

**Date and Location:** October 5, 2020 George Mason University, Van Metre Hall MPR 125/126, 3351 Fairfax Drive, Arlington, VA 22201

**Title:** **The Fourth Annual Mason Energy Forum**

**Threats and Opportunities: Using Data and Technology to Protect Grid Resilience**

**Subtitle:** Meeting energy security challenges in the digital economy through mitigation and resiliency planning.

**Working Definition of Resilience:** the capacity of systems (grids, communities, private sector, public governance) to recover from disruptions (natural or human in origin). This capacity includes cultural, technological, economic, and structural aspects.

**Goals:**

- (1) Use the University of Connecticut (UConn) model of [Eversource Energy Resilience Center](#) to engage mid-Atlantic power companies and regulators with Mason's research and policy assets at the intersection of energy security, digital innovation, and resilience.
- (2) Discuss implications for a resilient energy grid of implementing the Virginia [Governor's Renewable Energy Plan](#) to achieve: a) 30 percent of the electricity consumed by state agencies and institutions in Virginia comes from renewable sources by 2022, b) 30 percent of Virginia's electric system powered from renewable sources by 2030, and c) 100 percent of electricity coming from carbon-free sources by 2050.
- (3) Outline the future of the Arlington campus, and the new [Institute for Digital InnovAtion](#) and the vision for a surrounding innovation district (including community engagement).
- (4) Identify how the Mason transdisciplinary centers like the [Center for Energy Science and Policy \(CESP\)](#) and the Center for Resilient and Sustainable Communities (C-RASC) can participate in digital economy innovation.

**Registration:**

[https://secure.touchnet.com/C20788\\_ustores/web/product\\_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1324&SINGLESTOR E=true](https://secure.touchnet.com/C20788_ustores/web/product_detail.jsp?PRODUCTID=1324&SINGLESTOR E=true)

**Agenda:**

8:00 am: Registration Light breakfast and networking

9:00 am: Opening Keynote: Energy Resilience and Digital innovation:

Objective: Welcome participants and set stage for symposium

Themes:

Digital innovation and grid security – good and bad news.

Mason's transdisciplinary assets for research and policy recommendations.

Integrate this effort with the vision of Arlington Campus as a digital hub.

9:30 am: The Eversource Energy Resilience Center Model:

Objective: Mason learning from UConn success

Themes:

Resilience challenges in face of natural disasters; UConn response.  
Importance of public/private cooperation.  
Similarities/contrasts of regional challenges to grid security and integrity.

10:00: Break

10:15 am: George Mason University's Resilience Portfolio:

Objective: Mason vision for grid security resilience

Themes:

Why Mason better positioned than other public universities.  
Transdisciplinary capacities at Mason.

10:30 am: Panel 1 -- Mid-Atlantic Power Grid Mitigation and Resilience Panel:

Objective: Explore the needs of stakeholders in maintaining a resilient energy grid

Themes:

Identify two significant resilience challenges facing Mid-Atlantic Power grid today.  
Impact of regional plans for [emissions cuts](#) on grid security and resilience.  
Complications for operators and regulators given national security requirements.

Noon: Lunch and Keynote Address Implementing the Governor's Renewable Energy Plan

Objective: Implementing Virginia's Renewable Energy Plans; Enhancing Grid Resilience

1:00 pm: Panel 2 – The Arlington Campus – Hub for Digital Innovation and Resilience

Objective: Convey vision for Arlington Campus Innovation Hub

Themes:

Amazon's role in enhancing resilience and sustainability in the DMV region.  
Mason's value-added to community and corporate success.

2:00 pm: Panel 3 -- C-RASC and CESP Mission and Vision:

Objective: Describe the role of Mason transdisciplinary centers

Themes:

How center diversity creates multiplicity of opportunities for research centers and student engagement.

Creating Student Fellows program.

Future trans-disciplinary academic programs.

2:45 pm: Break

3:00 pm Panel 4 – Preparing Networks and Communities for Continuity: Public/Private Partnerships:

Objective: Understand different approaches to community resilience and sustainability

Themes:

Why community resilience and sustainability are overlooked.

Role of government vs. social groups in developing community resilience.

Developing stakeholder status for communities in determining grid security.

4:00 pm -- Closing Remarks/Introduction to Reception

5:00 pm -- Reception Celebration of Earth Day