

# The Promise and Potential of Energy Parks

## Exploring Opportunities for Energy Parks Webinar Series



Energy Parks are an emerging approach to designing integrated hubs that co-locate generation, storage, and large-scale load (e.g. data centers, advanced manufacturing) at one point of interconnection to the electric grid. This webinar<sup>1</sup> will explore energy parks as a strategy to meet increasing energy demand and provide energy resilience and reliability in an efficient, cost-effective manner, while also enabling the testing of innovative technologies. Specific efforts to create energy parks and means for these efforts to address existing energy system challenges will be highlighted. Tune in to the livestream at [this link](#).

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026**

**1:00 PM (ET)<sup>2</sup> Welcome & Opening Remarks**

Brent Heard, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

**1:05 PM The Promise and Potential of Energy Parks**

Speakers will introduce the structure and concept of energy parks, highlight examples of cross-sectoral collaboration which would support these efforts, and discuss the investment and operational value proposition for this approach to energy innovation. A moderated discussion to highlight opportunities for energy parks to address existing energy systems challenges will follow.

**Moderator:** Clifford Ho, SB Energy, *Forum on Energy Systems Transformation and Decarbonization member*

**Speakers:**

- Eric Gimon, Energy Innovation
- Valerie Karplus, Carnegie Mellon University
- Faraz Ahmad, Thor Equities

**1:50 PM Audience Q&A**

**2:00 PM ADJOURN WORKSHOP**

<sup>1</sup> This is the first in a 2-part webinar series hosted by the [National Academies Forum on Energy Systems Transformation and Decarbonization](#). The Forum seeks to provide a strategic, rapid response capability for grappling with the dynamic nature of energy system transitions and serve as a venue for independent, high-quality advising and consensus building on the future of energy in the United States. View the Forum's Statement of Task and stay up-to-date about Forum events at [this link](#).

<sup>2</sup> All Times in Eastern

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## Speaker Biographies

### Clifford Ho, SB Energy

Dr. Cliff Ho is a Senior Manager of Advanced Renewable Energy at SB Energy, where he is helping to develop integrated energy technologies and energy-storage solutions for large data/load centers. Cliff previously worked at Sandia National Laboratories for over 30 years, where he developed technologies and models to address problems in energy, water, and the environment. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Associate Editor of Elsevier's Solar Energy Journal, and a past invited member of the National Academies Transportation Research Board. Dr. Ho has expertise in diverse areas of the energy ecosystem, including nuclear waste management, water resources, sensing and monitoring, industrial process heat, technoeconomic analyses, grid technologies, and innovative solar technologies for electricity, heat, and transportation fuels. From 2022 to 2024, Dr. Ho served as a Legislative Fellow in the Office of U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich and advised on a wide range of energy policies, further enhancing his understanding of the intersection between technology, policy, and industry needs. Dr. Ho authored several bills pertaining to grid reliability, nuclear waste management, permitting, and alternative process heat for industries. Dr. Ho received the Outstanding Professor Award from the University of New Mexico in 1997 and the national Asian American Engineer of the Year Award in 2010. Dr. Ho received R&D 100 Awards in 2013 for the development of the Solar Glare Hazard Analysis Tool and in 2016 for the Falling Particle Receiver for Concentrating Solar Energy. He won Discover magazine's "The Future of Energy in Two-Minutes-or-Less" video contest in 2008. Dr. Ho received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin Madison in 1989 and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California Berkeley in 1990 and 1993.