



## Scaling Up Equitable Distributed Energy

### Webinar Agenda and Program

Event sponsored by Penn State Law—University Park and Pennsylvania State University; Center for Energy Law & Policy; and the Institutes of Energy and the Environment

**May 10, 2022, from 1-3 PM eastern daylight time;** register at <https://pennstatelaw.psu.edu/events/energy-workshop>.

This event has been approved for Continuing Legal Education credit. Information for entering the credit will be provided in the Zoom meeting.

#### **Webinar Description:**

The effort to enhance electricity consumers' production of services for the grid is now decades old. States such as New York, California, and Hawaii have rolled out "prosumer" initiatives that aim to make consumers both producers and consumers of electricity, providing small-scale alternatives to centralized generation and new transmission investments. These distributed prosumer activities include, among others, rooftop and community solar; home batteries and electric vehicles; and demand response activities, in which consumers reduce electricity use to offset the need for peak generation. The potential benefits of these activities are numerous: they typically reduce carbon emissions—a current priority of energy policy. They can also lower electricity rates and sometimes avoid investments in expensive transmission infrastructure. But there are substantial hurdles, too, to the implementation of distributed prosumer activities, and this workshop explores two of these major hurdles. First, implementation of some prosumer initiatives has been slow and limited in scope—often ending at the pilot project stage with low consumer participation. Second, distributed energy initiatives have tended to benefit higher-income populations, failing to consistently reach low-income consumers who would benefit most from these initiatives. This workshop explores these hurdles in the implementation of prosumer, distributed energy projects and explores how these projects could feasibly be scaled up and made more equitable.

The workshop will be virtual and will consist of presentations followed by 5 minutes of questions. Audience members will have the opportunity to ask questions through the Q&A feature; the moderator will pass some of these questions on to speakers.

#### **Order of Events:**

**1:00 PM:** Brief introduction of the program by Hannah Wiseman, Moderator

**1:00-1:15:** Zoey Burrows, Program Manager DAC-SASH/SASH, GRID

**1:20-1:35:** Ken Schisler, Regulatory and Government Affairs, CPower

**1:40-1:55:** David Meyers, CEO, Polaris Energy Services and Gridtractor

**2:00-2:15:** Sara Bronin: Professor, Cornell College of Architecture, Art, and Planning; Associated Faculty Member, Cornell Law School; Director, Legal Constructs Lab; and Faculty Fellow, Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability

**2:20-2:50:** Joel Eisen, Professor, University of Richmond School of Law

Felix Mormann, Professor, Texas A&M University School of Law

Questions and wrap-up. Webinar ends at 3:00 PM.

### **Speaker and Moderator Biographies**

**Sara Bronin** is a Professor of Planning and Law at Cornell University. She is a Mexican-American architect, attorney, and policymaker specializing in property, land use, historic preservation, and climate change. Sara is a professor of planning and law at Cornell University and has served as a visiting professor at the Yale School of Architecture, the Sorbonne in Paris, and universities in Switzerland and Korea. She created the National Zoning Atlas, has served as an advisor to the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Sustainable Development Code, served on the board of Latinos in Heritage Conservation, and founded Desegregate Connecticut. In addition, she chaired Preservation Connecticut and led the nationally-recognized efforts of the City of Hartford to draft and adopt a climate action plan, city plan, and zoning code overhaul. Bronin consults regularly for public and private entities, including helping to manage a \$186 million, LEED-ND Platinum development project and leading a team to quiet title, with conservation restrictions, to the second-largest historic town green in New England. She has been interviewed by the *N.Y. Times*, *Washington Post*, *USA Today*, *Wall Street Journal*, CNN, and other major news outlets. She was educated at Yale Law School (Truman Scholar), Oxford (Rhodes Scholar), and the University of Texas. She is the author of the forthcoming book, *Key to the City*. You can find her on Twitter at @sarabronin.



**Zoey Burrows** is GRID Alternatives' Program Manager for the Single Family Affordable Solar Homes (SASH) and DAC-SASH programs. Zoey has worked previously with two GRID partners including Solar Richmond and Spruce. Most recently she worked as a legislative campaign manager for the statewide solar trade association in Washington State, where she helped pass an

expanded net metering law and solar sales tax exemption. In 2018 she completed her Masters in Public Policy at the University of Washington and did climate mitigation research for a municipal utility as well as for King County. Her interest in renewable energy and environmental justice started in college upon hearing Bill McKibeen speak about authoring the first book warning of climate change. In her free time Zoey loves to ride bikes, spend time on her family's farm in the Central Valley, and play tricks on her pets!



**Joel Eisen**, Professor, University of Richmond School of Law, is a nationally recognized expert on energy law and policy. He is a co-author of a widely adopted textbook on energy law, *ENERGY, ECONOMICS AND THE ENVIRONMENT*, and the author of a comprehensive book on *ADVANCED INTRODUCTION TO RENEWABLE ENERGY*. He has also authored numerous books, book chapters, treatises, and law review articles on electric utility regulation and clean and renewable energy topics. His scholarship has appeared in journals at Harvard, UCLA, Duke, Notre Dame, George Washington, Utah, Fordham, Illinois, Wake Forest, U.C. Davis, and William & Mary law schools, among other venues. In recognition of his contributions to scholarship, Richmond Law named him the inaugural Austin Owen Research Fellow for 2013-2018. He was the University of Richmond's Distinguished Educator for 2010-2011, and in spring 2009, a Fulbright Professor of Law at the China University of Political Science and Law in Beijing, China. Professor Eisen is a graduate of the Stanford Law School (J.D. 1985) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (B.S. degree in Civil Engineering in 1981). His primary avocation is constructing crossword puzzles; he has had puzzles published in the *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, and *Wall Street Journal*.



**David Meyers** is an energy industry leader with a track record of commercializing renewable and energy management technologies. David is CEO at Polaris Energy Services, the leader in agricultural demand flexibility and Co-Founder/CEO of Gridtractor, the first agricultural fleet electrification company. His award-winning technology and market innovations are employed by California regulators to increase Ag's role in reliably decarbonizing its grid.

Previously, David led marketing and sales teams at Grid4C, Borrego Solar, DC Systems and EnerNOC, earning a reputation as an evangelist for advanced analytics, distributed generation, energy efficiency and energy technology.

Earlier in his career, David was a management consultant in global energy, transportation and infrastructure, a professional mariner, and naval officer in the Israel Defense Forces. David holds a MS, Computer Information Systems from Bentley University, MS, Management from Maine Maritime Academy and is a Certified Energy Manager (CEM).



**Felix Mormann** is a Professor of Law and Professor of Engineering at Texas A&M University. Professor Mormann's research interests lie at the intersection of law and innovation in the context of climate, environmental and energy law. Drawing on his background as an internationally trained lawyer, Mormann currently investigates policy challenges and opportunities along the path to sustainable energy economy. His work has appeared in Boston College Law Review, Florida Law Review, UC Davis Law Review, Washington Law Review, Harvard Environmental Law Review, Yale Journal on Regulation, and Nature Climate Change, among others.

Prior to joining Texas A&M, Professor Mormann served on the faculty of University of Miami School of Law and as faculty fellow at Stanford Law School. Mormann worked as a corporate and energy lawyer for some of Germany's premiere law firms. As a management consultant for McKinsey & Company, he advised international clients from the high-tech sector. Professor Mormann holds a German JD and a JSD from the University of Passau School of Law as well as an LLM from UC Berkeley School of Law.



**Ken Schisler**, Regulatory and Government Affairs, CPower, brings nearly three decades of policy leadership on innovation in clean and advanced energy technologies. Ken leads CPower's regulatory and government affairs team, having prior served in similar roles at both Vicinity Energy and EnerNOC/Enel. Ken collaborates with public officials, regulators, power exchange and system operators, academia, and industry peers to unleash the potential of demand side resources. In addition to work throughout North America's wholesale and retail electricity markets, Ken has extensive international experience in market development and public policy promoting distributed energy resource policies in South America, Asia, and Europe. Ken served as Chairman of the Maryland Public Service Commission from 2003-2007, and as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates from 1991-2003. Since 2012 he has lectured on retail markets and demand side management at the Florence School of Regulation, Summer School on Regulation of Electric Utilities. Ken graduated with honor from the University of Maryland School of Law, and earned a B.S. in Biology and Chemistry from Salisbury University.



**Hannah Wiseman** is a Professor of Law; Professor and Wilson Faculty Fellow in the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences; Co-Director, Center for Energy Law and Policy, and Co-Funded Faculty with the Institutes of Energy and the Environment at Penn State Law, University Park. Prior to joining Penn State, she taught at the Florida State University College of Law and the University of Tulsa College of Law, and as a teaching fellow at the University of Texas School of Law. She was also a law clerk for Judge Patrick Higginbotham of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Hannah is a co-author of the casebook *Energy, Economics, and the Environment* (with Joel Eisen, Emily Hammond, David Spence, and Jim Rossi) and the books *Energy Law (Concepts and Insights)* (with Alexandra Klass) and *Hydraulic Fracturing: A Guide to Environmental and Real Property Issues* (with Keith Hall). She has published legal articles in the *NYU Law Review*, *Georgetown Law Journal*, *Stanford Law Review* (forthcoming, co-authored) and *Duke Law Journal* (co-authored), among other publications.



Hannah is working with her colleagues **Dr. Andrew Kleit**, Professor of Energy and Environmental Economics and MICASU Faculty Fellow, Penn State Department of Energy and Mineral Engineering, and **Dr. Gregory Pavlak**, Assistant Professor at the Penn State College of Engineering, Architectural Engineering, on a project exploring the topics discussed within this Webinar.

**Dr. Andrew Kleit's** current research interests are focused on the areas of competition in electricity and natural gas markets. He is the author or editor of over 70 academic articles and seven books. He has worked at several different regulatory agencies, including the President's Council of Economic Advisors, the Federal Trade Commission, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Dr. Kleit received his B.A. in Mathematics and Political Science, cum laude, from Middlebury College in 1982 and his Ph.D. in Economics (1987), M.Phil. (1987), and M.A.(1983) from Yale University.



**Dr. Gregory Pavlak** researches and teaches in the areas of Smart building systems, building-to-grid integration, and distributed and renewable energy. He has published articles in the Journal of Energy Storage, Energy, Applied Energy, Energies, Energy and Engineering, and the Journal of Architectural Engineering, among other journals. He received a B.S. in Engineering (Mechanical) from Hope College in 2009 and earned his Ph.D. in Architectural Engineering from the University of Colorado Boulder in 2014.

