NATIONAL ACADEMIES Sciences Engineering Medicine

NATIONAL ACADEMIES FORUM ON ENERGY SYSTEMS TRANSFORMATION AND DECARBONIZATION

Bringing Energy Parks to Practice

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 discussion will elevate key challenges in the siting, permitting, operation, and governance of energy parks. The conversation will address the legal dimensions of co-located energy generation with use and storage, engagement with local communities, complex financial structures, and management of shared infrastructure and revenue. Opportunities for overcoming obstacles to realizing the benefits of energy parks will be highlighted and addressed. Tune in to the livestream here and join our Slido here.

This webinar is part of a series hosted by the ***National Academies Forum on Energy Systems Transformation and Decarbonization***. Click here to watch the recording of the first webinar and access webinar materials.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026

11:00 AM (ET)[1] **Welcome & Opening Remarks**
Brent Heard, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

11:05 AM **Bringing Energy Parks to Practice**
Speakers will elevate opportunities for realizing the benefits of energy parks. A moderated discussion will highlight potential solutions to challenges to bringing energy parks to practice, including legal dimensions of co-location, engagement with local communities, complex financial structures, and the management of shared infrastructure and revenue.

Moderator: Stephen Comello, EFI Foundation, *National Academies Forum on Energy Systems Transformation and Decarbonization chair*

Speakers:
- Amy Roma, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
- Kreshka Young, Dow
- Marilu Hastings, Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation

11:50 AM **Audience Q&A**

12:00 PM **ADJOURN**

[1] All Times in Eastern

Speaker Biographies

Stephen Comello, EFI Foundation

Stephen D. Comello is the Executive Vice President at the EFI Foundation and Managing Director of its Energy Futures Finance Forum. In early 2025, he was appointed Executive Director of the Nuclear Scaling Initiative, a collaboration between EFI Foundation, the Clean Air Task Force and the Nuclear Threat Initiative. Previously, he served as a faculty member at the Stanford Graduate School of Business for over a decade, co-leading the Rapid Decarbonization Initiative. With a 23-year career dedicated to scaling emerging energy and environmental technologies, Comello specializes in policy and business model innovations. His expertise spans technoeconomic analysis, policy and project finance, corporate strategy in the energy transition, and open innovation. At Stanford, he held leadership roles in various research initiatives and industrial affiliate programs. He has authored numerous publications in energy policy, industrial organization, development economics, innovation management, and carbon accounting. Stephen holds bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical and industrial engineering from the University of Toronto and a PhD in civil and environmental engineering from Stanford University. Originally from Canada, he now resides in Washington, D.C.

Marilu Hastings, Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation

Marilu Hastings is executive vice president of the Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation in Austin. She also directs the Mitchell Innovation Lab. As EVP, Marilu leads and is a catalyst for enhancing the programmatic direction of the foundation. She guides the conception and implementation of programs and initiatives with the program teams to ensure that the foundation's priorities align with the mission and values of benefactors George and Cynthia Mitchell. As the Mitchell Innovation Lab Director, Marilu deploys a varied portfolio of breakthrough sustainability ideas and opportunities that the foundation develops and incubates. Marilu convenes high-profile, collaborative efforts to promote Texas's transition to sustainability, including initiatives to protect habitat and species from energy sprawl, address ongoing drought and water management challenges, foster sustainability education curriculum and practices, and adopt clean energy policies. She is also a sought-after strategic and organizational development advisor to non-profit organizations, foundations, and academic organizations. Prior to CGMF, Marilu held leadership positions from 1996 to 2008 at the Houston Advanced Research Center, a non-profit research organization founded by Mr. Mitchell. Her work focused on enhancing the integration of social sciences into environmental decision-making. She analyzed the dynamics of environmental decision-making within the oil & gas industry, especially in sensitive and remote environments. Marilu serves as a member of the National Petroleum Council at the U.S. Department of Energy. She is chair of the University of Texas's Energy Institute Advisory Board, chair of Environmental Defense Fund's Texas Advisory Board, a member of the Advisory Board of the Bureau of Economic Geology at the University of Texas at Austin, and a trustee of the Regional Endowment for Sustainability Science. Marilu is a fellow of the Houston Advanced Research Center. She is a member of the National Academy of Sciences' Roundtable on Science and Technology for Sustainability. Marilu earned a Bachelor of Arts in economics and political science from Duke University, an MBA from the University of Texas at Austin, and a Master of Public Affairs from the University of Texas at Austin.

Amy Roma, Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

Amy Roma is a Partner at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP and a globally recognized authority on nuclear energy and fusion regulation. She advises advanced energy companies, investors, utilities, and government stakeholders on the regulatory and commercial strategies that enable next-generation energy projects to be financed, licensed, and built. Her work spans advanced fission, fusion, fuel cycle, and space and defense applications, with a focus on deploying first-of-a-kind technologies. Amy is a leading voice at the intersection of energy innovation and national security and has testified multiple times before the U.S. Congress in support of U.S. leadership in energy innovation, grid reliability, industrial decarbonization, and the integration of nuclear power with AI-driven data centers and space systems. The Financial Times named her one of the "Top 10 Most Innovative Lawyers" in North America and "Most Innovative Lawyer in Technology," and the National Law Journal recognized her as a "Top 50 Energy & Environmental Trailblazer." She speaks frequently at national and international forums, including United Nations climate summits (COP), and is regularly sought out by governments, industry, and the media. Outside her practice, Amy is active in humanitarian efforts. She led the mission to deploy the New England Patriots' aircraft to deliver two million masks to U.S. hospitals during COVID-19, helped coordinate high-risk evacuations from Afghanistan in 2021, supported humanitarian immigration efforts at the U.S. southern border, and organized a 500+ participant school safety tabletop exercise following the Sandy Hook tragedy. She also holds an M.B.A. from the University of Virginia, with a focus on finance and leadership.

Kreshka Young, Dow

Kreshka Young is Dow's North America Business Director for Energy & Climate. In this role she is responsible for developing and implementing competitive and reliable energy and climate change strategies for Dow's manufacturing sites across North America, and for implementing strategic investments and business models to preserve Dow's competitiveness.