

Holiday Inn, Wolf-Point, Downtown Chicago
AUGUST 17-19



2026 Midwest Cogeneration Conference

Advancing the Future of Reliable Energy

CONFERENCE PROGRAM & AGENDA

Version 7-24-26

Monday, August 17, 2026

11:00 AM
- 4:00 PM

Pre-Conference No-Cost Workshop & CHP System Tour

Sponsored by the US DOE MIDWEST ONSITE ENERGY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNERSHIP (TAP)

No-Cost Workshop: CHP 101: Concepts, Technology, Economics, and Real-World Applications

Workshop Location: University of Illinois Chicago, Student Center East, Room SCE 301

On-Site Tour: Illinois Institute of Technology's future 8 MW CHP System

Notes: Pre-Registration Required. More information on Page 6.



Workshop Sponsored by



6:30PM
- 8:30PM

Welcome Reception: Holiday Inn Chicago Downtown – Wolf Point

Sponsored by ALTORFER CAT



*Welcome Reception
Sponsored by*



Tuesday, August 18, 2026

7:30 AM

Registration, Networking Breakfast, Exhibitor Sessions

*Networking
Breakfast
Sponsored by*

8:45 AM

Welcome Remarks by Midwest Cogeneration Association President

Cliff Haefke, Midwest Cogeneration Association



9:05 AM

Cogeneration Market Outlook: U.S. and Global Perspectives on a Growing Energy Solution

Thomas Smith, CHP Alliance and COGEN World Coalition



Cliff Haefke
Midwest Cogeneration Association



Thomas Smith
CHP Alliance
COGEN World Coalition

9:25 AM

Panel: Inside the Utility Strategy – Meeting Today's Energy Challenges

Brian File, Evergy

Mike King, Nicor Gas

Thomas Manjarres, Peoples Gas & North Shore Gas

Moderators: Cliff Haefke, MCA

Thomas Smith, CHPA & COGEN World Coalition



Brian File
Evergy



Mike King
Nicor Gas



Thomas Manjarres
Peoples Gas &
North Shore Gas

10:25 AM

Networking Break with Exhibitors

10:45 AM

Keynote Address: The Illinois Energy Outlook – Reliability, Growth, and the Future of Energy Infrastructure

Commissioner Ann McCabe, Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC)

Commissioner Ann McCabe will discuss a regulator's perspective on the policies, infrastructure investments, and energy trends shaping the future of reliable, affordable, and resilient energy across Illinois and the Midwest.



Commissioner Ann McCabe
Illinois Commerce Commission

11:20 AM

Understanding the Data Center Boom: Why It Matters to the Energy Industry

Paul Glanville, GTI Energy



Paul Glanville
GTI Energy

12:05 PM

Award Ceremony: 2026 Inspiring Midwest CHP Project Awards

See Page 5 for list of project award winners.

Lunch Sponsored by:

12:20 PM

Networking Lunch with Exhibitors

Sponsored by NICOR GAS



Nicor Gas

1:30 PM

From Funding to Implementation: Federal and State Resources to Advance CHP Projects

Graeme Miller, US DOE Midwest Onsite Energy Technical Assistance Partnership



Graeme Miller
US DOE Midwest
Onsite Energy TAP

2:00 PM

Panel: Engineering CHP Success – Real Projects, Real Challenges, Real Results

Moderator: Travis Cummings, Martin Energy Group (invited)

Powering the Future at Muscatine (Iowa) Power Water with State of the Art CHP

Chris DePodesta, Stanley Consultants

Critical Resiliency Navigating High-Constraint CHP Retrofits in Healthcare (Wisconsin)

Jessie Gillis, P. Eng, Veristar Energy

CHP as a DER Solution for RNG Facilities Powering Landfill Gas Upgrading in Kentucky

Malek Mezni, Gruppo AB

How Kretz Lumber In Antigo Wisconsin is Using Steam Waste to Produce Electricity

Dan Docel, NLine Energy



Travis Cummings
Martin Energy Group



Chris DePodesta
Stanley Consultants



Jessie Gillis
Veristar Energy



Malek Mezni
Gruppo AB



Dan Docel
NLine Energy

3:00 PM **Networking Break with Exhibitors**

3:20 PM **Panel Discussion: The Future of Data Center Energy – Infrastructure, Reliability, and Resilience**

Data centers are transforming the energy landscape, requiring innovative approaches to meet increasing power demands while maintaining reliability and resilience. This expert panel will examine the technologies, infrastructure, and partnerships needed to deliver power faster, support the next wave of digital and AI-driven growth, and identify sustainable, long-term energy solutions for the data centers of tomorrow.

Vishnu Barran, US Clarke Energy

James Leidel, DTE Energy

Gregory Martin, P.E., DTE Vantage

Thomas Smith, CHPA and COGEN World Coalition

Moderator: Paul Glanville, P.E., GTI Energy



Paul Glanville
GTI Energy



Vishnu Barran
US Clarke Energy



James Leidel
DTE Energy



Gregory Martin
DTE Vantage



Thomas Smith
CHP Alliance
COGEN World Coalition

4:20 PM **Concluding Remarks**
Cliff Haefke, Midwest Cogeneration Association

4:30 PM **Networking Reception with Exhibitors**
– 6:00 PM Sponsored by US CLARKE ENERGY

*Conference Reception
Sponsored by*



6:30 PM **Evening Networking Event on the Chicago River**
– 8:30 PM Sponsored by CATERPILLAR

Location: Brews & Bites, 201-231 W Riverwalk, Chicago, IL 60606

Participate in an exclusive post-conference event designed to foster connections and unwind after a day of insightful discussions. Conference attendees are invited to an evening of networking on the picturesque Chicago River at Brews & Bites. Mingle with fellow professionals, share ideas, and continue to build relationships while enjoying the vibrant atmosphere and scenic views. Less than 10 minute walk from the hotel.

*River Front Event
Sponsored by*



Wednesday, August 19, 2026

10:00 AM

Brewery and CHP System Tour at Half Acre Beer Company

– 1:00 PM

SPONSORED BY PEOPLES GAS AND NORTH SHORE GAS

Join us as we recognize Half Acre Beer Company, recipient of one of the 2026 CHP Project of the Year Awards, for its innovative micro-CHP installation that is setting a new standard for energy efficiency in the brewing industry. After the award presentation, attendees will receive an exclusive tour of the brewery process and CHP system, offering a unique opportunity to see this 93% efficient energy solution in operation and learn from the project team that delivered it in less than six months.

*Tour Event
Sponsored by*

PEOPLES GAS®
ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM

NORTH SHORE GAS®
ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM



 Date: Wednesday, August 19, 2026

 Time: 10:00am – 1:00pm CST

 Location: Half Acre Beer Company, 2050 W Balmoral Ave, Chicago, IL 60625

 Networking breakfast provided 10:00am to 10:30am. Additional refreshments following presentation and tours.

Project Overview

This 2026 CHP Project of the Year Award recognizes Half Acre Beer Company for its innovative micro combined heat and power (CHP) installation that is improving energy efficiency, reducing operating costs, and advancing sustainability at its Chicago brewery. The project features two EC Power XRGI-25 micro-CHP units that generate 48 kW of on-site electricity while recovering thermal energy to meet nearly 60% of the brewery's hot water demand, achieving an impressive 93% overall system efficiency. The CHP project was completed in less than six months through a collaborative effort among Half Acre Beer Company and its project partners of Stanton Mechanical, Kinergetics, Boilersource, EC Power, and Peoples Gas. The installation is expected to save approximately 138,000 kWh of electricity, reduce carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 80,000 pounds annually, and generate almost \$18,000 in annual energy cost savings. This award-winning project demonstrates how micro-CHP technology can provide reliable, cost-effective, and sustainable energy solutions for the food and beverage industry.

Program Highlights

10:00am – 10:30am

Networking Breakfast

10:30am – 11:00am

Presentations, Video, and Award Recognition

11:00am – 12:00pm

Brewery Tour and CHP System Tour

12:00pm – 1:00pm

Pizza and Beer on Tap



Congratulations to the Winners of the 2026 Midwest Inspiring CHP Project Awards!

These outstanding CHP installations demonstrate how advanced technology can be successfully integrated into the grid through practical engineering and long-term sustainability. Beyond improving local efficiency, they serve as scalable models that move our regional energy goals forward. Their achievements will be recognized during the Midwest Cogeneration Conference on August 18, 2026.

5550 S. Dorchester

Chicago, IL

8.8 kW mCHP System



Black River Memorial Hospital

Black River Falls, WI

260kW Microturbine
CHP System



Half Acre Beer Company

Chicago, IL

48kW mCHP System



Northern Hardwoods

Atlantic Mine, MI

600 HP Biomass Boiler &
275 kW BP Steam Turbine



PVS Chemicals

Chicago, IL

2,600 kW
Steam Turbine





CHP Workshop & On-Site Tour

Sponsored by the US DOE MIDWEST ONSITE ENERGY TAP

CHP 101: Concepts, Technology, Economics, and Real-World Applications

Workshop and Technical Tour

Date/Time: 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday, August 17, 2026

Cost: No Cost --- Sponsored by the US DOE Midwest Onsite Energy Technical Assistance Partnership (TAP)

Registration: Pre-Registration is Required, Limited Seating. [Click Here to Register.](#)

Workshop Location:

University of Illinois Chicago, Student Center East, Room SCE 301, 750 S. Halsted Street, Chicago, Illinois, 60607

Parking:

Parking is located across the street with entrances on Halsted Street and Taylor Street. Parking vouchers provided.

Overview: Join the US DOE Midwest Onsite Energy Technical Assistance Partnership (TAP) for “CHP 101: Concepts, Technology, Economics, and Real-World Applications,” an introductory workshop designed to provide a practical understanding of Combined Heat and Power (CHP) systems. Attendees will learn where CHP works best, how to evaluate project economics, hear real-world success stories, and participate in a technical tour of a CHP installation.

WORKSHOP & TOUR AGENDA

11:00 – 12:00 PM	Networking Lunch (Sponsored by the University of Illinois Chicago)
12:00 – 12:15 PM	Welcome and Workshop Overview <i>Cliff Haefke, Director, DOE Midwest Onsite Energy TAP</i>
12:15 – 12:45 PM	CHP Fundamentals: What It Is and Why It Matters <i>Xochitl Menchaca, Energy Engineer, DOE Midwest Onsite Energy TAP</i>
12:45 – 1:15 PM	Where CHP Works Best <i>Ken Hultquist, Energy Engineer, DOE Midwest Onsite Energy TAP</i>
1:15 – 1:30 PM	Break
1:30 – 2:00 PM	CHP Economics and Business Case Development <i>Ben Campbell, Assistant Director, DOE Central Onsite Energy TAP</i>
2:00 – 2:30 PM	Real-World CHP Success Stories <i>Graeme Miller, Assistant Director, DOE Midwest Onsite Energy TAP</i>
2:30 – 2:45 PM	Getting Started: CHP Project Development Resources <i>Carolina Pizzutto, Research Engineer, DOE Midwest Onsite Energy TAP</i>
2:45 – 3:00 PM	Wrap-Up and Final Q&A <i>Cliff Haefke, Director, DOE Midwest Onsite Energy TAP</i>
3:00 – 4:15 PM	Technical Tour of the CHP System at Illinois Institute of Technology (8 MW CHP System with 20 MMBtu/hr hot water and 2,000 RT chilled water generation)

Thank You to the Conference Sponsors!

PLATINUM



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For more information visit www.cogeneration.org/2026MCAConf/