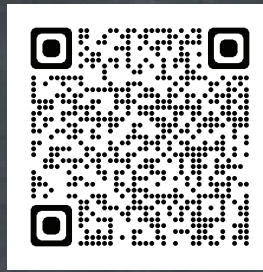


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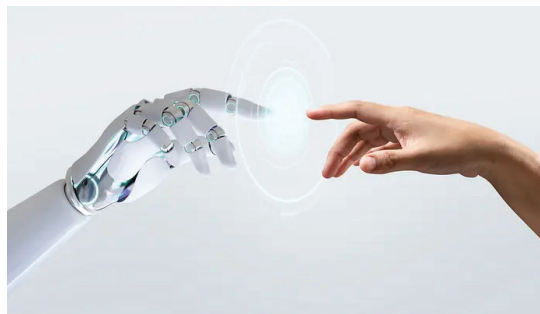
Bigger May Not Be Better: The Potential of Small Nuclear Reactors to Address Energy Needs



Ontario, Canada
August 13-15, 2024

New technologies are emerging in the nuclear industry and chief among these are small nuclear reactors (SMRs). Currently, there are forty-four operational conventional nuclear power plants in the South, the most powerful of which produces 1,400MWs. An SMR is a scaled-down nuclear reactor that produces less energy but can be built faster with fewer materials and takes up as little as 10% of the space of a conventional nuclear plant. SMRs may therefore represent a possible solution to states' ongoing energy production needs. Canada is developing what is expected to be the first SMR in North America: the GE Hitachi BWRX-300. This Policy Masterclass will give members a first-hand look at the development of this SMR, including the partnership between the public and private sectors. It will also explore how Canada mines and exports critical minerals needed for nuclear energy and the workforce development programs to cultivate the necessary expertise for this new technology.

Dream Machine: Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Governing



Alexandria, VA
September 17-19, 2024

The rapid adoption and integration of artificial intelligence (AI) has broad implications for every facet of public and private life. In this burgeoning field, the public policy stakes are high, and the issues complex. In crafting public policy frameworks, lawmakers must strike a balance between fostering innovation and protecting constituent interests, while weighing a range of complex issues such as data privacy, workforce displacement, ethical AI deployment, intellectual property, and cyber security, to name a few. State policymakers will be tasked with establishing legal and regulatory foundations, while also reckoning with the implications of AI for the process of governing. When optimally deployed, artificial intelligence has the potential to significantly streamline government processes, enhance data analysis and decision making, increase regulatory compliance and boost administrative efficiency. While AI presents numerous opportunities to enhance state legislative institutions, it also raises important ethical and regulatory questions that must be carefully considered to ensure transparency, accountability, and fairness in implementation. In navigating these challenges, state lawmakers will play a pivotal role in crafting policies that maximize the benefits of AI while safeguarding against potential risks.

Missed Connections: Exploring the Impact of Social Media on Youth Mental Health



Charlotte, NC
October 1-3, 2024

Social media - initially conceived as a means of creating and enhancing community - can quickly devolve into dangerous echo chambers. These platforms that can sustain meaningful connection can, like any tool, also cause harm. Through presentations, interactive discussions, and evidence-based research, this CSG South Policy Masterclass will highlight strategies and policies implemented by states aimed at mitigating the adverse effects of social media on youth mental health. Participants will engage in constructive dialogue, share best practices, and brainstorm actionable solutions to promote digital well-being in today's hyperconnected world.