

Translating Climate Ambition Into Clean Energy Jobs



PROGRAM AND SPEAKER BIOS

[Translating Climate Ambition into Clean Energy Jobs](#)

U.S. Climate Action Week Event

April 20, 3:00 – 4:30 pm ET

[Register here to attend](#)

The job creation potential of the clean energy transition is strong and enduring. The market signals generated by a new U.S. national climate goal can help the economy rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic, create employment opportunities to underrepresented and out-of-work communities, and incentivize the development of tomorrow's workforce. These benefits can be expanded with the right policy support and by forging new partnerships with the business community.

Advancing the deployment of the portfolio of existing clean energy technologies will make our economy stronger and healthier. It will increase our energy productivity and security and enhance our resilience against extreme weather events.

This panel of private sector executives will talk about what policy tools and public investments are needed to translate U.S. climate ambition into jobs and economic benefits, while delivering health and environmental improvements to communities across the country.

PROGRAM

Welcome & Opening Remarks

- [Lisa Jacobson](#), President, Business Council for Sustainable Energy
- [Sandra Purohit](#), Director, Federal Advocacy, E2

A Conversation with [Badar Khan](#), President, [National Grid US](#)

Panel 1: Today's Clean Energy Workforce and Role of Federal Policy

- [Paula Glover](#), President and CEO, [Alliance to Save Energy](#)
- [Abigail Ross Hopper](#), President and CEO, [Solar Energy Industries Association](#)
- [Curt Rich](#), President, [North American Insulation Manufacturers Association](#)
- Moderator: [Lynn Abramson](#), President, [CEBN](#)

Panel 2: Clean Energy Workforce Programs in Practice: How to Maintain, Expand and Modernize

- [John Steele](#), Senior Director, Government Relations, [Johnson Controls](#)
- [E'Lois Thomas, Ph.D.](#), Chief Administrative Officer, [SEEL, LLC](#)
- [Janice Tran](#), CEO & Co-Founder, [Kanin Energy](#)
- Moderator: [Sandra Purohit](#), Director, Federal Advocacy, [E2](#)

SPEAKER BIOS

(By order of listing in program)

[Lisa Jacobson](#), President, [Business Council for Sustainable Energy](#)

Lisa Jacobson is the President of the Business Council for Sustainable Energy (BCSE), a 55-member trade association representing the energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable energy industries. In this role, Ms. Jacobson advises states and federal policymakers on energy, tax, air quality and climate change policy. She is a member of the Department of Energy's State Energy Efficiency Steering Committee, the United States Trade Representative's Trade and Environment Policy Advisory Committee, the Energy Efficiency Global Alliance Steering Committee and the Gas Technology Institute's Public Interest Advisory Committee. Ms. Jacobson has testified before Congress and has represented energy industries before the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Prior to her position with the BCSE, Ms. Jacobson was a legislative aide in the U.S. House of Representatives. She has a master's degree in International Relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science, and a bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Vermont.

[Badar Khan](#), President, [National Grid US](#)

Badar Khan is the President of National Grid US. He is focused on driving the company's vision of exceeding customer expectations and making the energy systems of tomorrow possible. He leads National Grid's core, regulated business operations, serving 20 million people across Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island.

Badar has a passion for learning and creating empowered organizations, inspiring leaders and employees to be the best versions of themselves, unlocking their fullest potential and enabling significant commercial success.

Badar has extensive experience spanning retail power, gas and energy-related services, renewable energy, wholesale energy trading, power generation and oil & gas exploration and production. Badar is a forward-thinking leader with a track record of leveraging technology to transform the way homes and businesses engage with and use energy.

Previously, Badar served as President of National Grid Ventures, where he was responsible for a growing global portfolio of energy projects, technologies, and partnerships that will help accelerate the development of a clean energy future. These included a portfolio of subsea electric interconnectors connecting the UK to low-cost renewable energy in Europe, an onshore wind & solar renewable energy developer in the US Midwest, competitive electricity transmission infrastructure connecting onshore and offshore renewables in the US Northeast, and partnerships with distributed energy companies in the US.

Prior to that, Badar worked at Centrica plc for 14 years in the UK and USA, including four years as CEO of Direct Energy, the North American subsidiary.

He holds an engineering degree from Brunel University London, and an MBA from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania.

Badar has served on the Leadership Council of the Advanced Energy Economy, an association of businesses working to make energy more secure, clean and affordable. He also previously served on the Board of Directors of the Greater Houston Partnership, the University of Houston Energy Advisory Board and on the executive council of TechNet, a group of leading technology CEOs advocating for the innovation economy.

PANEL ONE

Paula Glover, President and CEO, Alliance to Save Energy

Paula R. Glover started as President of the Alliance to Save Energy in January 2021. A dynamic leader with more than 25 years of experience in the energy industry, Ms. Glover is the seventh president in the Alliance's 43-year history.

Ms. Glover previously served as President and CEO of the American Association of Blacks in Energy, a non-profit professional association whose focus is to ensure that African Americans and other minorities have input into the discussions and development of energy policy, regulations, and environmental issues. In this role, she was responsible for managing the national office, and providing strategic direction and leadership for the organization. Prior to this role, Ms. Glover served as AABE's Vice President of Operations and as the organization's Director of Communications.

Ms. Glover's other experiences include 15 years in the energy industry for both electric and natural gas distribution companies. During that time, she built a stellar reputation working with state legislators and regulators in her roles as Manager of Government and Regulatory Affairs. Ms. Glover commands a clear understanding of the consumer and community sides of the business as well having held industry positions in Community Outreach and Economic Development.

Ms. Glover is a seasoned non-Profit professional. Prior to her time at AABE, Ms. Glover was the Community Awareness Director for the Regional YMCA of Western Connecticut where she was responsible for the organizations' marketing, communications, community and government relations and public relations functions.

In March 2014 Ms. Glover was appointed to the National Petroleum Council by U.S. Secretary of Energy, Dr. Ernest Moniz.

Ms. Glover received her B.S. in Marketing Management from the University of Delaware. She is the recipient of the Bring It Home to Hartford Award; the Clarke Watson Chairman's Cup; the Award of Distinction by the Videographer Awards

and the Platinum Achievement Award from the Cooperative Developmental Energy Program at Fort Valley State University. She is a 2003 graduate of Leadership New Haven and has contributed to an article on work life balance in Take Pride magazine.

Abigail Ross Hopper, President and CEO, Solar Energy Industries Association

Abigail Ross Hopper is the President and CEO of the Solar Energy Industries Association, the national trade organization for America's solar energy industries. She oversees all of SEIA's activities, including government affairs, research, communications, and industry leadership, and is focused on creating a marketplace where solar will constitute a significant percentage of America's energy generation.

Before joining SEIA, Abby was the Director of the Department of Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, where she led the agency that oversaw the leasing and development of all offshore energy, from oil and natural gas to offshore wind.

She served formerly as the Director of the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA), serving as acting beginning in 2012, and then as Director starting in June 2013. She also served concurrently as Energy Advisor to Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley since 2010. In those roles, she had significant engagement with the state's electric distribution utilities on matters ranging from resiliency and reliability of the grid to multiple mergers of the state's utilities.

Abby previously spent over two years as Deputy General Counsel with the Maryland Public Service Commission. Before embarking on a career in public service, Abby spent nine years in private practice.

Abby graduated Cum Laude from the University of Maryland School of Law and earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Dartmouth College. She is the very proud mom of three children and loves to read, ride her Peloton, do hot yoga and lie on the beach in her (not so free) time.

Curt Rich, President, North American Insulation Manufacturers Association

As President and CEO of the North American Insulation Manufacturers Association (NAIMA), which represents the \$8 billion U.S. fiber glass and mineral wool insulation industry, Curt oversees all activities relating to the promotion of fiber glass and mineral wool insulation to all key stakeholders including policymakers, code officials, building industry professionals and consumers. In addition, he champions policies and legislation that encourage the use of insulation to increase energy efficiency and improve the environment. Curt serves on the Alliance to Save Energy, Business Council for Sustainable Energy and RESNET Boards of Directors.

Prior to joining NAIMA in July 2014, Curt was Vice President of Energy and Environmental Policy for United Technologies Corporation (UTC), responsible for directing government affairs objectives for UTC's building and industrial systems businesses. Curt is a former partner at the Washington, D.C. law firm of Van Ness Feldman, and previously served as counsel to U.S. Senator Max Baucus (D-MT).

Curt holds a bachelor's degree in history from Whitman College and a Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Montana.

Lynn Abramson, President, CEBN

Lynn Abramson is the President of the Clean Energy Business Network, leading the CEBN's educational, advocacy, and business support services and representing the network before public and policymaker audiences. She works with the Board of Directors to manage the strategic vision for the organization.

Lynn previously managed the CEBN at its former home in The Pew Charitable Trusts from July 2013 until its transition to the Business Council for Sustainable Energy in May 2017. Lynn has also worked as a senior legislative assistant in the U.S.

Senate on energy, natural resources, and transportation policy. She holds a B.A. in Biology from Boston University and a Ph.D. in Marine and Atmospheric Sciences from Stony Brook University.

PANEL TWO

John Steele, Senior Director, Government Relations, Johnson Controls

John Steele is Senior Director of Government Relations for Johnson Controls, handling state and local government legislative and regulatory issues. Before joining Johnson Controls, he was Director of State and Local Affairs for the American Beverage Association. Before that position he served as press secretary to numerous members of Congress. John has degrees in Journalism and Political Science from Rutgers University.

E’Lois Thomas, Ph.D, Chief Administrative Officer, SEEL, LLC

E’Lois Thomas, Ph.D. is the chief administrative officer at SEEL, LLC, a nationally certified minority business enterprise (MBE), service-disabled, veteran-owned (DVBE) EE program implementation contractor. She oversees all aspects of the organization’s administrative functions, including governance, compliance, finance, purchasing and information technology. She also provides executive level support to SEEL’s operations and strategic groups. A highly analytical and driven leader, Dr. Thomas cultivates business relationships & advances SEEL’s teams toward top level corporate objectives.

Dr. Thomas earned a Ph.D. in business from Northcentral University, an MBA in Management from Walsh College, and a BA in Accounting from University of Detroit Mercy. Her research includes a qualitative multiple case study on the sustainability of small and medium enterprises with key aspects of diversity, equity, and inclusion. She is also a six-sigma black belt professional and has a professional certification in green energy mgmt. from San Diego State University.

In addition to her vice-chair role with MEEA, she is a board member with Advancing Women in Energy, AABE - MI Chapter, a mentor with CWEEL, and a member of the Association of Women in Energy. In 2020, Dr. Thomas was recognized by Crain’s Detroit as a Notable Woman in Finance, the Michigan Chronicle named her a Woman of Excellence in 2013 and she was inducted as a Who’s Who in Black Detroit. Dr. Thomas is married to a non-profit executive/consultant Charles Thomas, Jr. & has two sons, Charles III, and Isaiah.

Janice Tran, CEO & Co-Founder, Kanin Energy

Janice provides the leadership and financing strategy for Kanin Energy. Prior to Kanin, Janice was an early employee and Director at Generate Capital, a project finance investment firm that focused on investing in renewable energy projects. There she built North America’s largest portfolio of anaerobic digestions assets. Her role spanned across deal execution, origination, market development and asset management. Prior to Generate Capital, Janice worked at NRG, one of America’s largest power producers, to start their renewable microgrids business line. Janice also co-founded Student Energy, a nonprofit which is today’s largest global charity dedicated to educating and uniting post-secondary students on energy issues.

Janice is a licensed Chartered Professional Accountant (CPA) in Canada. She also has a Masters of Science in Sustainability Management from Columbia University in New York, where she received an Earth Institute Fellowship. Janice also has a Masters in Accounting from the University of Saskatchewan, and double majored with a BA in Philosophy and BComm in Accounting from the University of Calgary.

Sandra Purohit, Director, Federal Advocacy, E2

Sandra is Director of Federal Advocacy for E2 (Environmental Entrepreneurs). E2 is a national non-partisan organization of over 10,000 business leaders, investors and professionals from every sector of the economy who advocate for policies that are good for the economy and good for the environment. Sandra holds a bachelor's degree in environmental policy and economics; a master's in public finance, management and leadership and a J.D. with an Environmental Law Certification. She also spent time as a legal fellow on Capitol Hill. Originally from South Africa, Sandra now calls the DC metro area home.

For more information, visit [U.S. Climate Action Week](#), [BCSE Climate Action](#) events pages or contact Laura Tierney(ltierney@bcse.org).