

The National Academies of
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***IMPLEMENTING A JUST AND EQUITABLE ENERGY TRANSITION:
Non-Profit 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. This webinar will focus on and answer critical questions:

1. What critical roles do non-profit organizations play in a just energy transition?
2. What principles, frameworks, strategies, and/or policies are being leveraged or implemented by non-profit organizations to achieve a just energy transition?
3. What could/should non-profit organizations 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

Clark Miller, Arizona State University, Committee Member

12:05 PM Implementing a just and equitable energy transition: Non-profit perspectives

*Moderator: Michael Méndez, University of California, Irvine, Committee Member
Panel:*

*Cecilio Ortiz-Garcia, University of Texas at Rio Grande Valley
Diamond Spratling, Greenlink Analytics
Jamal Lewis, Rewiring America
Jeremy Richardson, Rocky Mountain Institute
Martha Dina Argüello, Physicians for Social Responsibility*

1:00 PM BREAK - 5 minutes

1:05 PM Panel Discussion and Q&A

Moderator: Michael Méndez, University of California, Irvine, Committee Member

1:55 PM Wrap-up

Clark Miller, Arizona State University, Committee Member

2:00 PM Adjourn

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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Cecilio Ortiz-Garcia, University of Texas – Rio Grande Valley

Dr. Ortiz Garcia holds a PhD in Public Policy and Administration from the School of Public Affairs of the Watts College of Public Service and Community Solutions at Arizona State University. He serves as Professor and Chair of The Public Affairs and Security Studies Department at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. His areas of expertise include Energy Policy and Governance in Puerto Rico, Sustainable Transitions Management in Developing Nations and Public Participation in Energy and Environmental Decision Making. His current research concentrates on the governance of critical infrastructure transformations, particularly sustainable energy transitions and its relationship with community resilience, as well as the role of Higher Education Institutions (HEI) in local and national Extreme Operating Environments (EOE). He is the Co-Founder of the University of Puerto Rico's National Institute of Energy and Island Sustainability, recognized after Hurricane Maria by the Department of Energy as “the foundation in which to firmly provide both the supply of interdisciplinary engineers and policymakers Puerto Rico will need and the expertise other island and remote grid systems will need in their transition to a distributed, resilient electric sector.” He is Distinguished Research Fellow at the Global Resiliency Institute at Northeastern University in Boston.

Jamal Lewis, Rewiring America

Jamal is the Director of Policy Partnerships and Equitable Electrification for Rewiring America. Previously, he led the energy and climate initiatives at Green & Healthy Homes Initiative and worked with states and localities across the country to advance electrification, healthy housing, and energy efficiency programs and policies. He has multiple publications outlining pathways to promoting equity by retrofitting our existing housing stock to be healthy, energy-efficient, all-electric, and affordable. He is a Young, Gifted, & Green 40 under 40 award recipient for his leadership in Environmental Justice. Jamal has an MPH from Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health, a BA in Environmental Studies from the University of Pennsylvania, and a certificate from the Fall 2021 DC Cohort of the Clean Energy Leadership Institute.

Jeremy Richardson, Rocky Mountain Institute

Prior to joining RMI, Jeremy was a senior energy analyst in the Climate and Energy program at the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) for just under ten years. His work included writing and speaking passionately about the need for a fair transition for coal workers and communities, including reports on federal policy recommendations to support coal workers in the shift to clean energy and the economic and environmental benefits of coal ash cleanup. He also supported a wide range of federal energy policy work and studied the economics of coal and nuclear power. Before UCS, Jeremy was the AAAS Roger Revelle Fellow in Global Stewardship.

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Diamond Spratling, Greenlink Analytics

Diamond Spratling is the GEM Project Manager at Greenlink Analytics where she leads the Greenlink Equity Map (GEM) in supporting the advancement of energy equity among cities across the U.S. Diamond is an impact-driven, environmental health professional who specializes in implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and geospatial analysis. Prior to her position with Greenlink, she created the city of Atlanta's first parks and recreation equity data tool to prioritize park investments to under-resourced communities across the city as a fellow for Bloomberg Associates. She is especially passionate about achieving environmental, racial, and health equity. Diamond also spent two years at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention supporting an array of projects. Diamond holds a Masters of Public Health and certification in WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) from the Rollins School of Public Health of Emory University and an undergraduate degree in Environmental Policy and Analysis from Bowling Green State University.

Martha Dina Arguello, Physicians for Social Responsibility

Martha Argüello is the Executive Director for Physicians for Social Responsibility in Los Angeles, an advocate for policies and practices that improve public health, eliminate nuclear and environmental threats, and address health disparities. For the past 32 years, Martha has served in the non-profit sector as an advocate, community organizer, and coalition builder. She is committed to making the credible voice of physicians a powerful instrument for transforming California and our planet into a more peaceful and healthy place. As a coalition builder, Martha has emphasized the need for local grassroots advocacy working in partnership with statewide policy actions. She is an active board member of numerous organizations, including Californians for Pesticide Reform, the California Environmental Rights Alliance, and Californians for a Healthy and Green Economy. She also co-founded the Los Angeles County Asthma Coalition and the Coalition for Environmental Health and Justice, and was appointed to Cal/EPA's Environmental Justice Committee and the California Air Resources Board's Global Warming Environmental Justice Advisory Committee.