

Clean & Affordable Energy Conference

June 10

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.



NW Energy Coalition



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OPENING REMARKS

Mary Kipp
President & CEO,
Puget Sound Energy

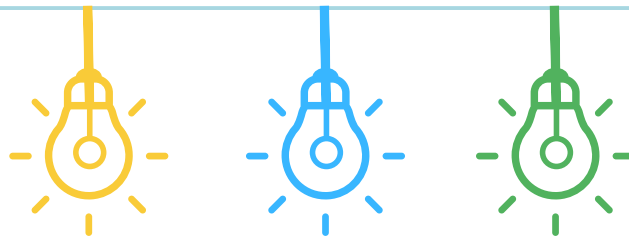


Mary E. Kipp was named president of PSE in August 2019 and CEO in January 2020. Under her direction, PSE is leading the way to a clean energy future in partnership with its customers and the communities it serves. Kipp joined PSE from El Paso Electric (EPE), where she served as chief executive officer since 2015 and president since 2014. Under her leadership, EPE—also a 100-year-plus company with a deeply-rooted community history—evolved to serve a diverse customer base spread across a mountain west region and growing border communities. With EPE since 2007, Kipp held a variety of leadership roles throughout the company, including General Counsel, regulatory and rates, risk management, human resources, external affairs, customer care, environmental and safety.

Prior to EPE, Kipp was a prosecuting attorney for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for four years, investigating and prosecuting violations of federal energy laws. Kipp also worked as a lawyer at El Paso Natural Gas Company and at Greenberg Traurig, LLP. Kipp is a member of the Board of Directors of the Alliance to Save Energy and Energy Insurance Mutual and is co-chair of the Edison Electric Institute's Institute for Electric Innovation. She is immediate past chair of the Smart Electric Power Alliance and past deputy chair of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas; past chair of the Borderplex Alliance; and past executive committee member of the Texas Business Leadership Council. Kipp received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Williams College, a Juris Doctor degree from The University of Texas School of Law, and is an alumnus of Exeter College, Oxford University. Mary lives in Seattle and has two children.



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Session 1: Regulatory Barriers to Decarbonization and the Future for Gas Utilities

As gas utilities lean into the decarbonization discussion and advance strategies to transition to non-fossil fuels and energy services, the region must address the regulatory barriers and opportunities facing these utilities. A thoughtful and measured strategy must underline the climate urgency and consider the impacts on workers, communities, low-income customers, safety, and the energy system. This discussion will also explore what role regulators can play in ensuring that the transition away from fossil fuels is equitable for customers, as well as the role for clean alternatives, such as renewable hydrogen and renewable natural gas.

MODERATOR

Nancy Hirsh
Executive Director,
NW Energy Coalition



Nancy Hirsh is Executive Director for the NW Energy Coalition. Hirsh directs the Coalition's efforts to enhance investments in energy efficiency, renewable resources, and energy services for people of lower-income through work with utilities, commissioners, regulators, and policy-makers. She serves on the board of Renewable Northwest. From 1996 through 2014 she served as the Coalition's policy director.

Before joining the Coalition, she spent twelve years in Washington, DC working on national energy policy issues for the Environmental Action Foundation and the National Wildlife Federation. Hirsh lives in Seattle with her husband, children, and dog. When not advocating clean energy solutions, she is an avid backpacker and hiker.



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Session 1: Regulatory Barriers to Decarbonization and the Future for Gas Utilities

SPEAKERS



Michael Colvin
Director of Regulatory and Legislative Affairs ,
Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)

Michael Colvin leads EDF's California energy policy advocacy focusing on strategies for transitioning California's energy markets from gas-powered electricity to clean energy. Colvin spent 10 years at the California Public Utilities Commission working on energy and safety matters. He holds a Masters of Public Policy, from Goldman School of Public Policy, at UC Berkeley, and a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Economics and Policy, from UC Berkeley with honors.



Mary Moerlins
Director of
Environmental Policy & Corporate Responsibility,
NW Natural

Mary Moerlins is the Director of Environmental Policy and Corporate Responsibility at NW Natural. At Oregon's largest natural gas utility, she raises the bar for responsible and effective community support and decarbonization through environmental policy programs and sustainable operations.

Prior to joining NW Natural, Moerlins worked in environmental nonprofits in Atlanta, Georgia, focused on greenspace conservation, sustainability, and environmental education. Moerlins received a Masters of Public Administration from Georgia State University and Bachelors in Biological Sciences from Agnes Scott College.

Session 1: Regulatory Barrier to Decarbonization and the Future for Gas Utilities

SPEAKERS



David Danner
Commissioner,
Utilities and
Transportation
Commission

Gov. Jay Inslee appointed David Danner chair of the Utilities and Transportation Commission in February 2013 and re-appointed him to a second term in December 2018. Commissioner Danner had been the agency's executive director since 2005 and secretary since 2008. Before that, he served as executive policy advisor to Washington Gov. Gary Locke on energy, telecommunications, finance, and elections issues. In 2004, Gov. Locke named Commissioner Danner to the state Pollution Control Hearings Board and Shoreline Hearings Board, where he served before moving to the commission. Commissioner Danner has also been a telecommunications attorney in private practice, counsel to the Washington Senate Energy and Utilities Committee, and senior policy advisor at the Washington State Department of Information Services. Commissioner Danner serves on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC), and the National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI). He is Chair of the International Consortium of Energy Regulators, and a member of several energy advisory boards. Commissioner Danner has a B.A. from Columbia University, an M.A. in communications from the University of Washington, and a law degree from George Washington University.



Alejandra Mejia
Cunningham
Building Decarbonization
Advocate, Climate &
Clean Energy Program,
Natural Resources
Defense Council (NRDC)

Alejandra Mejia Cunningham focuses on the decarbonization of buildings across the United States, working closely with stakeholders and policy makers to design and promote innovative policies to transition buildings from fossil fuel use to electricity powered by clean, renewable energy. She has years of experience in advancing building decarbonization and energy efficiency in California and elsewhere. She has worked on electricity policy in the Midwest, Northeast, and at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Mejia Cunningham holds an undergraduate degree from the University of Chicago and a master of public policy from the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley. She is based in NRDC's San Francisco office.



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Session 2: Regional Power Planning and the 2021 Power Plan

The NW Power & Conservation Council will release its draft 2021 Regional Power Plan this summer. This Plan will set a benchmark for resource development in the electric sector for the next five years. In this panel discussion, we'll discuss questions such as: How does the Council's modeling and analysis lead to the development of a suite of new resources for the region? What do energy experts in the region think about the proposed plan? And, what are the opportunities for stakeholders and advocates to weigh in to ensure the final plan sets the region on a path toward a clean, affordable, and equitable energy system?

MODERATOR

Jeff Fox
**Vice President of Land &
Community Affairs,**
Gallatin Power



Jeff Fox manages landowner relationships, community outreach, and regulatory & policy involvement at Gallatin Power, a renewable energy project development company. Fox spent the previous decade helping renewable energy developers overcome obstacles to successful projects, advancing a greater understanding of the northwest's transmission system, and championing cost-effective additions of renewable resources to meet local and regional needs as the Senior Manager of Transmission, Markets & Montana Policy at Renewable Northwest. He is accustomed to regulatory proceedings and has served on numerous energy-related working groups. Fox serves as the Montana Caucus chair for the NW Energy Coalition and as a member of the finance committee.



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Session 2: Regional Power Planning and the 2021 Power Plan

SPEAKERS



Pat Oshie
Washington Council
Member,
Northwest Power and
Conservation Council

Patrick Oshie was appointed to the Council by Washington Gov. Jay Inslee in April 2019. His term expires in January 2022.

Councilmember Oshie received his law degree from the University of Washington in 1980. His legal experience includes matters of federal Indian law, environmental law, energy law, and utility regulation. He began working in utility regulation in 1984, serving as counsel to the Committee for Consumer

Services in Utah. In 1987, he and his family returned to Washington, where he represented Seattle City Light in its Skagit River Hydroelectric Project relicensing proceeding and the construction of the Lucky Peak Power Project on the Boise River. Councilmember Oshie later worked with the Yakama Nation to plan and develop the Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project and on other fisheries and environmental restoration undertakings, including cleanup work at the Hanford site. In 2001, he was appointed by Gov. Gary Locke to serve on the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission. After serving two terms, Councilmember Oshie joined the Western Electricity Coordinating Council and later served as Vice-President and General Counsel of Peak Reliability, the interconnection's Reliability Coordinator. He joined energy law firm Davison Van Cleve in 2016 as Of Counsel, representing industrial and large volume electricity customers before the Washington and Oregon utility commissions.



Priya Sreedharan
Program Director,
GridLab

Priya Sreedharan is the program director at GridLab, a non-profit technical assistance organization that is working to accelerate electricity sector decarbonization in the U.S. She is leading initiatives on grid modeling, resource adequacy, and distributed energy resources that aim to shift near-term implementation along with long-term sector transformation. Previously she worked at the U.S. Agency for International Development/India, where she helped launch the renewables integration initiative, and earlier in her career with Ethree, EPA, Integral Group, and LBNL. Priya has a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley.



NW Energy Coalition

Session 2: Regional Power Planning and the 2021 Power Plan

SPEAKERS



Lauren McCloy
Policy Director,
NW Energy Coalition

Lauren McCloy joined the NW Energy Coalition as Policy Director in 2021. Previously, McCloy worked as Senior Policy Advisor to Gov. Jay Inslee, Washington State, where she led and managed a broad range of issues in support of the Governor's energy agenda. Prior to serving in that role, McCloy was the Legislative Director for the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC), where she was the commission's liaison to the state Legislature and the Governor's office and was responsible for developing and coordinating the UTC's legislative activities. McCloy was previously a policy advisor at the UTC, where she advised commissioners on energy policy and legislative issues starting in 2014. Before joining the UTC's policy staff, McCloy worked as a Compliance Investigator in the UTC's Consumer Protection Division. She has experience working for the Washington state Senate Ways and Means Committee and several non-profit organizations focused on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and consumer advocacy. McCloy has a B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and an M.S. in International Development from Tulane University Law School.



Mohit Chhabra
Senior Scientist,
Natural Resources
Defense Council (NRDC)

Mohit Chhabra focuses on affecting policy to accelerate the transition to a sustainable and clean energy future. He provides analysis and strategic guidance to policymakers and other stakeholders at the state, regional, and national levels. Chhabra is currently working on developing cost-efficient pathways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from California's rapidly transforming electric grid. Chhabra has an extensive background in energy conservation analysis. He is a voting member of the Regional Technical Forum of the Pacific Northwest and is also a part of the Conservation Resources Advisory Committee of the Pacific Northwest. He holds a master's in civil environmental and architectural engineering from the University of Colorado, Boulder, and a bachelor's in mechanical engineering from the University of Pune in India. He is based in NRDC's San Francisco office.





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

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Jim Lazar

NW Energy Coalition Lifetime Member



NW **Energy** Coalition