

Advancing Towards 100% Clean Energy: A State-Federal Summit

Summit Speakers and Moderators



Galen Barbose
Research Scientist
Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory

Galen Barbose is a Research Scientist in the Electricity Markets and Policy Department at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. Barbose conducts research and analysis on issues in the electricity industry related to renewable energy, energy efficiency, and electric system planning. Among other activities, Barbose leads Berkeley Lab's annual Tracking the Sun report series and the annual renewable portfolio standards status report, and manages a variety of projects analyzing regulatory and policy issues associated with the growth of distributed solar. Since joining Berkeley Lab in 2001, Barbose has authored more than 100 publications and has presented his work on hundreds of occasions in a wide range of forums. Prior to Berkeley Lab, Barbose was a project engineer at Nexant and Schiller Associates, providing project management, engineering, and consulting services for utility-funded energy efficiency and other demand-side management programs. Barbose holds bachelor's degrees in mechanical engineering and philosophy from UC Berkeley and UC Santa Cruz, respectively, and a master's degree from the Energy and Resources Group at UC Berkeley.



Christian Bato
Regional Intergovernmental and External Affairs Specialist for the Southwest
Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Energy

Christian Bato most recently worked for U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto in her Las Vegas office. Previously, he was the Nevada Coalitions Director for the Biden-Harris campaign. He began his career working for SEIU's iAmerica, which advocated for immigrant justice in the AAPI and Latino communities. Bato is originally from Rancho Cucamonga, CA and holds a BA from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. He is the proud son of Filipino immigrants.



Jennifer Bumgarner

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Energy

Jennifer Bumgarner was most recently Senior Regional Director for the Southeast with Energy Foundation, where she led a team working to advance equitable climate and clean energy solutions across a 14-state region. Prior to her tenure at Energy Foundation, Jennifer was Assistant Secretary for Energy with the North Carolina Department of Commerce, where she administered more than \$275 million in federal funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and led efforts to integrate clean energy into the state's economic development strategy. She also served as a Policy Advisor to Governor Michael F. Easley and as a Policy Advisor and Deputy Policy Director to Governor Beverly Eaves Perdue. A native North Carolinian, Jennifer holds a BA in Politics from Wake Forest University and a MS in Social Policy from the University of Oxford in Oxford, United Kingdom, where she studied as a Rhodes Scholar.



Catherine Clark

Energy Justice Liaison
U.S. Department of Energy

Catherine Clark serves as an Energy Justice Liaison at the US Department of Energy's Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED), where she leads efforts to advance energy and environmental justice, including the Justice40 Initiative, across OCED's \$27B portfolio. Prior to joining OCED, Catherine was an AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow in DOE and an MRS/Optica Congressional Science and Engineering Fellow working in the areas of energy and environmental justice. She received her PhD in materials science from the University of Minnesota, where she researched perovskite solar cells, and has worked in the energy industry as a mechanical engineer on gas turbines, wind turbines, and generators. She also holds a BSE in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from Princeton University. Catherine is passionate about community organizing and building an energy system rooted in equity and justice.



Waylon Clark

Energy Storage Technologies and Systems
Sandia National Laboratories

Waylon Clark has spent over a decade working in the field of electrical engineering, project management, and technical leadership. His experience includes developing both brown and green-field projects from initiation, design, and RFP to commissioning/operations. Waylon's expertise includes medium voltage substations, low voltage distribution, process controls, and data analytics. Currently he leads Sandia National Laboratories Demonstration Projects Team and is an R&D Electrical Engineer in the Energy Storage Technologies and Systems Department.



Torrend Collins

Regional Intergovernmental and External Affairs Specialist for Appalachia, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Energy

Torrend L. Collins most recently served as a Program Coordinator in the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), Florida office, synthesizing issue research and performing policy analysis to advance EDF’s clean energy agenda and strategic communications across the state. Previously, she worked as an Environmental Coordinator with the Louisville Metro Air Pollution Control District implementing programs and initiatives focused on improving air quality in Louisville. Collins earned a Bachelor of the Arts in Political Science from Spelman College and a Juris Doctor and Masters of Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School.



Paul Donohoo-Vallett

Policy Analyst, Office of Policy
US Department of Energy

Paul Donohoo-Vallett, PhD, serves as a Policy Analyst in the Office of Policy (OP) at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). His work focuses on addressing power sector decarbonization challenges, including renewable integration, infrastructure and technology deployment, and long-term analysis and planning. Prior to working at OP he worked in the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy’s Strategic Analysis team. Paul has a doctorate in physical chemistry from the University of Colorado Boulder with a focus in energy policy.



Jessica Ennis

Director of Public Engagement
White House Council on Environmental Quality

Jessica Ennis became Director of Public Engagement for the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) in March 2022. Among other duties, she is helping educate various audiences about the provisions and impacts of the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. She is an experienced climate change policy professional with a demonstrated track record building and executing successful environmental and energy advocacy campaigns. Before joining CEQ, she worked at Earthjustice for 14 years, with her final role being Legislative Director for Climate and Energy, helping to shape and advance equitable climate solutions at the federal and state levels. She advocated for the first-ever protections to curb methane pollution from the oil and gas industry, and defended those standards against attempts to roll them back. She led a successful effort to establish a community solar program in Maryland. She holds an Executive MBA from the University of Maryland Robert H. Smith School of Business.

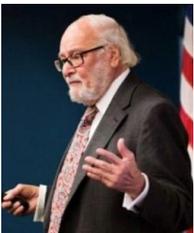


Adam Guzzo

EECBG Program Manager

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of State and Community Energy Programs

Adam Guzzo joined the Department of Energy in 2010 and has served in variety of roles helping to advance clean energy in state and local communities. He currently leads the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program where he manages the \$430M+ portfolio of formula awards available to more than 2,700 state, local, and tribal governments. In his previous roles at DOE, he led local government partnership programs and advised state and local governments on strategies to maximize energy and cost savings. Prior to joining DOE, Adam, worked for a renewable energy startup company and served in various energy and external affairs roles at the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the White House. Adam is a graduate of Vanderbilt University and lives in Falls Church, VA with his wife and three daughters where you can often find him coaching soccer, hiking, and gardening.



Imre Gyuk

Director of Energy Storage Research

U.S. Department of Energy

Dr. Imre Gyuk is Director of Energy Storage Research in the Office of Electricity at the U.S. Department of Energy. He has a BS from Fordham and a PhD from Purdue. He has taught at the University of Wisconsin and at Kuwait University. For the past 2 decades, he has directed innovative research at the forefront of Energy Storage. His team develops a wide portfolio of storage technologies for a broad spectrum of applications. He is now partnering with states, municipalities, tribes, and utilities on numerous projects for grid resilience and decarbonization. Dr. Gyuk's Program includes research on materials, devices, and systems; it also funds work on analytics, policy, finance, and most recently, social equity and long duration storage. His work has led to 13 R&D 100 awards, two EPA Green Chemistry Challenge Award, and Lifetime Achievement Awards from ESA and NAATBatt. He is internationally recognized as a leader in the energy storage field.



Peter Hansel

Special Advisor for Implementation

US Environmental Protection Agency

Peter Hansel is a Special Advisor for Implementation at the Environmental Protection Agency. His work focuses on implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act including the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program. Prior to joining EPA in January 2023, Peter was a consultant for major environmental nonprofits on climate policy. From 2014-2017, he served as Deputy Associate Director for Energy and Climate Change at the White House Council on Environmental Quality. Peter holds a master's degree in environmental management from the Duke University Nicholas School of the Environment.



Damali Harding
Principal and Acting US Program Director
Regulatory Assistance Project

Damali Rhett Harding is the current Acting US Program Director for the Regulatory Assistance Project. Harding is an expert in the field of renewable energy and electric utilities and has provided strategic advising to major domestic and international energy companies. Prior to RAP, she worked for Oracle | Opower where she advised utilities on behavioral load shaping, customer engagement strategies and demand response management. Damali also served as Executive Director of The Energy Co-op, a Philadelphia based nonprofit member-owned cooperative which provides renewable energy in Pennsylvania. She is a current member of The Co-op's Board of Director. Furthermore, Damali is the Treasurer of the board of directors for the American Association of Blacks in Energy. Harding holds an MBA from the Tuck School of Business and a BA from Dartmouth College. Damali lives in Washington, DC with her husband, daughter and several adorable rescue animals.



Edward Hsieh
Senior Program Manager for Workforce Equity
Massachusetts Clean Energy Center

At MassCEC, Edward Hsieh works to create opportunities for underserved and underrepresented individuals in the rapidly growing clean energy workforce. Edward oversees the \$12+ million of annual Equity Workforce Funding grants MassCEC is leveraging to establish more Minority- and Women-owned Business Enterprises (MWBs) in the clean energy sector and to train marginalized individuals to work at those MWBs and other clean energy organizations. With other Workforce team members, Edward provides extensive technical assistance, convening opportunities, and networking assistance to grantees, as well as other key employers and organizations in the clean energy sector, to ensure that the grant awards result in the growth of a diverse, inclusive, clean energy workforce. Prior to MassCEC, Edward was COO of a community-based organization for three years where he oversaw workforce development programs targeted at Boston area communities. Prior to his time in workforce development, Edward served as Executive Director of two sustainability nonprofits for over 14 years.



Sudha Kannan
Researcher
National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Sudha Kannan, PhD is a Researcher at NREL's National Community Solar Partnership team. She is an applied economist with education and experience in energy, environment, and climate change. In her doctoral research, she examined energy access, gender, and climate change in sub-Saharan Africa, and energy justice issues during COVID in the US. She previously worked at the State of Michigan's public service commission/energy office and served on the team of the United Nations Development Programme's Bureau of Policy and Programme Support (BPPS) to analyze the impacts of climate change on sub-Saharan African agriculture. She is a Fulbright awardee.



Stephanie Klein

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Public Engagement, Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Energy

Stephanie was most recently the Washington, DC Field Organizer for Moms Clean Air Force, where she advocated for policies that were protective of air quality and climate at the local and federal levels. Previously, she worked for Capitol Canary (formerly Phone2Action) as a Senior Client Strategy and Success Lead, where she supported environmental advocacy organizations with their digital grassroots advocacy strategies and campaigns. Prior to that, Stephanie was a National Program Manager within the U.S. EPA’s ENERGY STAR Commercial Buildings Program. In that role she led efforts focused on energy efficiency and market transformation through public-private partnerships, working with companies to implement and communicate energy efficiency and carbon reduction initiatives. She holds a BS from Michigan State University and a MS from Johns Hopkins University.



Taresa Lawrence

Director of State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Policy
US Department of Energy Office of Policy

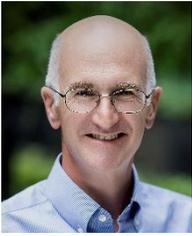
As the Director of State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Policy, Dr. Taresa Lawrence leads a team that develops policies and strategies for states, local governments, tribal nations, and territories to help advance climate goals. The team also prioritize community-driven action plans to support the transition to a clean, resilient, and equitable energy economy. Prior to joining DOE, Dr. Lawrence served as Deputy Director of the District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment, where she developed and implemented clean energy and climate plans, policies, and programs for all end-use sectors. She previously served as a Regulatory Economist at the Maryland Public Service Commission, and Center Director of the Small Business Development Center at the Howard University Center for Urban Progress. Dr. Lawrence holds a PhD in Economics from Howard University, and a Master’s in Economics from University of Manchester, England.



Warren Leon

Executive Director
Clean Energy States Alliance

Warren Leon is Executive Director of the Clean Energy States Alliance. He oversees the organization’s day-to-day operations and leads strategy development. He is also Project Director for the 100% Clean Energy Collaborative. He has written and edited many reports for CESA, including serving as lead author for Advice for States on 100% Clean Energy Planning and Solar with Justice: Strategies for Powering Up Under-Resourced Communities and Growing an Inclusive Solar Market. Prior to working for CESA, Warren was Director of the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust, Executive Director of the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association, and Deputy Director for Programs at the Union of Concerned Scientists. He co-authored the influential book The Consumer’s Guide to Effective Environmental Choices. He holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University. He serves on the board of the municipal utility in his hometown of Concord, Massachusetts.



Robert Margolis
Senior Energy Analyst
National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Dr. Margolis is a Senior Energy Analyst at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL). Since joining NREL in 2003, he has served as key advisor to the US DOE's Solar Energy Technologies Office. In this role he has helped to define and carry out a broad analytical agenda focused on examining the potential for and challenges related to wide-spread adoption of solar energy. Dr. Margolis led the Solar Futures Study (2021), the On the Path to SunShot Study (2016), and the SunShot Vision Study (2021). His main research interests include energy technology and policy; research, development, and demonstration policy; and energy-economic-environmental modeling.



Will McNamara
Grid Energy Storage Policy Analyst
Sandia National Laboratories

Will McNamara serves as Grid Energy Storage Policy Analyst for Sandia National Laboratories with a focus on energy storage policy development at the federal and state levels. Will has spent his entire 23-year career in the energy and utilities industry with a concentration on regulatory and legislative policy. He has served as a lobbyist in California and has represented major utilities across the US in numerous jurisdictions in proceedings pertaining to integrated resource planning, procurement, cost recovery, rate design, and the development of policymaking best practices. Will's areas of subject matter expertise, in addition to energy storage policy, include distributed energy resources, AMI/smart grid, renewables, and competitive retail markets.



Todd Olinsky-Paul
Senior Project Director
Clean Energy States Alliance

At CESA, Todd directs the Energy Storage Technology Advancement Partnership (ESTAP), which aims to accelerate large scale electrical energy storage deployment through collaborative efforts between state energy agencies, US DOE Office of Electricity and Sandia National Laboratories. Todd is also the CESA lead for state energy storage policy support, directing CESA's members' Energy Storage Working Group (ESWG), conducting independent research and analysis on state energy storage policymaking, and providing direct policy and program support to state energy agencies engaged in developing energy storage policies, programs and regulation. His recent work has focused on virtual power plants, battery storage as an efficiency measure, the economics of energy storage, and the equitable incorporation of solar+storage into state clean energy policy and programs. Todd holds an MS in Environmental Policy from Bard College and a BA from Brown University.



Quinn Parker
Chief Executive Officer
Encolor

Ms. Quinn Parker has over 15 years of professional experience including regulatory finance and analytics, as well as program research, design, planning, implementation, and strategic planning. Ms. Parker is CEO of Encolor, a firm committed to supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. Encolor provides inclusive strategies and thoughtful guidance, helping clients achieve their operational and equity goals. Ms. Parker is a Certified Diversity Professional (CDP) and a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt. She holds an MBA from California State University, Dominguez Hills, and a BA from Loyola Marymount University.



Maria Redmond
Director
Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy

Maria Redmond serves as Director of the Wisconsin Office of Sustainability and Clean Energy, leading the State in fighting the effects of climate change through programs and policies that support the use of clean energy resources and technology. She is leading the development of a comprehensive statewide clean energy plan that will help the state successfully reach a 100% carbon-free electricity by 2050 goal, build the clean energy workforce, and foster innovation in clean energy technology. She also works closely with the members of the Governor’s Task Force on Climate Change to identify new, cost-effective conservation, sustainability, and efficiency strategies for the state and prepare Wisconsin for climate change by incorporating climate adaptation strategies into existing planning. Redmond has worked for the State of Wisconsin for 19 years and has significant experience in directing federally funded grant and loan programs, as well as ratepayer energy efficiency and renewable energy programs.



Georges Sassine
Vice President for Large-Scale Renewables
New York State Energy Research and Development Authority

Georges Sassine is the Vice President for Large-Scale Renewables at the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). He leads NYSEDA’s work in advancing both land-based renewable energy and offshore wind resources. Prior to joining NYSEDA in September 2021, he spent nearly ten years at General Electric (GE) where he took on a wide scope of responsibilities including strategy, scenario planning, product management, innovation, marketing and business development. He started his career in engineering and policy analysis roles with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in the Middle East and at a couple of think tanks in Washington, DC. Georges has also worked with several multinational corporations driving policy analysis, investment and business strategy including Deutsche Bank’s Energy & Climate Change Advisors team in New York and Man Group’s energy private equity fund in London. He is also the founder of a non-profit that advocates for transparency and good governance in the energy industry. Georges has a Bachelor in Engineering in Mechanical Engineering from the American University of Beirut, and a Master in Public Policy from Harvard University.



Sam Schacht
Research Associate
Clean Energy States Alliance

Sam Schacht is a CESA Research Associate, working on the Offshore Wind Accelerator and 100% Clean Energy Collaborative projects. He is deeply interested in issues around clean power and environmental justice. Previously, Sam worked at Groundswell, a solar developer based in Washington, DC, where he managed subscriber engagement and support for Groundswell's community solar projects and the DC Department of Energy and Environment's Solar for All program. He worked with a wide range of government offices, community-based organizations, and individuals committed to equitable clean power. He holds a bachelor's degree in History from the University of Rochester, with minors in Sustainability, Anthropology, and German. Beyond CESA, Sam is involved in the Fix the Grid campaign, working to speed up the transition of New England's grid to clean power.



Austin Scharff
Energy Policy Specialist
Washington State Department of Commerce - Energy Policy Office

Austin Scharff is an energy policy specialist at the Energy Policy Office at the Washington State Department of Commerce. He served as the legislative and rulemaking coordinator at the Energy Policy Office during the years Washington established its principal equity and environmental justice laws, and he was a primary contributor to the equity section of Washington's 2021 State Energy Strategy. He now supports the implementation of the clean energy and equity requirements of Washington's 100% clean electricity law, the Clean Energy Transformation Act. Prior to joining Commerce, Austin studied government and economics at the University of Puget Sound and London School of Economics and Political Science.



Tinselyn Simms
Co-founding Co-Executive Director
We Make the Future

Tinselyn Simms is the co-founding Co-Executive Director of We Make the Future (WMTF) and We Make the Future Action (WMTFA). WMTF/A launched in early 2021 to combine strategic communications and coalition building to implement race-forward narratives that motivate our base and persuade the middle for wins that allow all our communities to thrive. Prior to this role, she served as Assistant Director of Communications at Service Employees International Union (SEIU) where she led communications for the Racial Justice Center. She spearheaded the labor union's involvement in the groundbreaking Race-Class Narrative research. In 2019, she completed the Global Messaging Program hosted by ASO Communications in Melbourne, Australia. Tinselyn is a proud graduate of Prince George's County Public Schools in Maryland. She earned her bachelor's degree from Temple University in Communications and African American Studies. She also has a master's from Morgan State University in Telecommunications Management.



Courtney St. John

Senior Director of Science and Energy
Climate Nexus

Courtney St. John is the senior director of science and energy at Climate Nexus. She has extensive experience working across policy, academia and communications on environmental issues. Prior to joining Climate Nexus, Courtney was the outreach director at the Center for Research on Environmental Decisions at Columbia University’s Earth Institute. Before that, she was Climate Change Affairs Officer for the US Navy’s Task Force Climate Change, overseeing execution of the Navy’s Climate Change Roadmap. She was a John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellow in the Office of the Oceanographer of the Navy, working on marine and coastal policy issues. Courtney has authored publications on a variety of environmental issues, including the national security implications of climate change and climate change communication. Courtney holds a Master’s in City and Regional Planning and a certificate in Risk Communication. In 2015, she was named a Climate “sHero,” one of nineteen women working to advance climate action in New York City.



Jenny Sumner

Group Manager
National Renewable Energy Laboratory

Jenny Sumner is a group manager with the Modeling and Analysis Group in NREL’s Accelerated Deployment and Decisions Support Center. She joined NREL in 2009 and has researched topics such as equitable solar deployment and community solar deployment and cost, most recently serving on a detail assignment with the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Economic Impact and Diversity to support implementation of President Biden’s Justice40 Executive Order. She has extensive experience managing technical assistance programs for local governments, higher education institutions, and community solar stakeholders.



Alyse Taylor-Anyikire, Ph.D.

Senior Policy Advisor
U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Policy

Alyse Taylor-Anyikire, Ph.D., serves as a Senior Policy Advisor in the Office of Policy at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). She works on the State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Engagement team advising on equity, energy security, cybersecurity, and resilience. Prior to returning DOE, Alyse worked with the National Governor’s Association advising Governors’ offices on electricity policy, energy cybersecurity, as well as energy resilience. Alyse has a doctorate and master’s in electrical engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology with a focus in renewable energy and public policy.



David Turk
Deputy Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy

Prior to his nomination as DOE Deputy Secretary, Turk was the Deputy Executive Director of the International Energy Agency, where he focused on helping countries around the world tackle their clean energy transitions. He also directed reports on the digitalization of energy systems, the future of clean hydrogen, and a project tracking progress on a wide range of clean energy technologies. During the Obama-Biden Administration, Turk coordinated international technology and clean energy efforts at DOE. During this time, he helped spearhead the launch of Mission Innovation—a global effort to enhance clean energy innovation. Turk also served as Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director at the US National Security Council, where he coordinated interagency legislative affairs efforts by the full range of national security agencies and provided legislative advice to National Security Council decision-making. He also previously worked at the State Department, including as Deputy Special Envoy for Climate Change.



Christy Veeder
Senior Advisor
U.S. Department of Energy

Christy Veeder’s longstanding interest in addressing the impacts of climate change has led her to a varied career, ranging from her current role as Senior Advisor at the US Department of Energy, where she develops policy to create equitable, quality jobs in the new energy economy; to bringing economic opportunity to American communities in her former role as Jobs to Move America’s National Director; and working to write effective environmental and energy policy, improve labor relations, and solve industrial manufacturing issues in the US Senate as a Congressional Fellow for the American Meteorological Society. Prior to her direct work in the intersecting areas of climate, energy, and jobs policy, she developed deep familiarity with infrastructure and procurement issues at Thornton Tomasetti, an industry leader in structural engineering design projects. Dr. Veeder earned her PhD in Atmospheric Science and Climatology from Columbia University and her BA in English from Cornell University.



Anna Ziai
Project Director for State Implementation of Federal Climate Legislation
Clean Energy States Alliance

Anna Ziai serves as CESA’s Project Director for State Implementation of Federal Climate Legislation. She supports the 100% Clean Energy Collaborative by helping states implement the Inflation Reduction Act and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, including advising them of the most relevant funding opportunities and on the implications of their implementation. Anna is a licensed attorney admitted to the Oregon State Bar. Before CESA, Anna served the Sierra Club’s federal Environmental Law Program, where she drafted memoranda and formal comments under federal environment legislation and furthered the organization’s environmental justice research. Anna earned her J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School. She completed associate positions with major law firms and the UChicago Abrams Environmental Law Clinic. She represented clients such as the Center for Biological Diversity and frontline community organizations bringing clean energy to disadvantaged communities. In her free time, Anna enjoys open water swimming and practicing the art of resting.



Ethan Zindler
Head of Americas
BloombergNEF

Ethan Zindler is head of Americas at BloombergNEF (BNEF), a provider of insight, data and news on clean energy, advanced transport, commodities, and emerging technologies. In that capacity, Zindler manages the company's analyst and commercial teams in New York, Washington, San Francisco, and Sao Paulo. Ethan also oversees Climatescope, a project to profile clean energy investment conditions in emerging market countries underwritten by the U.K. and U.S. governments. Zindler serves as BNEF's primary spokesperson in North America, has been quoted widely in the media, and testified before two U.S. Senate committees and elsewhere. Previously, Zindler oversaw BNEF's coverage of clean energy policy developments globally and served as BNEF's head of North American research. Zindler's prior experience includes stints at the White House, MTV, and as a freelance journalist covering two World Cup soccer tournaments.

Pre-Summit Webinar Speakers



Bryan Garcia
President and CEO
Connecticut Green Bank

Bryan Garcia is president and CEO of the Connecticut Green Bank – the nation's first state-level green bank. The "green bank model" is demonstrating how smarter use of public resources can attract more private investment in the green economy – reducing energy burden on families and businesses, creating jobs in local communities, increasing the deployment of clean and resilient energy, improving public health, and confronting climate change. Before joining the Green Bank, Garcia was program director for the Yale Center for Business and the Environment. At Yale, Garcia led efforts to develop a leading global program responsible for preparing environmental leaders for business and society. Prior to Yale, he served as Connecticut's Climate Change Coordinator where he supported the Governor's Steering Committee on Climate Change. Bryan serves on the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board. He is on the Board of Directors of the Energy Foundation, Center for Sustainable Energy, Institute for Sustainable Communities, and Sustainable CT.



David Hochschild
Chair
California Energy Commission

David Hochschild was appointed chair of the California Energy Commission by Governor Gavin Newsom in February 2019. His career has spanned public service, environmental advocacy, and the private sector. He first got involved in the solar energy field in 2001 in San Francisco as a special assistant to Mayor Willie Brown where Chair Hochschild launched a citywide \$100 million initiative to put solar panels on public buildings. He cofounded the Vote Solar Initiative, an advocacy organization promoting solar policies at the local, state, and federal levels. He was executive director of a national consortium of leading solar manufacturers and worked for five years at solar company Solaria. From 2007 to 2008, he served as a commissioner at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. For his work to advance clean energy, Chair Hochschild was awarded the Sierra Club's Trailblazer Award, the American Lung Association's Clean Air Hero Award, and the US DOE Million Solar Roof True Champion Award.



Louise Martinez
Energy Conservation and Management Division Director
New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Louise Martinez, Energy Conservation and Management Division Director, has worked for New Mexico State government for over 40 years. Her state government service includes working in the New Mexico State Energy Office since 1990 providing state and federal program management and oversight, developing programs and planning strategies, oversight of public outreach to promote the benefits of the use of clean energy technologies for alternative transportation, energy efficiency, environmental or renewable energy programs. She managed the State Energy Program, Institutional Conservation Program, Clean Cities, and now is leading program efforts related to energy security, climate sustainability and resilience, grid modernization, alternative fuel and electric vehicles, economic and energy diversification, and energy conservation and renewable energy financial incentives.



Zach Pierce
Senior Advisor for Climate Change Policy
Office of North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper

Zach Pierce is a public policy professional with over ten years of experience working on climate change, clean energy, and environmental justice issues across the United States. He currently serves as Governor Roy Cooper's Senior Advisor for Climate Change Policy, responsible for policy development, project management, stakeholder engagement, strategic planning, and other duties to execute the Governor's climate agenda. Zach previously advanced the climate and clean energy agendas for two Colorado governors. He served as the Special Advisor on Climate and Clean Energy for Governor Jared Polis and as a Policy Advisor for Governor John Hickenlooper. He was also previously a Senior Campaign Representative for the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign, focusing on clean energy regulatory and legislative advocacy in Colorado and New Mexico. In his free time, Zach likes to rock climb and play music. He graduated from Colorado College with a BA in History and Political Science.



Pete Wyckoff

Assistant Commissioner for Federal and State Energy Initiatives
Minnesota Department of Commerce

Pete Wyckoff works to coordinate the Minnesota Department of Commerce’s efforts to bring millions in federal funds available through the Infrastructure and Jobs Investment Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to Minnesota, which represent the largest federal funding in history for the nation’s infrastructure and clean energy economy. Wyckoff previously worked in the Office of Minnesota U.S. Senator Tina Smith and served as Senior Policy Advisor for Energy, Climate and the Environment to support the Senator’s work shaping IRA energy provisions. Prior to working for Senator Smith, Pete had a fellowship with the U.S. Department of Energy and worked in the office of former Minnesota U.S. Senator Al Franken. Pete is an emeritus professor at the University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM), where he served on the faculty for 15 years, and was the founding director of the UMM Environmental Studies Program. He is a graduate of Drew University and obtained his Ph.D. in forest ecology from Duke University.