

News Release

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California ISO CEO to speak at UN global climate conference

Elliot Mainzer set to join power sector leaders worldwide at COP26 this week

FOLSOM, Calif. – California Independent System Operator (ISO) President and CEO Elliot Mainzer is one of a select group of US energy officials and international power grid executives discussing the worldwide transition to modern, sustainable energy systems this week as part of the [United Nations Climate Change Conference 2021](#) in Glasgow, Scotland.

The conference, known as the COP26, is a two-week climate summit gathering 120 world leaders and thousands of delegates to accelerate action toward the goals of the [Paris Agreement](#) to limit global warming.

Mainzer's virtual participation stems from the ISO's role as a founding member of the [Global Power System Transformation consortium \(G-PST\)](#), which launched in April. He will be part of the panel discussion, "[Unlocking Grids to Decarbonize Power Systems Globally with the G-PST Consortium.](#)"

"In the last several years, the western United States has seen firsthand the dramatic effects of climate change on our power grid, and the disruption and suffering it has caused in the lives of people," Mainzer said. "Participation in the COP26 conference and G-PST Consortium is an opportunity to support the global movement toward decarbonization of electric grids while providing reliable, affordable, and equitable power service to consumers around the world."

The panel discussion will present tangible results of the consortium's work since April, and ways forward for the operation of advanced, clean power systems.

The consortium's results focus on cutting-edge research to achieve low- and zero-emissions grids; boosting women's participation in power system transformation; deep collaboration and support networks for developing countries; university partnerships for building a customized workforce; applying technologies to unique situations; and fostering advancement of open tools for data analysis.

Others slated to participate in the panel include US Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm; Mark Foley, CEO of EirGrid in Ireland; Anne-Katrin Marten, head of operational planning for 50Hertz in Germany; Lee McDonough, director general for Net Zero, Strategy, and International, BEIS, UK; Jonathan Pershing, US Department of



State's deputy special envoy for climate; Sinthya Roesly, CFO, PLN, Indonesia; Fintan Slye, director of the National Grid ESO in UK; and Daniel Westerman, Australian Energy Market Operator.

The discussion is slated for Thursday, Nov. 4, from 4:30 a.m. to 5:30 a.m. PDT, featuring in-person and virtual appearances at the [US Center at COP26](#), and will be livestreamed and archived at the [US Center YouTube channel](#).

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The California Independent System Operator (ISO) is a nonprofit public benefit corporation dedicated, with its partners, to continuous improvement and secure operation of a reliable grid operated for the benefit of consumers. It provides comprehensive grid planning, open and nondiscriminatory access to one of the largest networks of high-voltage transmission power lines in the world, and operates a \$9 billion competitive electricity market. Recognizing the importance of the global climate challenge, the ISO is at the forefront of integrating renewable power and advanced technologies that will help provide a sustainable energy future efficiently and cleanly.

The Western Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) Governing Body is the governing authority designed by regional stakeholders with delegated authority from the ISO Board of Governors to resolve rules specific to participation in the Western EIM.