

CLIMATECH

ClimaTech 2026

Session Title: How AI can accelerate the energy transition

Date & Time: Monday, May 4th from 11:00 – 11:40 AM (40 Minutes)

Location: Wimberley Theater (Main Stage)

Description (draft):

As climate pressures, aging assets, and urbanization strain global infrastructure, artificial intelligence is emerging as a strategic tool to build more resilient, efficient, and adaptive systems. In the power sector, decades of investment in sensors, communications, and software have created a wealth of data—but most remains siloed or underused. As cloud capabilities scale, compute costs fall, and digital programs mature, AI is becoming a true inflection point for utilities and energy leaders alike.

This session explores how organizations are leveraging AI—from predictive maintenance and digital twins to grid optimization and demand forecasting—to reduce risk, cut costs, and unlock new value across energy, water, transportation, and cities.

Moderator: John Mennel, Managing Director, Deloitte

Panelists:

- Tod Hynes, CEO & Co-Founder, Maigent
- Tate Krasner, Chief of Staff, Air Space Intelligence
- Colette Lamontagne, Sr, Director, Electric Power, Ceres
- Julia Trotman, Partner, Valo Ventures

Key Themes - to be discussed:

1. From Data-Rich to Insight-Driven Infrastructure

Utilities and infrastructure operators aren't lacking data—they're lacking integration. The real opportunity is breaking down silos and turning decades of fragmented grid, asset, and operational data into actionable intelligence.

2. AI as a Reliability and Risk Management Layer

Across power, aviation, and urban systems, AI is shifting from “nice-to-have” to mission-critical—enabling predictive maintenance, outage prevention, and real-time system optimization in an era of climate volatility.

3. Digital Twins & Simulation as Decision Engines

Advanced modeling—from grid digital twins to airspace optimization—is transforming how operators plan, test, and de-risk infrastructure investments before deploying capital in the real world.

4. Operational Efficiency Meets Decarbonization

AI isn't just about cost savings—it's a lever for emissions reduction. Smarter demand forecasting, load balancing, and system optimization directly translate into lower carbon intensity across sectors.

5. Scaling AI in Regulated, Legacy-Heavy Systems

The biggest barriers aren't technical—they're organizational and regulatory. Integrating AI into legacy infrastructure requires new approaches to governance, workforce adoption, and cross-sector collaboration.

Questions:

TO BE DISCUSSED

Tod - **beginning of panel, we address (acknowledge) impact of AI, but not spend too much time here → more attention on benefits**

Key use cases/examples: How we can move faster and use tools (Tod)

- 150+ teams going through class, **we can move faster** on big opportunities that might have been too risky before
- How we can use this information and make it accessible to an audience of 1 (AI is good at understanding the person who is receiving the information // it makes the complicated info more digestible)

Julia – from the venture side, we are seeing companies that we are investing in being adopted by big utilities - big things are breaking to build momentum (ie Equilibrium and NRG partnership)

How do we get utilities and energy companies to adopt AI tools // how do we shift mindsets

Colette - The way AI can accelerate transition in the physical / infrastructure environment

Reframing load growth as opportunity! Is there an opportunity in framing this as a way to bring clean generation / more technology to improve grid // AI is key to flexibility and demand management

Julia: grid is only utilized 42% and AI is the critical technology to unlock flexibility:

- We're going to be about 150GW short on power for AI in next 5 years, since we'll only be able to build 50-60GW (and Nat Bullard is forecasting 200GW of demand by 2030)
- Load flexibility is the only way to get close to meeting this demand; a year ago DC operators said they would never flex compute, but now they will, and they're building DCs in a new way in order to maximize # of tokens on grid today
- Load growth reduces rates, according to LLNL
- Chelle Izzi (Chief Commercial Officer at PG&E): "We're excited about AI tools for flexibility, making sense of complex information, and speeding up interconnection cluster studies, working on T-Flex at transmission level which is just like FlexConnect (50 sites using this to get EV charging sites connected 18-24 months faster)"
- Tapestry helping PJM with interconnection studies

Tate, Air Space Intelligence - Uses AI to enhance reliability, resilience, and efficiency across the grid.

Tod - **address workforce and talent** // we can use AI to solve problems and redeploy people to solve mission (growth mindset)

Colette - huge problem with the aging workforce in the utility and regulatory space / maybe AI can help with gaps

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 10:30am. 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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