



UTILITY & COMMUNICATIONS STRUCTURES COUNCIL

The mission of this Council is to improve the resiliency and reliability of power delivery and communications infrastructure by promoting the use and understanding of FRP composite poles and crossarms for electrical distribution, transmission, and communication structure applications. Council members undertake proactive activities dealing with education, advocacy and legislation, regulation, marketing, and development of codes and standards.

Activities and Achievements:

- **Initiated** a new task group to develop target education and communication to the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) as it pertains to the use, safe handling, and installation of FRP utility poles.
- **Published** a new ACMA Advisory document on Nuisance Dust to be used when engaging member customers.
- **Supported** in the execution and developed educational content for the first Construction and Infrastructure Composites Technology Day in 2021 and 2023.
- **Developed** an ANSI/ACMA Standard Specification for FRP Composite Utility Poles to educate and inform electric utility engineers about how FRP poles are manufactured, assembled, specified, and installed safely and correctly.
- **Participated** in the resolution of code change proposals for the 2017 National Electric Safety Code (NESC) – for electrical utility structures that favorably affected FRP composites and updates to the 2022 code.
- **Conducted** outreach to government agencies (DoE, USDA), briefings with Congressional Staff of the respective House and Senate Science Committees and Composites Caucus, and utility professional organizations to educate owners and users on composites benefits and standards.
- **Developed** educational session on composites at various utility industry conferences to educate civil/structural utility engineers on the benefits of using composites.
- **Participated** in the World Trade Organization (WTO) environmental goods negotiations in Geneva, Switzerland. Meetings with international trade representatives resulted in the addition of composite utility poles on the list to be considered for tariff elimination.

Current and Future Projects:

- **Education:** Support ACMA sustainability program initiatives.
- **Standards:** Development of a new ANSI/ACMA standard specification on FRP crossarms. Develop new task groups for Strength vs. Deflection, an update to the Utility Pole Standard, the Crossarm Standard, and an LCI for Sustainability.
- **Advocacy:** Support ACMA Capitol Hill initiatives to guide ACMA on important legislative issues regarding reliability and resiliency of the electric grid.
- **Outreach:** Promote composites and educate key Congressional committees, federal agencies, and trade associations. Interface with the USDA RUS, APPA, EEI, and ASCE to promote the adoption of the ANSI/ACMA FRP Utility Pole Specification. Interface with NARUC, FEMA, DoE, FERC, and NERC to educate and promote awareness.

For more information, or to join this committee, contact the Composites Growth Initiative at cgi@acmanet.org.



MEMBERSHIP

Manufacturers:

- ✓ Avient
- ✓ Core Molding Technologies Inc.
- ✓ Creative Composites Group
- ✓ Enduro Composites
- ✓ GEOTEK
- ✓ McClarin Composites
- ✓ RS Technologies Inc.
- ✓ Trident Industries
- ✓ Valmont Composites Structures

Suppliers and Distributors:

- ✓ AOC
- ✓ Composites One, LLC
- ✓ Covestro LLC
- ✓ INEOS Composites
- ✓ Magnum Venus Products
- ✓ Nippon Electric Glass Co., Ltd.
- ✓ Owens Corning
- ✓ Polynt Reichhold
- ✓ Vibrantz Corporation

Affiliates:

- ✓ Composites Association of New Zealand (CANZ)
- ✓ FX Consulting LLC
- ✓ Lucintel
- ✓ Sustainable Composites
- ✓ University of Maine - Advanced Structures and Composites Center
- ✓ University Of Massachusetts Lowell
- ✓ University Of Miami; Civil, Architectural & Environmental Engineering