Texas energy markets and we expect conference delegates to benefit from this context.

As in previous years, the conference will highlight forward-looking energy themes at the intersection of economics, technology and public policy, including those affecting energy infrastructure, environmental regulation, markets, the role of governments, and international energy trade. Participation from industry, government, non-profit, and academic energy economists will enrich a set of robust, diverse and insightful discussions.

Topics to be addressed include:

The general topics below are indicative of the types of subject matter which may be considered at the conference. In practice, any topic relating to energy economics, markets, energy policy and regulation, energy trade, energy pricing, drivers of energy demand, adoption of new energy technologies etc. will be considered.

- Global impacts of growing US energy exports
- How are energy markets responding to the shift of U.S. energy policy?
- Pathways to decarbonization of energy and the economy
- Oil prices, the role of OPEC and OPEC/non-OPEC cooperation
- Energy implications of environmental regulations: future and impact
- The role and impact of distributed energy resources in developed and developing countries
- How are digital technologies, including blockchain and artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things impacting energy supply and demand
- What next for electricity storage technologies?
- Drivers and challenges for accelerated electric and autonomous vehicle adoption
- Effective policies to support growth in low-carbon energy
- The role of natural gas in the energy transition to a low-carbon world
- Other topics of interest including shifts in market structures and fundamentals, including those induced by policy and technological forces.
- Drivers and challenges for accelerated electric and autonomous vehicle adoption
- Role of natural gas in the energy transition to a low-carbon world
- Role and impact of distributed energy resources in developed and developing countries
- Evolution of electricity storage technologies
- Financing conventional and renewable energy
- Who is financing what and why it matters?

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Concurrent Sessions
The concurrent sessions at the USAEI/IAEE conference offer opportunities for students, academic staff, as well as energy economists and practitioners in the business, government and research communities to present current analysis, research or case-studies on topics related to energy economics and energy markets. Presentations may be based on academic papers, but this is not a pre-requisite requirement. We stipulate that presentation proposals submitted for inclusion in the concurrent sessions should not have been previously presented at or published by USAEI/IAEE or elsewhere. Presentations are intended to facilitate the sharing of both academic and professional experiences and lessons learned. Those interested in organizing a concurrent session should propose a topic and possible speakers to David Williams, Executive Director, USAEI (usaee@usaee.org). Please note that all speakers in organized concurrent sessions must pay speaker registration fees and submit abstracts.

Concurrent Session Presentation Proposal Format
Authors wishing to make concurrent session presentations must submit a proposal that briefly describes the topic, research or case study to be presented.

The proposal must be no more than two pages in length and should include the following sections:

a. Overview or summary of the topic including its background and potential significance
b. Description of the context, data used, or illustrative example of the topic
c. Summary of key insights, results or further questions
d. Conclusions: Lessons learned, business or market implications, recommendations for further work

Please visit www.usaee.org/USAEI2020/PresentationProposalTemplate.doc to download a proposal template. All proposals should conform to the format structure outlined in the template. Proposals should be submitted online by visiting www.usaee.org/USAEI2020/submissions.aspx. Proposals submitted by e-mail or in hard copy will not be processed.

Presenter attendance at the conference
At least one presenter of an accepted concurrent session presentation proposal must pay the registration fees and attend the conference to make the presentation in person. The person submitting the proposal must provide complete contact details—mailing address, phone, e-mail, etc. Presenters will be notified by July 13, 2020 whether their proposal has been accepted. Presenters whose proposal are accepted will have until August 24, 2020 to submit their final papers for publication in the online conference proceedings. While multiple submissions by individuals or groups are welcome, the proposal selection process will seek to ensure as broad participation as possible: any person may present only one topic at the conference. No person should submit more than one proposal as its single author. If multiple submissions are accepted, then a different presenter will be required to pay the registration fee and present each paper.

Students
In addition to the other opportunities, students may submit a paper for consideration in the Dennis J. O’Brien USAEI/IAEE Best Student Paper Award Competition (cash prizes plus waiver of conference registration fees). The paper submission has different requirements and a different deadline. The deadline for submitting a paper for the Student Paper Awards is June 29, 2020. Visit www.usaee.org/usaee2020/bestpapers.html for full details.

Students may also inquire about scholarships covering conference registration fees. Please visit http://www.usaee.org/usaee2020/scholarships.html for full details.