

# CLEAN & AFFORDABLE ENERGY CONFERENCE

Virtual

THURSDAY, MAY 4 &  
TUESDAY MAY 9  
9:00 - 11:30 AM PT



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# **Tuesday, May 9**

## **Resource Adequacy & Reliability**

### **9:00 - 10:30am PT**

Ensuring that utilities and the region have enough resources to meet customer demand at peak times (also known as resource adequacy) is critical for a reliable system. What's the link between resource adequacy and reliability? Why are they so important? Utilities shouldn't be an island; markets, transmission, and the Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP) can and should support reliability and sufficient resources for utilities to share.

**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, 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, 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. Lauren 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.

## **Panelist**

**Sarah Edmonds**  
Executive Director  
Western Power Pool



Ms. Edmonds was selected in 2022 to be President and CEO of WPP. WPP is a nonprofit corporation that helps coordinate electric grid operations for the western United States and Canada. The WPP supports the activities of the Northwest Power Pool, which includes major utilities, generators, and energy managers who together work for increased grid efficiency and reliability, including WPP's administration of the regional resource adequacy program (WRAP), which seeks to enhance and increase reliability for entities across the footprint. Prior to joining WPP, Ms. Edmonds spent nearly 11 years with PacifiCorp, starting as legal counsel, moving to director of transmission, before being named VP and general counsel. She moved to PGE in 2018 where she served as director of transmission and reliability. In these roles, she was responsible for development of strategy and policy recommendations relating to market expansion, regional resource adequacy development, emerging regional and national wholesale policy initiatives, and transmission expansion and cost recovery.

## **Panelist**

**Kris Raper**

Vice President of Strategic  
Engagement & External Affairs  
Western Electricity Coordinating  
Council



Kris Raper is the Vice President of Strategic Engagement & External Affairs at WECC. WECC promotes bulk power system reliability and security in the Western Interconnection. WECC is the Regional Entity responsible for compliance monitoring and enforcement and oversees reliability planning and assessments. Kris's team oversees relationships and interactions with WECC's broad group of stakeholders - to ensure the work WECC does is timely and relevant. Before joining WECC, Kris served as a commissioner for the Idaho Public Utilities Commission for seven years. As a commissioner, Kris participated in numerous regional and national committees considering the development of markets and transmission in the West. Before being appointed commissioner, Kris represented the Idaho Commission's legal interests as a Deputy Attorney General. She holds an undergraduate degree in criminal justice from Boise State University and completed her juris doctor degree at the University of Idaho College of Law.

## **Panelist**

**Jennifer Light**

Director of Power Planning  
Northwest Power and Conservation  
Council



Jennifer has been with the Council for nine years. The Council develops a regional power plan and fish and wildlife program to preserve the benefits of the Columbia River for future generations. Jennifer stepped into the role of Director of Power Planning in April of 2022. Prior to that, she was the manager of the Regional Technical Forum. Jennifer comes to power system planning from a deep background in energy efficiency. Prior to entering the energy industry, Jennifer worked on state and federal projects focused on clean-up of hazardous sites and an internationally managed scientific ocean drilling project. Jennifer has a BA in Geology from Macalester College and an MPA in Environmental Science and Policy from Columbia University.

## **Tuesday, May 9**

### **Keynote**

**10:35 - 11:25am PT**

**Moderator**  
Nancy Hirsh  
Executive Director  
NW Energy Coalition



Nancy Hirsh is Executive Director for the NW Energy Coalition. Nancy 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. She lives in Seattle with her husband, children and dog. When not advocating clean energy solutions, she is an avid backpacker and hiker.



## Keynote

Sonia Aggarwal  
CEO  
Energy Innovation LLC



Sonia Aggarwal is the CEO of Energy Innovation, a nonpartisan energy and climate policy firm delivering research and analysis to help policymakers make informed choices. Previously, Sonia served as Special Assistant to President Biden for Climate Policy, Innovation, and Deployment, joining on Day 1 of the Administration and serving through the development and passage and initial implementation of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act. Sonia has a long history with Energy Innovation, where she previously served as the founding executive director of the Climate Imperative project; led America's Power Plan, bringing together 200 electricity policy experts; and directed the team that developed the open source Energy Policy Simulator to analyze the environmental, economic, and public health impacts of climate and energy policies. Prior, Sonia managed global research at ClimateWorks Foundation, where she worked on the McKinsey carbon abatement cost curves and led research for the American Energy Innovation Council. Raised in Ohio, Sonia graduated from Haverford College in astronomy and physics, and earned a masters at Stanford University in civil engineering.

## Acronyms

BPA - Bonneville Power Administration  
CAISO - California Independent System Operator  
DER - distributed energy resources  
DR - demand response  
EDAM - Extended Day Ahead Market (run by CAISO)  
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)  
NIPPC - Northwest & Intermountain Power Producers Coalition  
NWECC - NW Energy Coalition  
NWPCC - Northwest Power & Conservation Council  
PUC - Public Utility Commission  
PUD - Public Utility District  
SPP - Southwest Power Pool  
UTC - Utilities and Transportation Commission  
WECC - Western Electricity Coordinating Council  
WEIM - Western Energy Imbalance Market (run by CAISO)  
WPP - Western Power Pool  
WRAP - Western Resource Adequacy Program

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