

CLIMATECH

ClimaTech 2026

Session Title: Hyperscale Power: Data Centers, Grid Demand, and the Race for Clean Energy

Date & Time: Tuesday, May 5th from 2:00 – 2:40 PM (40 Minutes)

Location: Wimberley (Main Stage)

Description (draft):

This conversation examines how hyperscalers and electrification are driving demand growth and changing procurement models. The focus is on data centers, power procurement, virtual power plants, distributed energy resources, and flexible demand.

Moderator: Scott Clavenna, Co-Founder & CEO, Latitude Media, Inc.

Panelists:

- Ayse Coskun, Professor, Boston University & Chief Scientist, Emerald AI
- John O'Brien, Jr., CEO, JERA Americas
- Sy Oytan, CEO, Avangrid Power
- Paul Bockwoldt, Global Utilities and Renewables Practice Director, Bain & Company

Key Themes:

1. From Load Growth to Load Shape: How Hyperscalers Are Rewriting Grid Planning

How are AI-driven, always-on loads forcing utilities and planners to rethink forecasting, capacity planning, and grid flexibility.

2. The New Power Buyer: Hyperscalers as Market Makers in Clean Energy

With companies procuring power at unprecedented scale, hyperscalers are no longer just customers—they're shaping markets. How are companies responding to the evolving procurement models?

3. Firm vs. Flexible: The Race to Match Clean Supply with 24/7 Demand

4. Virtual Power Plants and Distributed Energy: Turning Demand into a Grid Asset

Rather than treating data centers as inflexible loads, emerging models position them as active participants in grid stability. This theme explores VPPs, demand response, and AI-enabled optimization—drawing on Emerald AI's work at the intersection of compute and energy systems.

5. Speed vs. Sustainability: Can Infrastructure Keep Up with AI-Driven Demand?

Can utilities, developers, and policymakers build fast enough—without compromising decarbonization goals—and what new partnerships or regulatory shifts are needed.

Questions:

TO BE DISCUSSED

Ayse: Flexibility, Speed to Power; what does it mean to make use of the available power on the grid; resilience, sustainability & affordability

Paul: Speed to Power; how that has evolved over time, pushing more behind-the-meter

John: How big corporates are playing in the space

Ayse: A lot of opportunity to change the mindset to view data centers;

Paul: Focus on the local community

Sy: IPP perspective; demand from hyperscalers

Lessons Learned: Hyperscalers and utilities have to start early (mid-western states)

Download from Latitude_AI Conference:

- Pace of renewables vs gas
- Role of batteries

- Flexibility as a means to access grid power
- Social license to build data centers + community engagement
- Affordability

Session Flow & Tips:

- A “Voice of God” (VOG) will introduce the moderator to the stage
- Panelists will be introduced by the moderator who will give a brief panel introduction.
- Moderators will typically direct questions to individuals, rather than posing open questions to the group.
- Each theme or topic will likely get ~8–10 minutes, so responses that are clear and concise help keep the pace dynamic.
- We aim to end each session with a strong takeaway—this might include a rapid-fire round of predictions or one key insight from each speaker.
- If time runs out, our stage managers will respectfully stop the discussion and ask that the conversation continue off stage and/or during breaks and networking reception.

Logistics & Preparation

Arrival Time: Plan to check-in at speaker registration by 1:30pm. Speaker Check-In will be located next to Registration in the Cyclorama. Upon entering the venue’s main entrance, both will be immediately on your right-hand side. Once everyone has arrived, you will be led to the theater space.

Time & Format: 40 min; moderated with prepared questions.

Day-Of Contact

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