
University of Pennsylvania
Institute for Environmental Studies

Presents



Jeff Bladen

Mark Group, Inc.

Bringing Energy Closer to Home:

Why energy efficiency and distributed resources are needed building blocks to really benefit from a 'smart grid.'

For all the talk in the last few years about *smart grid*, it's amazing how little has changed in the American electric industry since Thomas Edison first fired up his power station on Pearl Street, New York City, in 1882. In many ways, Edison would have no trouble recognizing today's grid. It still relies on the same basic tenets that allowed him to found the Edison Illuminating Company. His pioneering construct of a central power generator with transmission and distribution lines linking inexpensively to provide power to businesses and homes persists today, supplying nearly all the electricity needs in the Western world. The only problem is that the real costs of that power are no longer so inexpensive in dollars or other impacts. If we are to reap the potential of the smart grid, we need to fight against a century-plus of momentum that continues to favor central over distributed, or local, resources. A future smart grid can only bring fundamental change if we recognize the true value of distributed resources and get smarter about how efficient we are in our use of energy more generally.

Cosponsor

Initiative for Global Environmental Leadership



Date: November 30, 2011

Time: NOON - 1:30 pm

Place: Carolyn Hoff Lynch Auditorium

On the Penn campus: Chemistry Building
34 & Spruce Sts. (enter on 34 St)

NO REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Direct questions to: 215-573-3164 ies_penn@sas.upenn.edu <http://www.sas.upenn.edu/earth/ies>

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