



CALL FOR PAPERS

The CEP Annual Conference is New Zealand's pre-eminent gathering for practitioners in the fields of energy efficiency, decarbonisation and sustainability. The 2027 CEP Conference will take place on 25th and 26th May at the Christchurch Town Hall. As previously, the 2027 event will be run in association with the Bioenergy Association.

We welcome abstracts and proposals that will educate and inform delegates across the areas of energy efficiency, decarbonisation and sustainability.

We invite:

- The submission of Conference papers; and
- Proposals for workshops;

that focus on the practical aspects of commercial and industrial energy efficiency, carbon management, emissions reduction and climate adaptation.

Presentations at Conference are strictly educational and *must not* be used for product or service promotion. Promotional opportunities are available through sponsorship and an associated exhibition, for more details, please contact [Philip Le Quesne](#).

At this stage, we are inviting abstracts for consideration by our conference committee. Submissions must be made on the attached template and must be received by 30th October 2026.

We invariably receive more submissions than we have space for, so please prepare your abstract and submission in line with the sections of the template. Its contents are what our conference committee will assess your submission on.

Presentation or workshop?

We invite submissions for two types of session as follows.

1. Presentations

These are presentations to delegates that run for 20-30 minutes, depending on final programme. Ordinarily, these are delivered by single presenters who receive their day's registration gratis in recognition of their contribution. Joint presentations are welcome, although additional presenters are required to pay a registration fee (at significant discount). If a joint presentation is being suggested, the contribution of every party and why they are an important part of the session should be explicitly addressed as part of the abstract submission.

All relevant submissions will be considered. The review committee has expressed particular interest in seeing submissions around the following topics, however, this list is not exhaustive, we are keen to see all interesting submissions.

Energy Transition

- Do we need a national energy company?
- Network connectivity now and the future
- Biomass – potential, applications, availability, cost
- Energy hubs
- Energy resilience
- Geothermal - next steps
- RMA Fast tracking
- Electrification
- Low emissions transport

Gas

- Gas industry forecasting and supply
- Gas transition opportunities
- Fuel switching
- Financing the gas transition
- Green financing availability and options (loans/grants/equity)

Carbon management

- Forestry
- (Non-forestry) Nature-based offsetting solutions
- Offsetting
- Dealing with agricultural methane
- Carbon markets – prices and trends

Bioenergy

- Biogas – potential, applications, availability, cost
- SAF – potential, availability and cost
- Bioenergy's role in decarbonization
- Bioenergy supply chains and availability
- Bioenergy price trends and price predictions

AI and Data Centres

- Accelerating renewables
- AI – its benefits
- AI – its costs
- Data centres – energy supply
- Data centres – energy efficiency
- Data centres – practical uses for waste heat

Energy Efficiency

- Carbon capture and storage
- Innovations in energy efficiency

Other

- Opportunities in energy efficiency
- The circular economy, especially as it relates to the energy sector

We reserve the right to request alterations to proposed papers.

2. Workshops

These are interactive, facilitated workshops for 20-25 attendees that run for around 60-90 minutes, depending on final programme. They can be based on a particular topic or designed to appeal to a particular subset of delegates. As examples, previous years have seen sessions on heat pumps, financing decarbonisation initiatives, local government issues, Scope 3 emissions deep-dive, product emissions, managing climate risk and data management and IoT.

Ordinarily, these will be facilitated by a team of experts (max 4), and we encourage collaborative submissions from more than one organisation. Facilitators will need to coordinate activities and agenda in advance to ensure deep engagement with delegates. Facilitators receive their day's registration gratis in recognition of their contribution.

All relevant submissions will be considered. The review committee has expressed particular interest in seeing submissions around the following topics, however, this list is not exhaustive, we are keen to see all interesting proposals.

- Financial options and solutions for efficiency and fuel switching projects
- Data centre energy efficiency and recovery
- Using and prompting AI for efficacy in driving efficiency
- Presenting decarbonisation solutions in the face of economic headwinds
- Electrification or bioenergy – what's right for you?

We reserve the option to combine or reconfigure proposed presentations or workshops to deliver maximum value to delegates.

Round-up

CEP's conference is notable for the depth of its sessions and satisfaction ratings of delegates. We pride ourselves on accepting papers that will educate and inform our delegates, since this reflects well on our Conference and presenters. In recent years, we have invariably been oversubscribed with abstracts, allowing our conference committee to select only the strongest sessions. We usually have to decline around half the submissions, so please prepare carefully.

- Your submission will only be considered if you use the [2027 Conference Abstract submission template](#).
- Please submit your abstract to mike.hopkins@cep.org.nz by 5pm on 30th October 2026.

Engagement with delegates is a high priority so we strongly prefer our New Zealand domiciled presenters to present in-person. Accepted, international presenters are welcome to present by video link.

Please note, CEP is a not-for-profit and strives to keep the conference accessible by applying low registration fees. Accordingly, we are not in a position to contribute to speaker travel or accommodation costs. Nevertheless, our speakers invariably find huge value in being part of the programme and engaging with our delegates, especially from the stage.

Ngā mihi,
Mike Hopkins, CEO