



**NW Energy Coalition**  
*for a clean and affordable energy future*

# **DELIVERING COMMUNITY CLEAN ENERGY**

**Fall Conference  
(virtual)**

**November 14 & 17  
12:30-3:15pm PT**

**November 14**  
Influx of Funding for Clean  
Energy Transformation





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**November 14**

## Influx of Funding for Clean Energy Transformation

**12:30 - 12:45pm PT**

Welcome &  
Election Results

**12:45 - 1:45pm PT**

Federal Funding:  
Inflation Reduction Act  
& Infrastructure Investment  
and Jobs Act

**Moderator**

**Jaimes Valdez**  
Development & Policy  
Manager  
City of Portland



Jaimes Valdez works for the City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability, implementing the Portland Clean Energy Fund's programs focused on addressing climate action that advances racial and social justice. Before this position, Jaimes worked for Spark Northwest, where he advocated for regulatory, market and legislative policy changes towards a vision of communities powered by affordable, locally-controlled clean energy. He has more than 15 years of experience in energy issues and community-building, including in project development, energy planning, utility marketing and public advocacy towards an equitable, clean energy economy. He holds a bachelor's degree in physics and environmental studies from Whitman College. He also serves on the NWECC Board of Directors.



## Panelist

**Sam Ricketts**  
Co-Founder & Co-Director  
Evergreen Action



Sam Ricketts is a climate policy advocate and public affairs professional. He is currently a Co-founder and Senior Advisor at Evergreen Action, and a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress. Previously, he worked for Governor Jay Inslee for over a decade, including leading policy and strategy for the governor's influential climate-focused 2020 presidential campaign. In prior roles Ricketts was the first executive director of the Congressional Sustainable Energy & Environment Coalition (SEEC), and worked in the Washington State Governor's Office, Democratic Governors Association, Working Families Party, and in several federal and state campaigns. Ricketts is a graduate of Syracuse University and is from Seattle, Washington. He currently resides in Washington, DC with his wife and children.

## Panelist

**Olivia Wein**  
Staff Attorney  
National Consumer Law  
Center



Olivia has been an attorney at the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC) for over 20 years, focusing on policies and programs that protect low-income consumers' access to essential utility services. Olivia works on the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Weatherization, Lifeline, the Affordable Connectivity Program and Low Income Household Water Affordability Program. She intervenes in federal and state utility commission proceedings in matters affecting low-income utility consumer programs and protections. She is co-author of the fifth edition of NCLC's manual, Access to Utility Service and co-author of The Rights of Utility Consumers. Olivia serves on the board of the Universal Service Administrative Company and the advisory board for the National Energy and Utility Affordability Coalition.



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## Panelist

**Sonrisa Lucero**  
Special Advisor for  
Stakeholder Engagement  
US Dep. of Energy



Sonrisa Lucero is a Special Advisor for Stakeholder Engagement in the Office of Economic Impact and Diversity. Sonrisa Lucero was most recently the Equitable Buildings Decarbonization Manager at RMI where she led the efforts to integrate equity into carbon free buildings policy and advocacy. Previously she worked to advance equitable sustainability and climate policy at the City and County of Denver in the Office of Climate Action, Sustainability and Resiliency. A lifelong activist for social justice, Sonrisa is skilled at building coalitions and guiding diverse stakeholders to equitably advance sustainability and combat climate change. Sonrisa was born and raised in Denver, CO and graduated from Stanford University with an Individually Designed Major, Environmental Systems Engineering.



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**November 14**

## Influx of Funding for Clean Energy Transformation

**2:00 - 3:15pm PT**

Round Table: State Funding

**Moderator**

**Lauren McCloy**  
Policy Director  
NW Energy Coalition



Lauren McCloy joined the NW Energy Coalition as Policy Director in 2021. Previously, Lauren worked as Senior Policy Advisor to Governor Jay Inslee, where she led and managed a broad range of issues in support of the Governor's energy agenda. Prior to serving in that role, Lauren 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. Lauren 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, Lauren 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.



## Panelist

**Charity Fain**  
Executive Director  
Community Energy Project



Charity Fain has over 25 years of experience building stronger communities in the US and around the world. As the Executive Director of the Community Energy Project (CEP), Charity is responsible for the overall direction, leadership and management of the organization to fulfill our mission that everyone deserves a safe, healthy and efficient home, regardless of income. In this effort, she designs programs that provide free home services focused on safety, health, and energy efficiency for low-income Oregonians. Charity also leads CEP's advocacy efforts at the city and state level to push for climate and energy justice. Prior to CEP, Charity's professional experience focused on increasing civil engagement and political participation around the world.

## Panelist

**Kelly Hall**  
Washington State Director  
Climate Solutions



As the Washington Director, Kelly is responsible for leading Climate Solutions' policy and regulatory agenda, bringing together key stakeholders and allies to support equitable policies, and building an integrated communications, advocacy, and government affairs strategy to achieve a clean energy economy in Washington. Kelly brings years of experience in the utility sector from her previous role as Climate Solutions' Senior Policy Manager and her work at Renewable Northwest, where she designed and advocated for policies and regulatory frameworks to expand renewable energy penetration in the Pacific Northwest.



## Panelist

**Matt Garrett**  
Policy Advisor  
Office of Oregon Governor,  
Kate Brown



Matthew Garrett currently serves as Governor Kate Brown's Energy and Transportation Policy Advisor. Prior to this appointment, Garrett served as director of the Oregon Department of Transportation from 2005 to 2019. Under his leadership he helped secure the largest funding package ever for transportation in Oregon and implemented the nation's first operational per-mile road use charge. Garrett retired from state service in 2019. In October 2020, Governor Brown brought Garrett back into state service to serve as the Director of Wildfire Recovery. In April 2022, he served as the Director of Oregon 22, where he led the State's efforts to ensure a well-coordinated, safe, and successful World Athletics Championships in Eugene, Oregon. Garrett is a graduate of The George Washington University.

## Panelist

**Kyla Maki**  
Energy Resources Professional  
Montana Department of  
Environmental Quality



Kyla Maki is an Energy Resource Professional in the Montana Energy Office at the Department of Environmental Quality. In this role, she works on renewable energy, alternative transportation, and energy efficiency planning. She has been with DEQ for seven years. Prior to working for DEQ, Kyla worked for a nonprofit clean energy policy advocacy organization in Montana. Kyla lives in Helena Montana where she enjoys exploring hundreds of miles of hiking trails that are just minutes away. Kyla received bachelor's degrees in Wildlife Biology and Political Science from the University of Montana.



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## Panelist

**Brian Bonlender**  
Founding Partner  
Lodestar Strategic



Brian's experience includes six years as director of the Washington State Department of Commerce, overseeing transformation of the state energy office, creation and execution of the state Clean Energy Fund, and making energy efficiency and clean energy considerations an aspect of all \$1 billion of Commerce programs. He also served as Jay Inslee's chief of staff and legislative director in Congress. In that role, Brian conceived and founded the House Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition, formed to advocate for clean energy investments in Obama's stimulus bill. Brian graduated from Washington State University with majors in Biology and Environmental Science.



## Acronyms

BPA - Bonneville Power Administration  
CEP - Community Energy Project  
CRITFC - Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission  
CS - Climate Solutions  
DEQ - Department of Environmental Quality  
DOE - US Department of Energy  
DR - demand response  
EE - energy efficiency  
EV - electric vehicle  
FERC - Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
IRA - Inflation Reduction Act  
IIJA - Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (also known as BIL - Bipartisan Infrastructure Law)  
LSRD - lower Snake River dams  
NCLC - National Consumer Law Center  
NEVI - National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure  
NVEC - NW Energy Coalition  
PUC - Public Utility Commission  
UTC - Utilities and Transportation Commission  
RNW - Renewable Northwest  
RPS - renewable portfolio standard  
TNC - The Nature Conservancy

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