

PEONY CLCPA Power Generation [Advisory Panel](#)

[Press Release Announcement](#)

The Climate Action Council, co-chaired by State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos and Acting President and CEO of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) Doreen Harris, announced the appointment of members to the Just Transition Working Group and six Advisory Panels that will advise the Council, a 22-member committee that will prepare a Scoping Plan to achieve the State's bold clean energy and climate agenda as outlined in the nation-leading Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA). Based on the latest climate science, the CLCPA sets targets that are among the most rigorous of any major economy in the world. The Just Transition Working Group and six advisory panels were approved at the Aug. 24, 2020, Climate Action Council meeting. The Advisory Panels, which represent key economic sectors, are tasked with providing recommendations to the Climate Action Council as it designs a strategic plan to transform New York's economy, create new jobs, and stimulate industry and innovation, while building more resilient communities to better protect all New Yorkers. The Just Transition Working Group will help to ensure New York's workforce is prepared for and stands to benefit from the State's transition to renewable energy.

The Climate Action Council will solicit critical input from the Advisory Panels. The panels are comprised of representatives from public, private, academic, environmental, and community groups that cover six different economic sectors: Agriculture and Forestry; Energy Intensive and Trade-Exposed Industries; Housing and Energy Efficiency; Land Use and Local Government; Power Generation; and Transportation. The panels will make recommendations to the Climate Action Council based on input from stakeholders and communities to achieve the ambitious greenhouse gas reduction targets set forth in the law. Co-Chaired by Department of Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon and NYSERDA Acting President and CEO Doreen Harris, the Just Transition Working Group includes representatives from labor organizations and environmental justice communities, impacted industries, and renewable energy developers. The Working Group will help to ensure an equitable transition for New York's workforce toward the State's renewable energy future and will develop a forward-looking jobs report, identify workforce training needs, and assess opportunities to put former power plant sites to productive use.

Power Generation Advisory Panel

Chair

John Rhodes, New York State Department of Public Service
Master's Degree, Public and Private Management

Co-Chair

Corinne DiDomenico, Assistant Director, [Large Scale Renewables](#), New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
Corinne received a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Drexel University and an MBA from CUNY Baruch

Members

William Acker, Executive Director, [New York Battery and Energy Storage Consortium](#)

Vision: Energy storage is a vital technology solution for enabling sustainable energy use and to address climate change. The transition to a sustainable energy future requires bold and innovative action and solutions. NY-BEST will promote energy storage through education and thought leadership; lead the development and deployment of energy storage solutions; and expand markets for energy storage.

Mission: To catalyze and grow the energy storage industry and establish New York State as a global leader in advancing energy storage as a key solution for a clean energy future.

We do this by:

- (1) Accelerating the widespread deployment of a broad range of energy storage solutions in the marketplace;
- (2) Advancing innovation and commercialization of energy storage technologies and applications across stationary, mobile and transportation sectors; and
- (3) Strengthening and leveraging New York's world-class energy storage ecosystem (intellectual and manufacturing capabilities, workforce and markets) to attract new investment, assist companies and grow New York's energy storage sector.

William Acker has a Ph. D. and B. S. in Physics

Cecilio Aponte, III, Senior Analyst, Origination, [sPower](#)

Headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah, sPower is a leading independent power producer (IPP) that owns and operates more than 150 renewable generation systems across the U.S. We operate a wind, solar and storage portfolio of nearly 2.0 GW, with 15 GW of projects under development.

Cecilio Aponte has a B. S. in Material Sciences and Engineering with a minor in Energy

Elizabeth (Betta) Broad, Outreach Director, [New Yorkers for Clean Power](#)

New Yorkers for Clean Power (NYCP) is a statewide collaborative campaign to rapidly shift to a clean energy economy. Through education, advocacy and organizing, the campaign engages the public, local governments and businesses to advance a range of renewable energy, energy efficiency and clean transportation solutions.

Elizabeth (Betta) Broad is the Director of NYCP and has been an organizer for social justice, peace and sustainability for nearly two decades. She organized the major Earth Day festivals in NYC for five years before joining the campaign to ban fracking. While working for Catskill Mountainkeeper she created the RenewableNY program that subsequently received a \$1.8 million award from NYSERDA to expand Solarize campaigns across 15 counties. She is one of the co-founders of the New York Energy Democracy Alliance and serves on the board of directors of Citizens for Local Power. A resident of Kingston, she was appointed to the Kingston Climate

Smart Commission, Kingston Conservation Advisory Council and the Ulster Climate Smart Committee

Michaela Ciovacco is the Program Coordinator at NYCP. Previously, she worked at Columbia Medical Center on Alzheimer's research while actively participating as a youth activist to advance social and economic justice. She joined NYCP in January 2018 to assist with the campaign's social media and website presence as well as developing a network of students among NYCP's members. She took a leading role in organizing the 3rd Annual Climate Solutions Summit at SUNY New Paltz, and helped to build the Student Climate Coalition through her work with the NYCP interns. Michaela graduated with honors from SUNY Geneseo with a degree in Psychology.

NYCP is focused on advancing solar, wind, energy efficiency, electric vehicles, renewable heating and cooling, as well as creating jobs in these industries for all communities in New York. Includes a donate link

Rory Christian, President, [Concentric Consulting](#), LLC

Concentric Consulting Group, LLC. provide consulting and advisory services to government, non-profit and commercial entities exploring opportunities to enhance their impact on energy and sustainability issues. Engaging with energy consumers, policy makers, and compliance officers, we provide comprehensive solutions and guidance. Our services help energy users as they navigate uncertain energy markets, manage procurement, compliance and evolving regulatory environments to prepare for future changes that may impact financial returns.

Rory Christian: With over 15 years of experience between public, private and non-profit organizations, Mr. Christian has helped design, implement and execute various energy efficiency policies throughout his career. He's experienced in commodity markets, and has helped design energy efficiency policies for state and local government.

Tom Sahagian: With more than 35 years of experience in the energy-efficiency industry in commercial, multifamily, institutional and industrial building sectors, Tom has design and/or construction experience with virtually every energy-efficient technology, including steam and hydronic heating systems, HVAC, BMS, cogeneration, lighting, VFDs, insulation, photovoltaics and wind power.

Andy Bilich: Andy has several years of experience as a research analyst and development consultant working on a variety of projects related to climate and energy policy, renewable energy, low income energy efficiency, international development, energy access, urban sustainability, capacity building, and local initiatives for climate adaptation.

Lisa Dix, Senior New York Representative, [Beyond Coal Campaign](#), [Sierra Club](#)

The Beyond Coal campaign is replacing coal with clean energy by mobilizing grassroots activists around the country to advocate for the retirement of coal plants and to prevent new coal plants from being built.

The Sierra Club is America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with more than 3.8 million members and supporters. The Beyond Coal Campaign is part of Sierra Club's efforts to not only protect every person's right to the outdoors, but also to promote affordable clean energy that safeguards the health of our communities, protects wildlife, and preserves our remaining wild places. We're trying to close all the coal plants in the US and help communities and cities transition to clean energy, creating thousands of safe and good-paying jobs in the process. Since 2010, our movement has led to more than half of the coal plants in the United States to retire or commit to retire.

Lisa Dix has a M. S. Environmental Studies

Annel Hernandez, Associate Director, [New York City Environmental Justice Alliance](#)

Founded in 1991, the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA) is a non-profit, 501(c)3 citywide membership network linking grassroots organizations from low-income neighborhoods and communities of color in their struggle for environmental justice. NYC-EJA empowers its member organizations to advocate for improved environmental conditions and against inequitable environmental burdens by the coordination of campaigns designed to inform City and State policies. Through our efforts, member organizations coalesce around specific common issues that threaten the ability for low-income communities of color to thrive. NYC-EJA is led by the community-based organizations that it serves, with its board elected by its member groups, who set policy and guide program development. What distinguishes NYC-EJA is our ability to:

Create, nurture, and organize a collective voice to mobilize citywide support to resolve environmental justice issues.

Highlight key environmental justice issues and policies that arise in multiple communities, or impact citywide conditions, requiring innovative and creative problem solving.

Involve people of color and other stakeholders directly affected by environmental justice issues in leadership roles to resolve them.

Annel Hernandez is the Associate Director of the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance. Annel works on city and statewide climate policy issues, focusing on local advocacy and research that further equitable investments in coastal resiliency, green infrastructure, renewable energy, and resilient energy systems. She also works on various coalition campaigns to push for more aggressive climate legislation – with equity as a central focus. Annel conducts research on the benefits of an integrated climate resiliency approach and develops pathways to implementation in frontline communities. Annel participates in energy regulatory processes, influences stormwater policies, supports solar project development, and worked to guide the priorities of Federally-funded projects in New York City. Annel also worked in the NYC Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity as Social Innovation Fund Advisor managing the program implementation of a multi-city initiative focused on economic opportunity programs, and was also a NYC Urban Fellow. She previously worked with the Urban Climate Change Research Network at the Earth Institute, collaborating with scholars, experts, and advocates on pushing forward new climate change resources for cities. She also worked as a Teaching Assistant at the Earth Institute and a

Research Assistant at the Institute of Latin American Studies. Annel received an MPA in Energy and Environment from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, and her BA in Political Science and Latino Studies from Fordham University.

[Kit Kennedy](#), Director of Energy & Transportation, [Natural Resources Defense Council](#)

NRDC works to safeguard the earth—its people, its plants and animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends. We believe the world's children should inherit a planet that will sustain them as it has sustained us. NRDC works to ensure the rights of all people to the air, the water and the wild, and to prevent special interests from undermining public interests. NRDC accelerated the shift from fossil fuels to clean energy when we pressed the U.S. government to adopt the first-ever national limits on carbon pollution from power plants. We promote policies that make our cars, buildings, appliances, and everyday gadgets more efficient. We help communities fight dangerous fossil-fuel extraction operations in their backyards. And we collaborate with other countries to promote a global vision for—and an accelerated transition to—a clean energy future.

NRDC combines the power of more than three million members and online activists with the expertise of some 700 scientists, lawyers, and policy advocates across the globe to ensure the rights of all people to the air, the water, and the wild. According to their [IRS Form 990](#), NRDC had total revenues of \$181.8 million, expenses of \$173 million and net assets of \$367.5 million.

Kit Kennedy leads NRDC's state and regional climate and clean energy advocacy across the United States with more than thirty years of experience as an environmental and clean energy attorney and advocate. She directed the Environmental Protection Bureau at the New York Attorney General's Office from 2007 to 2010 and has taught environmental and clean energy classes at Yale Law School, Fordham Law School, and Vermont Law School. She serves on the board of the New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, the Alliance for Clean Energy New York, and the executive board of the New York State Bar Association's Environmental Law Section. She is also a member of the American College of Environmental Lawyers. Kennedy is a graduate of Harvard Law School and Harvard College. She is based in NRDC's New York office.

Shyam Mehta, Executive Director, [New York Solar Energy Industries Association](#)

Mission: Founded in 1994, New York Solar Energy Industries Association (NYSEIA) is the only statewide membership and trade association dedicated solely to advancing solar energy use in New York State. NYSEIA proudly represents hundreds of businesses across New York that employ thousands of workers throughout the solar value chain. Led by its active board of directors, NYSEIA strives to achieve significant, long-term, and sustainable growth of solar energy for New York State.

Shyam Mehta comes to NYSEIA after almost a decade as a market research manager and analyst at Greentech Media (GTM), an integrated research, media, and events firm covering the global renewable energy industry that was acquired by Wood MacKenzie in 2016.

As an industry expert covering global solar markets, he led and managed GTM's efforts in tracking, forecasting and analyzing solar PV and battery storage industry trends and metrics, regulatory developments, policy incentives and technologies across a range of products and services to a client base including GE, Con Edison, NYSERDA and NREL.

Prior to GTM, Shyam worked as a Financial Analyst at Goldman Sachs Global Investment Research and a Research Analyst at The Brattle Group, where he conducted a variety of econometric analyses to solve complex problems within the electricity industry.

Shyam has resided in New York since 2007 and has a bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley.

Emilie Nelson, Executive Vice President, [New York Independent System Operator](#)

NYISO Mission: Every minute of every day, we coordinate and direct the flow of electricity over the state's high-voltage transmission system.

Emilie Nelson leads the System Planning, Information Technology and Market Structures organizations of the NYISO with a focus on proactively addressing the evolving challenges of the industry. Ms. Nelson joined the NYISO in 2004 and most recently served as Vice President, Market Operations with a focus on the capacity market, energy market, and demand response areas. She has 20 years of experience in the power industry and worked for several years in power generation. She earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Tufts University and an M.B.A. from Pace University.

John Reese, Senior Vice President, [Eastern Generation LLC](#)

Eastern Generation, LLC ("Eastern Gen") owns and operates seventy-two generating units at seven facilities totaling approximately 5,000 megawatts through its Astoria Generating, New Covert, Lincoln, Crete and Rolling Hills subsidiaries. Eastern Gen sells capacity, energy and ancillary services into the NYISO and PJM merchant markets. Eastern Gen's Astoria Generating assets account for over 18% of New York City's power generation capacity. Eastern Gen is a portfolio company of ArLight Capital Partners, LLC.

John Reese is Senior Vice President with EasternGen and since February 2007 with USPowerGen its predecessor company. Mr. Reese has oversight of Eastern Generation's Government and Regulatory Affairs, Environment, Project Development and External Affairs. Prior to this Mr. Reese was as Executive Deputy from 2006 until 2007 and as Senior Policy Advisor from 2003 until 2006 at the New York State Public Service Commission. Mr. Reese also served as Vice President of Regulatory and External Affairs for Reliant/Orion Power Holdings from 2000 until 2003. Mr. Reese was a Senior Technical Advisor for the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy from 1994 until 1998. Mr. Reese has extensive experience in the formation and operation of the northeastern competitive markets. Mr. Reese has a BA from Pennsylvania State University and an MBA from Russell Sage College.

Stephan Roundtree, Jr., Northeast Director, [Vote Solar](#)

Since 2002, Vote Solar has been working to make solar affordable and accessible to more Americans. We work at the state level all across the country to support the policies and programs needed to repower our grid with clean energy. Vote Solar is working to foster economic opportunity, promote energy security and fight climate change by making solar a mainstream energy resource. In order to achieve that vision, we focus on five key program areas: Net Metering & Rates, Low-income Solar Access, Community (Shared) Solar, Incentives & Market Drivers, and Building a Modern Grid

Prior to joining the Vote Solar team, Stephan worked as an advocate and community lawyer with WE ACT for Environmental Justice in Harlem, NYC. There, he fought for more inclusive solar and energy efficiency policies in Albany and at City Hall. Stephan also helped design a first-in-the-nation solarize campaign for a dense urban community in Northern Manhattan, and negotiated construction and local hiring contracts for the project based on community values and input.

Originally from Dunstable, Massachusetts, Stephan holds a B.A. in History from Boston College, a J.D. from Northeastern School of Law, and a Master's in Environmental Policy from Vermont Law School. In his spare time Stephan co-directs the New York City Environmental Law Leadership Institute, a small but zesty nonprofit committed to educating and fostering community with the next generation of NYC's environmental lawyers. Stephan's passion for energy justice is equaled only by his love of birdwatching and Boston sports.

Jennifer Schneider, International Representative and Legislative and Political Coordinator for New York, [International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers](#)

Jennifer Schneider has a BA in Business Administration from Columbia College. She is the International Representative of the IBEW after working as an office manager and referral assistant.

Darren Suarez, Manager of Public and Government Affairs, [Boralex Inc](#)

Boralex is a major player in renewable energy specializing in four sectors of activity: Wind, Solar, Hydroelectricity, and Thermal. We have been based in Kingsey Falls, Quebec, Canada, for 30 years and have since expanded our horizons and established our business in the United States and France. Our intention is to constantly push our boundaries to achieve growth wherever possible. Our methods are to continue to increase our installed capacity with production processes powered by renewable natural resources and seize business opportunities presented by the global energy transition.

Darren Suarez is the Manager, Public and Government Affairs, for Boralex with responsibility for government affairs in the United States. Before joining Boralex, Darren was Senior Director of Government Affairs at the Business Council of New York State where, for eight years, he

advocated for members on energy and environmental issues, among other concerns. Earlier in his career, he worked for the New York State Senate in his field of interest, namely environmental and economic public policies.

Laurie Wheelock, Litigation and Policy Counsel, [Public Utility Law Project](#)

Our mission is to educate the public about its legal rights as utility consumers; engage in research and advocacy; and provide legal representation for low-income utility consumers in electric, natural gas, telephone, and other utility related matters. We also publish a utility law manual as a guide for advocates on utility and energy law issues, and conduct training on preventing utility terminations and the rights of utility consumers.

Laurie Wheelock, Esq. is the Litigation and Policy Counsel for the Public Utility Law Project. She began her career working for the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) where she fought for the rights of consumers across the state. Ms. Wheelock went on to work for three different members of the New York State Assembly in both Albany and New York City focusing on a wide variety of issue areas including legislation to promote affordable housing, public access to insurance, nonprofit reform, and environmental protection. She currently serves as a member of the City of Albany's Sustainable Advisory Committee. Ms. Wheelock received her Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Binghamton University and received her Jurist Doctorate and Masters in Environmental Law and Policy from Vermont Law School.