



Key Strategies for Meeting Clean Energy & Climate Goals (More) Affordably (#185)

Friday, March 21, 2025

Biographies of Speakers & Moderator



Katie S. Dykes is the Commissioner of Connecticut's Department of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP). She was first nominated in 2019 by Governor Ned Lamont and was re-confirmed in February 2023 to serve in Governor Lamont's second term. Prior to this appointment, Katie chaired the Connecticut Public Utilities Regulatory Authority. Previously, she was Deputy Commissioner for Energy at Connecticut DEEP. She also serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Katie joined CT DEEP in 2012 after serving in the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the U.S. Department of Energy during the Obama Administration.

Katie is a graduate of Yale College and Yale Law School.



Philip L. Bartlett, II, was appointed to the Maine Public Utilities Commission in 2019 by Governor Janet Mills. Prior to his appointment, he practiced law with Scaccia, Bartlett & Chabot. He also served in the Maine Senate from 2004 to 2012 and was elected by his peers to serve as Senate Majority Leader from 2008 to 2010. Phil chaired the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee as well as the Joint Select Committee on Maine's Energy Future. He also served on the Government Oversight Committee, Natural Resources Committee and Labor Committee.

Phil holds a JD from Harvard Law School and a bachelor's degree in economics and political science from Tufts University.



Melissa Lavinson serves as the Executive Director of the Office of Energy Transformation for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She is charged with the hands-on execution of the clean energy transition, including ensuring the availability and readiness of electrical infrastructure, electric and gas transition coordination, and a just transition for impacted workers and businesses. Melissa is also responsible for convening an Energy Transformation Advisory Board of industry, labor, environmental justice, technology, consumer, and supply chain representatives, to accelerate cooperation, understanding, and action. Prior to joining the Healey-Driscoll Administration, Melissa held senior roles at National

Grid, Exelon, Pepco, Atlantic City Electric and PG&E, among other companies. Earlier in her career, she worked at MRW and Associates and in ICF Consulting's Climate Change Practice.

Melissa holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Hamilton College.



Maggie Downey is the Chief Administrator Officer for the Cape Light Compact, having previously, served as both the Assistant County Administrator and the Compact Administrator. The Cape Light Compact service territory consists of Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard, approximately 207,000 year-round residents. The Cape Light Compact is the first municipal aggregator in Massachusetts. Maggie is responsible for management and direction of the Compact's electric power supply aggregation program as well as its energy efficiency and decarbonization programs. She has previously represented the Cape Light Compact on its sister organization, the Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative. Prior to joining

Barnstable County, she served as the SEPA/Public Affairs Manager for the City of Issaquah, Washington.

Maggie earned a Master's of Public Administration from the University of Washington at Seattle and holds a Graduate Certificate in Management from Harvard University Extension School.



Rachel Gold is a senior principal in the Carbon-Free Electricity practice at RMI, where she has led research and collaboration projects on utility incentive reform, IRA implementation, responses to load growth, energy efficiency and customer engagement, and equity in program design and utility regulation. She has advised clients, including regulatory commissions, consumer and environmental advocates, and large utilities. Previously, Rachel was on the Buildings and Electricity teams at RMI, where she managed innovative facilitation and technical assistance engagements, including the first e-Lab Summit, RMI's support for the Solar Energy Innovation Network, and RMI's initial post-storm efforts in Puerto

Rico. Before joining RMI, Rachel was the utilities program director at ACEEE. Prior to that, Rachel served on the regulatory affairs and market development team at Opower. She has consulted for the National Park Service, UC Berkeley Labor Center, and the California Public Utilities Commission.

Rachel holds a Master's in Public Policy from UC Berkeley and earned a bachelor's in biology and environmental studies from Brandeis.



Kate Daniel, Northeast Regional Director for the Coalition for Community Solar Access, is passionate about community solar, distributed energy, and a clean energy economy, and has been working on renewable energy policy for the past decade. As the Northeast Regional Director for CCSA, she works on improving policy and program design to minimize barriers to equitable access to clean, affordable, local community solar in Maine, Massachusetts, and New York. Her prior roles include Director of Policy for Catalyze, Consultant with Sustainable Energy Advantage, and Senior Policy Analyst with the Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency (DSIRE) out of the North Carolina Clean

Energy Technology Center.

Kate has a B.A. from Tufts University and a Master's in Public Policy from UC Berkeley.



Erika Diamond Senior VP, Head of Customer Solutions serves as the executive champion for EnergyHub’s clients and end-user customers. Erika’s team is responsible for sales, program delivery, customer and client engagement, market development with a focus on ensuring the voice of the customer is central to EnergyHub’s strategy and product. Erika joined EnergyHub in 2015. She has more than 15 years of experience in the energy and software space, having served as the SVP of Corporate Development at Recyclebank and VP of Business Development at ThinkEco. She was the Vice Chair of the Advanced Energy Management Alliance (AEMA) and former Co-Chair of the Women in Demand Management group of the Peak Load Management Alliance (PLMA).

Erika holds a BA in environmental studies from Vassar College, a MEd from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and an MBA from Harvard Business School.



Janet Gail Besser is a nationally recognized energy policy and regulatory strategy expert, with experience as a regulator, clean energy business association leader, utility executive, developer, consultant, and consumer advocate. She has been moderating the New England Electricity Restructuring Roundtable since the beginning of 2023. Prior to 2023, she led the Smart Electric Power Alliance’s Regulatory and Business Innovation work as vice president. Previously, she was executive vice president of the Northeast Clean Energy Council; VP, Regulatory Strategy and Policy at National Grid; Chair and Commissioner of the MA DPU; and an executive and expert at Analysis Group and Lexecon. She also held senior staff roles at the Massachusetts Energy Office and New Hampshire PUC, was policy director for a national IPP association, and worked for a small hydro developer and low-income consumer advocate. Janet is the recipient of the 2019 NECA Vanguard Award and the 2014 Northeast Women in Energy and the Environment Achievement Award. She is the chair of the Power Options Board and serves on the VEIC Board, where she chairs the Impact and Evaluation Committee.

Janet has an MPP from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government and a B.A., *magna cum laude*, from Williams College.



Carol Holahan is a partner in Foley Hoag’s Energy & Cleantech practice. She advises large, competitive regional generators and other participants in the wholesale and retail competitive electricity markets on regional policy initiatives, changing environmental regulations, decommissioning and sale of plants, and matters pending before the FERC. In addition to concentrating on traditional fossil fuel generation, Carol’s practice includes renewable energy resources such as large solar, storage, and biomass. She has significant experience in the NEPOOL stakeholder process, and with legal challenges to new or existing laws and regulations, environmental permitting, facility siting, and assessment or limitations of liability due to the sale or retirement of generating facilities. Prior to joining Foley Hoag, Carol was the Senior Director of Government Affairs at Dynegy, Inc. Before that, she served as Director of Government Affairs for the NEPGA, representing competitive power producers before state policy makers, regulators, and infrastructure siting boards. She also served as the Director of the Office of Legislative Services in New Hampshire.

Carol earned her JD, *magna cum laude*, from Suffolk Law School, and her BS from Georgetown.