

NEWS

Electric cars, free mini-sessions and more at 28th annual Energy Design Conference hosted by Minnesota Power

Duluth, Minn. – Innovations in energy-efficient design and construction and a selection of electric vehicles will be showcased at the 28th annual Energy Design Conference & Expo, Feb. 19-21, at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center.

This year for the first time, the conference also includes four 15-minute mini-sessions open to the public. The free mini-sessions, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, in the Exhibit Hall, will focus on solar energy, air source heat pumps, electric vehicles, and incentives from utilities to encourage energy efficiency. The mini-sessions are perfect for residents looking for some quick information, while the general conference is designed to give attendees an in-depth look at topics and trends in sustainable building and energy efficiency.

Also open to the public is the expo, featuring about 30 exhibits of energy-efficient products and services and a display of electric vehicles from private owners and car dealerships.

Visitors will be able to “kick the tires” on seven models of EVs, including the hard-to-find Tesla Model 3, and cars from Chrysler and Toyota. Test drives of a Mitsubishi Outlander hybrid PHEV and a Chevrolet Volt PHEV will be available on Tuesday, Feb. 20. Attendees who visit the “Electric Transportation Room” also can get an up-close look at one of Minnesota Power’s two 2017 all-electric Chevy Bolts. Minnesota Power and Superior Water, Light and Power recently added Bolts to their vehicle fleets as the companies continue to diversify their fleets and plan for a future with more electric cars on the road.

Minnesota Power hosts and facilitates the Energy Design Conference, which routinely draws hundreds of residential and commercial construction professionals, equipment and material suppliers, property managers, homeowners and others interested in energy efficiency, sustainability, renewable energy and environmental topics. The preconference gets underway Feb. 19, with the main conference on Feb. 20-21.

The expo in the DECC Exhibit Hall is open to the public from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, and from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21. The cars in the Edmund Fitzgerald Hall will be on display from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, and 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21.

This year’s conference features more than 40 educational sessions. Peter Yost, vice president of building performance at BuildingGreen Inc., a consulting and publishing firm in Vermont, will give the opening keynote address on Tuesday morning.

More information about the conference, including a detailed agenda with session descriptions, is available at www.duluthenergydesign.com.

The 2018 Energy Design Conference is sponsored by Minnesota Power, Superior Water, Light and Power, The Energy Conservatory, the Energy and Environmental Building Alliance and Home Energy magazine. Partners who joined Minnesota Power in the development, planning and implementation of the conference are ComfortSystems, Cooperative Light and Power, Construction Specifications Institute, Ecolibrium 3, Minnesota Department of Commerce, American Institute of Architects–Minnesota, Great River Energy, Wagner Zaun Architecture and the Green Building Council–Minnesota.

Media availability: Representatives from Minnesota Power will be on hand to answer questions from 10-11:30 a.m. and 2-3 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 20, in the Edmund Fitzgerald Hall.

Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in Northeastern Minnesota, supporting comfort, security and quality of life for 145,000 customers, 16 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. More information can be found by visiting www.mnpower.com.

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