

SUMMIT INSIGHTS & TAKEAWAYS

2024 · THE FIRST NEXUS HARBOR SUMMIT

Policy for Open Sustainability

The first Summit asked how open technology and shared standards could speed the energy transition, and how policy could keep its benefits fair and its communities in the room.

DATE

May 2–3, 2024

PLACE

Johns Hopkins Bloomberg Center, Washington, DC
In partnership with LF Energy

KEY TAKEAWAYS

01

Shared data comes before policy.

NREL's Doug Arent opened by calling for a community modeling platform built on open data and interoperable parts. Sessions on synthetic meter data, customer data access, and open incentive data followed suit. *Who can see and reuse data kept coming before what policy to write.*

02

Open specifications turn rules into operations.

FERC Order 881 on transmission line ratings sat beside TROLIE, an open interface presented by MISO and GE Vernova for sharing those ratings across systems that differ in naming, units, and security. *Mandate and tooling were treated as one problem.*

03

Open models make tradeoffs inspectable.

The Energy Policy Simulator, PolicyEngine, NREL's multi-model planning workflows, and Redeia's planning vision each offered tools others can run and question. *An open model lets a skeptic test the assumptions instead of accepting the conclusion.*

04

Openness holds where an institution owns it.

CISA's Olga Livingston called open source software a public good whose security is a public responsibility, served by guardrails over heavy regulation. The closing panel made the case for open source program offices. *Open work lasted where someone owned it.*

ON THE PROGRAM

Doug Arent
NREL
OPENING KEYNOTE

Alex Thornton
LF Energy
WELCOME ADDRESS

Thomas Dautel
FERC
ORDER 881 AND LINE RATINGS

Christopher Atkins and Tory McKeag
MISO and GE Vernova
TROLIE

Audrey Lee and Hallie Cramer
Microsoft and Google
24/7 CARBON-FREE ENERGY

Rachel Goldstein
Energy Innovation
ENERGY POLICY SIMULATOR

Max Ghenis
PolicyEngine
TAX AND BENEFIT POLICY

Olga Livingston
CISA
OPEN SOURCE SECURITY

> Who can see and reuse the data comes before what policy to write.
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> NEXUS HARBOR SUMMIT 2024

2 days at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg Center

17 sessions on the published program

22 partners and supporters

THROUGH THE 3DG LENS — How the 2024 Summit maps to Nexus Harbor's framework: Detect, Decide, Deliver, with Govern throughout.

DETECT
Shared warning

Seeing the system clearly: real-time grid data, hourly emissions attributes, and synthetic data that protects households.

DECIDE
Deciding under scarcity

Open modeling platforms and policy simulators that weigh cost, emissions, and household effects in public view.

DELIVER
Care that holds up

Shared specifications in practice: TROLIE for line ratings, the Carbon Data Specification, and machine-readable incentive data.

GOVERN
Trust built in
THROUGHOUT

Open source security, program offices, and the stewardship of shared standards ran beneath every session.

WHY IT MATTERS

- **Regulators.** Plan the shared specification alongside any rule that depends on data exchange.
- **Universities and laboratories.** Publish interoperable models and give open work an institutional home.
- **Community organizations.** Ask for machine-readable program data; it lowers the burden on households.

QUESTIONS CARRIED FORWARD

- ☐ How do community representatives gain a real seat when standards work is technical?
- ☐ What would an open, inspectable model look like for housing, energy burden, and health?
- ☐ Who stewards shared data and specifications after a convening ends?

UP NEXT — *Nexus Harbor returns on Veterans Day, November 11, 2025, at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore with Veterans for the Future: Innovation in Service of the Public Good. Session recaps and recordings from 2024 are available from LF Energy.*

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