

The National Academies of **SCIENCES • ENGINEERING • MEDICINE**

IMPLEMENTING A JUST AND EQUITABLE ENERGY TRANSITION **Government Perspectives Public Agenda**

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The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine committee on “*Accelerating Decarbonization in the United States: Technology, Policy, and Societal Dimensions*” has been tasked to assess a wide spectrum of technological, policy, and social dimensions of decarbonizing the U.S. economy. This webinar series seeks to learn from government, non-profit, and philanthropic sector perspectives and lessons learned thus far to accelerate the just energy transition. The webinar series will focus on and answer critical questions:

1. What critical roles do governments play in a just energy transition?
2. What principles, frameworks, strategies, and/or policies are being leveraged or implemented by governments to achieve a just energy transition?
3. What could/should governments do to address past inequities and avoid future inequities?
4. What are examples of just energy transition failures and successes we can learn from?
5. What stakeholders are being engaged in the just energy transition? How? Who needs to be engaged?

12:00 PM Welcome and Purpose

Sandy Fazeli, National Association of State Energy Official, Committee Member

12:05 PM Implementing a Just and Equitable Energy Transition: Government Perspectives

Moderator: Paty Romero-Lankao, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Committee Member

Panel:

Wahleah Johns, Department of Energy

Martha Guzman, Environmental Protection Agency

Fatima Ahmad, House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis

Gretchen Goldman, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

1:00 PM BREAK - 5 minutes

1:05 PM Panel Discussion and Q&A from Committee Members

Moderator: Paty Romero-Lankao, National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Committee Member

1:55 PM Wrap-up

Sandy Fazeli, National Association of State Energy Official, Committee Member

2:00 PM Adjourn

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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Fatima Ahmad, House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis

Fatima Maria Ahmad is Senior Counsel with the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis. Previously, she was a Senior Solutions Fellow at the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions. Fatima also served as a Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Fish & Wildlife & Parks at the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), where she helped DOI license 10,000 MW of wind, solar, and geothermal energy. In 2018, Fatima was elected a fellow of the American Bar Foundation. Fatima obtained her J.D. from the University of Chicago Law School and her B.A. with distinction in foreign affairs from the University of Virginia.

Gretchen Goldman, White House Office of Science and Technology Policy

Gretchen Goldman is the research director for the Center for Science and Democracy at the Union of Concerned Scientists. For a decade, Dr. Goldman has led research efforts at the nexus of science and policy on topics including federal scientific integrity, fossil energy production, climate change, and environmental justice. Dr. Goldman has testified before Congress and currently sits on the board of the nonprofit 500 Women Scientists. She serves as an expert on the Public Health Rulemaking of the California Department of Conservation's Geologic Energy Management Division (CalGEM). Previously, Dr. Goldman has chaired the Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and served on the UNESCO/AAAS Consultation Group on the US science ecosystem. Her words and voice have appeared in *Science*, *Nature*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, CNN, NPR, and the BBC, among other outlets. She holds a Ph.D. and M.S. in environmental engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a B.S. in atmospheric science from Cornell University.

Martha Guzman, Environmental Protection Agency

Martha Guzman has served as a Commissioner at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for the last five years, appointed by Governor Jerry Brown. Her portfolio included leadership on issues related to fiscal oversight of utilities, broadband for all, water affordability, increasing access to clean energy programs and preventing disconnections of basic utilities for Disadvantaged Communities. Guzman spearheaded the Interagency Solar Consumer Protection Taskforce, the Tribal Land Policy, and the Covid Arrears Response. Prior to joining the CPUC she served as Deputy Legislative Affairs Secretary in the Office of the Governor where she worked on the passage of the Human Right to Water and the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, re-organized the Safe Drinking Water Program, and helped to shape climate goals related to short-lived climate pollutants and renewable energy legislation. Earlier in her career, she was the Sustainable Communities program director for the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation where she worked for Swanton Berry Farm on human resource issues. Guzman started her career as the legislative coordinator for the United Farm Workers.

Wahleah Johns, Department of Energy

Wahleah Johns is the Director of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs. She is responsible for upholding and advancing the Office of Indian Energy's mission to maximize the development and deployment of energy solutions for the benefit of American Indians and Alaska Natives. Johns is a member of the Navajo (Dine) tribe and comes from northeastern Arizona. Her background is in renewable energy and community organizing, having co-founded Native Renewables, a nonprofit that builds renewable energy tribal capacity while addressing energy access. Her work with the Black Mesa Water Coalition and Navajo Green Economy Coalition has led to groundbreaking legislative victories for groundwater protection, green jobs, and environmental justice. In 2019, she was awarded the Nathan Cummings Foundation Fellowship. Johns is deeply honored to work with the Office of Indian Energy to help native communities lead the way in the transition to clean energy.