

Fortnightly Top Innovators 2025

Nomination Form

Background

Public Utilities Fortnightly's annual Fortnightly Top Innovators uniquely recognizes and honors individual innovators at electric, natural gas, and water utilities. As well as teams of innovators at utilities.

Accordingly, utility employees or those who work with utilities in some capacity are encouraged to nominate one or more individual innovators at utilities. And/or one or more teams of innovators at utilities.

Criteria

Nominees should be making a distinctive difference in how their utilities serve the public interest. With greater reliability, affordability, safety, and/or environmental quality.

Their innovative work should be extraordinary. Above and beyond what is the standard at their utility and the utilities industry overall.

And their innovative work should be a demonstrable breakthrough. That directly or indirectly will enhance utility service to a significant extent.

Award Categories

Fortnightly Top Innovator awards are given in fourteen categories. Each is named after a founding father or mother of the utilities industry like Lewis Latimer, Edith Clarke, and George Westinghouse. In some cases, there will be multiple individual and/or team awards in a category.

These fourteen categories are:

Edith Clarke Top Innovator in the Reliability of Utility Service

Lewis Latimer Top Innovator in Technology or Process Design

George Westinghouse Top Innovator in Leadership in Innovation

Bertha Lamme Top Innovator in Power Generation

Charles Steinmetz Top Innovator in Network or Grid Operations

Nancy Fitzroy Top Innovator in Environment and Safety

Maria Telkes Top Innovator in Distributed Energy

Francis Upton Top Innovator in Analytics for Utility Service

William Hammer Top Innovator in Electrification

John Beggs Top Innovator in the Energy Transition

Mabel MacFerran Top Innovator in Energy Storage

Florence Fogler Top Innovator in Energy Transmission Technologies

Alan Turing Top Innovator in Cybersecurity

Nikola Tesla Top Innovator in Artificial Intelligence

In addition, a fifteenth category recognizes and honors the collaboration of companies, involving at least one electric, natural gas, and water utility, working together to introduce a significant innovation for the public interest. This is the Edison Pioneers Award.

Awards at Fortnightly Top Innovators 2025 this October 5-7

For each of the categories, the selected awardees will be recognized and honored in a prominent and extensive feature in the October issue of Public Utilities Fortnightly. And they will also be recognized and honored at the annual Fortnightly Top Innovators 2025 conference, on October 5-7, at the historic Willard hotel in Washington D.C., across from the White House.

How to Nominate

Nominations should address the following questions. And, if so desired, with supplementary attachments such as photos, graphs, reports, press releases. And in any format – Word, PowerPoint, PDF, video, etc. that works best for you.

1. Who is the individual innovator, or each of the innovators on the team, that you are nominating for Top Innovator?
2. What is their title, or are their titles, and roles at the utility?
3. In summary, what was their distinctive and meaningful innovation?
4. In greater detail, what was their distinctive and meaningful innovation?
5. Which of the above award category or categories do you think this innovation fits, in your opinion?
6. At what stage is the innovation? That is, in the planning stage, in the pilot stage, in the process of being implemented, or has been implemented over the last year or so?
7. What will be the tangible benefit directly or indirectly for the utility's customers?
8. What is the potential for other utilities or the utilities industry overall to take advantage of this innovation for the benefit of their customers?
9. What are the next steps, if any, to build upon this innovation?

Nomination Deadline

The deadline for Fortnightly Top Innovators 2025 nominations is July 15, 2025.

If You Have Questions

Please feel free to reach out to the Public Utilities Fortnightly team with any questions you may have. We want to make the nomination process as easy as possible for utilities, and utility partners, nominating innovators at utilities.

To ask any questions, and to submit your nomination or nominations, please email PUF's Ashley Lucas, alucas@sepapower.org.