

1. Resilience Planning

The [International District Energy Association \(IDEA\)](#) is a non-profit trade association founded in 1909 and currently represents representing more than 2,300 members from 27 countries from around the world within the district energy industry. The IDEA has advocated for the increased role that district energy, CHP and microgrid systems can play in increasing resilience for critical infrastructure while also maintaining grid reliability. The IDEA works actively to foster the success of its members by organizing conferences, webinars, workshops, system tours and by commissioning reports and convening events that highlight the important role of CHP, microgrids, and district energy in increasing energy resilience. It actively supports member resiliency planning by fostering collaboration through these events, and providing a vehicle to share experiences and best practices.

2. Program or Project Implementation

While resiliency planning has always been a key concern at colleges, universities and healthcare facilities, it became a central issue for many other sectors following Hurricane Sandy in 2012 in the Northeast. IDEA assists its members in transferring critical operational knowledge on district energy and microgrids at college campuses to other applications, such as military bases and industrial facilities, in order to enhance resilience. IDEA focuses on [educating its members](#) and the public through a variety of publications, such as a quarterly magazine “District Energy”, an inter-active website that facilitates peer exchange, outreach materials, instructional videos, and conference proceedings. IDEA holds multiple congressional briefings on topics related to improving critical infrastructure and oversees the regulatory advocacy activities of the [Microgrid Resources Coalition \(MRC\)](#). Congressional briefings provide an avenue to educate policy makers on the potential for increased U.S. investment in critical energy infrastructure, with the ultimate goal of strengthening energy resilience.

The MRC, which was formed in 2013 and integrated into IDEA in 2016, actively promotes microgrids by advocating for policy and regulatory actions, and educating stakeholders on microgrid configurations and business models. One of the main goals for the MRC is to educate regulators, governments and the public about how to increase resiliency through microgrids. The MRC is also focused on updating the regulatory framework surrounding microgrids so utilities can utilize microgrids as viable resource in the future. IDEA offers Microgrid Workshops at its conferences to provide an in-depth and focused learning experience for microgrid designers, owners and operators.

IDEA’s [annual conferences](#) help build relationships and enable technical peer exchange among members, which can then be used to optimize critical infrastructure or deploy CHP, microgrids, or other related projects. Attendees are able to visit actual operating systems to learn first-hand about lessons learned. Conference proceedings are publicly available and are a valuable resource for members and the public to learn about proven technologies and case studies that underscore the role of district energy in improving energy efficiency and increasing resilience.

3. Lessons Learned

Through its advocacy and research work, the IDEA has identified a number of key lessons working with members focused on CHP, microgrids, and district energy for resilience. In IDEA’s experience, offering access to a platform for sharing real-world experiences with successful CHP, microgrid, and district energy operating systems is very important. For instance, during Super Storm Sandy, Princeton University followed an emergency preparedness protocol to ensure business continuity for the campus

CHP for Resiliency Accelerator Partner Profile

and surrounding community. The IDEA will continue to participate in the ongoing discussion surrounding the evolution of energy markets and advocate for policies and regulations that promote CHP and microgrids as a solution to update utility infrastructure and increase energy resilience.

4. Additional Information

- ▶ [International District Energy Association \(IDEA\)](#)
- ▶ [IDEA Conference Proceedings](#)
- ▶ [IDEA Resources](#)
- ▶ [Microgrid Resources Coalition \(MRC\)](#)
- ▶ [Congressional Briefing: “District Energy, CHP, Microgrids: Resilient, Efficient Energy Infrastructure”](#)