

Transforming the Northwest Energy System NWESS 2022



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Speaker: Matt Von Ruden, Washington State Ferries, System Electrification Program Administrator

Title: Washington State Ferries Electrification Program

Abstract: Washington State Ferries (WSF) is undertaking an ambitious initiative to electrify their system with plug-in hybrid-electric vessels and terminal enhancements to achieve reduced environmental impact and energy costs. As the largest ferry system in the U.S.—carrying nearly 25 million people each year on 10 routes—WSF is leading the way in the marine industry by outlining and acting on a plan that will allow substantial emissions reductions. This presentation will summarize the agency’s System Electrification Plan and provide highlights of associated vessel and terminal projects that are currently underway.



Bio: Matthew von Ruden is a maritime professional with 35 years’ experience, including 23 years in the U.S. Coast Guard, retiring as a Captain in 2009. Matt worked in the shipbuilding industry, and served as the Associate Dean and Director of Seattle’s Maritime Academy. In 2015, Matt became the Director of Vessel Maintenance at WSDOT’s Ferries Division. In 2021, he took the helm of the Ferries’ System Electrification Program. Matt holds degrees from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and the U.S. Naval War College.