

Clean & Affordable Energy Conference

June 2 9am - 12pm (PST) / 10am - 1pm (MT)

Covering the most pressing issues in the Northwest's energy landscape. Panelists will discuss how to address regulatory barriers to decarbonizing utilities, salmon recovery, and changes to the federal hydro system, how to advance equity in the energy space through funding, and how stakeholders can engage in the NW Power Council's regional planning processes to support clean, affordable, and reliable service for all Northwest communities.





June 2, 2021

OPENING REMARKS

Jacqueline Patterson Environmental and Climate Justice Program Director, NAACP



Jacqueline Patterson is the Senior Director of the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program. Since 2007 Patterson has served as coordinator & co-founder of Women of Color United. She has worked as a researcher, program manager, coordinator, advocate, and activist working on women's rights, violence against women, HIV&AIDS, racial justice, economic justice, emergency response, and environmental and climate justice. Patterson served as a Senior Women's Rights Policy Analyst for ActionAid, Assistant Vice-President of HIV/AIDS Programs for IMA World Health, Outreach Project Associate for the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Research Coordinator for Johns Hopkins University, and as a U.S. Peace Corps Volunteer in Jamaica, West Indies.

Patterson has published various publications and articles on equity, resilience, health, civil rights issues, gender impact issues, climate change, and leadership. She holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Maryland and a master's degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University. She currently serves on the Advisory Boards for Center for Earth Ethics and the Hive Fund for Gender and Climate Justice, the Boards of Directors for the Institute of the Black World, Greenpeace, the Bill Anderson Fund, Peoples Solar Energy Fund, the American Society of Adaptation Professionals, and the National Black Workers Center Project.





Session 1: Expanding Support for Community Participation in Utility and Regulatory Processes

This panel will discuss: How can utilities and regulators improve and expand opportunities for community participation and expertise, particularly in environmental justice? What role can funding play, both in advocacy at decision-making bodies, and in community-based expertise for specific utility projects? How can processes for public input be designed to support meaningful collaboration with a diverse set of stakeholders?

MODERATOR

Ezell Watson DEI Program Director, Oregon Public Utility Commission



Ezell Watson III studied Psychology at Virginia Commonwealth University and The University of Alabama-Birmingham and proceeded to work in the fast-paced technology sector, ensuring 'superior customer service' by leading technicians at Capital One Bank, Verizon Wireless, AT&T Wireless and Apple. He moved to Portland in May 2012, where he continued to 'promote smiles and happiness in the atmosphere.' While matriculating Portland African American Leadership Forum's (PAALF) transformational leadership development program, he founded Northwest Skaters Uniting Schools—mentoring students at historically underserved schools using the art form and his passion for skating. Watson's passion for an 'inclusive universe' led him to work in the DEI space from 2013 to current. He has held positions with Portland Public Schools Office of Racial Equity and now supports Oregon's Public Utilities Commission as the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion.



Session 1: Expanding Support for Community Participation in Utility and Regulatory Processes

SPEAKERS



Jake Wise DEI Community Outreach Manager, Portland General Electric

Jake H. Wise has nearly fifteen years of public and private sector experience in the energy utility industry. Wise began his career at the California Public Utilities Commission where he managed utility rate design applications, led proceedings in pursuit of renegotiation of outstanding State of California energy crisis power contracts and authored the Alternative-Fueled Vehicle Rulemaking (R.) 09-08-009 white paper: "Facilitating Plug-in Electric Vehicle Integration: Revenue Allocation & Rate Design." Since then, he has served as both an energy efficiency and smart grid consultant. Currently he manages community outreach within the Office of Diversity Equity and Inclusion at Portland General Electric. Wise has an M.B.A., Master of Sustainable Business Management from Presidio Graduate School, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, from the University of Colorado, Boulder.



Mariel Thuraisingham Clean Energy Policy Lead, Front and Centered

Mariel Thuraisingham is an environmental law and policy specialist leading Front and Centered's commitment to advancing the clean energy interests of frontline communities in Washington that are historically disproportionately harmed by climate change. After completing her law degree she worked on justice sector strengthening and rule of law in Central America, Central and Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, and West Africa, where she observed the important interplay of communities, institutions and infrastructure in supporting resilient and equitable socioeconomic systems. Through coalition-building, outreach and advocacy, Thuraisingham works at the intersection between progressive policies and their translation into an effective and enforceable legal and regulatory framework for environmental justice, climate change mitigation, and sustainable living. She enjoys gardening.



Session 1: Expanding Support for Community Participation in Utility and Regulatory Processes



Ann Rendahl Commissioner, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission

SPEAKERS

Ann Rendahl was first appointed to serve as a commissioner of the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission by Gov. Inslee in December 2014 for a six-year term ending Jan. 1, 2021. Rendahl has been reappointed to a second six-year term and is awaiting Senate confirmation. Rendahl currently serves in various roles as Chair of the Electricity Committee, member of the Critical Infrastructure Committee for the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), and on the Board of Directors of NARUC. She is also active in several national and regional organizations focused on energy policy. Ann previously served as the Director of Policy and Legislation for the UTC. Prior to leading the UTC's Policy and Legislative Affairs Section, she served as the Director of the Administrative Law Division, as an administrative law judge for the UTC, and as an assistant attorney general representing the Utilities and Transportation Division.

Rendahl is a graduate of Wellesley College and received a master's degree in Public Policy from the Graduate School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley. She received her law degree from Hastings College of the Law, University of California, San Francisco.



Jacqueline Patterson Environmental and Climate Justice Program Director, NAACP Jacqueline Patterson has worked as a researcher, program manager, coordinator, advocate, and activist working on women's rights, violence against women, HIV&AIDS, racial justice, economic justice, emergency response, and environmental and climate justice. Patterson has published various publications and articles on equity, resilience, health, civil rights issues, gender impact issues, climate change, and leadership. She holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Maryland and a master's degree in public health from Johns Hopkins University.





Session 2: Salmon Recovery and Federal and State Action

There is growing interest among both federal and state policymakers in comprehensive long-term salmon recovery solutions in the Columbia River Basin. This panel will examine how federal proposals and the four Governors' Columbia Basin Collaborative can provide funding and a clear path for meaningful action across the region.

MODERATOR

Giulia Good Stefani Attorney, Natural Resources Defense Council



Giulia C.S. Good Stefani works to protect marine mammals, wild places, and communities from environmental injustices. Stefani has worked on a variety of cases and campaigns at NRDC, including the effort to secure greater protection for whales from the U.S. Navy's use of underwater military sonar, litigation to stop Royal Dutch Shell's exploration for oil in the Arctic, and the fight to save the vaquita porpoise, which is the planet's most endangered marine mammal. Currently, Stefani is focused on preventing the extinction of the Southern Resident orcas by working with partners and allies to restore their primary food source, Chinook salmon, in the Columbia River Basin. Prior to joining NRDC, Stefani taught and supervised a law clinic at Yale Law School as a Robert M. Cover Fellow, worked for a small Los Angeles law firm, and clerked for the Honorable Richard A. Paez of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the Honorable Judge Dean D. Pregerson of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. She holds a bachelor's degree in biology from Dartmouth College and a J.D. from Yale Law School. Stefani is based in Hood River, OR.



Session 2: Salmon Recovery and Federal and State Action

SPEAKERS



Sam Mace Director, Save Our Wild Salmon



Maura Brueger Director of Government and Legislative Affairs, Seattle City Light Sam Mace learned to love rivers and salmon growing up in the Oregon Coast Range. Mace first became involved in conservation work graduating from Reed College. She has been involved in efforts to protect Snake River wild salmon and steelhead for over 15 years. She's worked at the Idaho Wildlife Federation and has been working at Save Our Wild Salmon since 2004. Mace lives in Spokane with her dog and her sweetheart and spends her free time fishing, hiking, and gardening.

Maura Brueger is a seasoned professional with nearly thirty years of experience in government relations and external and community affairs in the United States and internationally. In her current position as the Director of Government and Legislative Affairs at Seattle City Light since 2010, Brueger serves as a member of the Executive team and directs federal, state and regional government relations as well as city council relations for the 10th largest public electric utility in the United States. Other government experience includes directing the Deputy Secretary's Office at the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development from 2009-2010, and twelve years as senior staff to King County Executive Ron Sims engaged in government and community relations and workforce development for the nation's 13th most populous county. Prior to her government career, Brueger worked in international political development, public affairs, and political campaigns in the United States and abroad. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan with a degree in Political Science.



Session 2: Salmon Recovery and Federal and State Action

SPEAKERS



Guy Norman Washington Council Member, NW Power and Conservation Council

Guy Norman was appointed to the Council by Washington Governor Jay Inslee in September, 2016. His term expired January 2020, and he was reappointed through January 2023. He has worked with the fish and wildlife resources of the Columbia River basin since 1977. He retired in 2016 after 33 years with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) where he had been the Southwest Washington Regional Director since 2004. Norman also spent three years with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) as the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Director during 1999-2002 and was a private consultant for two years working on Columbia basin fish recovery projects before returning to WDFW in 2004. For over 20 years he represented either WDFW or ODFW on the U.S. v. Oregon Policy Committee and the Columbia River (fishery) Compact. He has also been a state representative in domestic and international fisheries forums, including the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, the Pacific Salmon Treaty, and the North Pacific Anadromous Fishery Council. Norman has also been a state participant in several NOAA ESA forums, including the FCRPS BiOp Regional Implementation Oversight Group. He has a B.S. in Environmental Science Technology from the Oregon Institute of Technology.





Thank you for joining our 2021 Clean and Affordable Energy Conference!

We look forward to seeing you on Day 2: June 10, 2021 9am – 12pm Pacific / 10am – 1pm Mountain

Sponsors

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Jim Lazar NW Energy Coalition Lifetime Member

