



Envisioning Our Energy Future

Federal Reserve Plaza
Harborside 4th Floor; Connolly Center
Boston, MA
February 24, 2015

AGENDA

9:30 – 10:30 AM Check-in

10:30 AM **Welcome and Overview** – Dan Sosland, President, Acadia Center

10:50 AM **Panel: Utility of the Future**

The advancement of viable, distributed energy technologies in the marketplace is happening quickly. Arguably, technology changes in the market are occurring faster than the regulatory structure governing utilities. The potential to structure a new energy system that embraces decentralized energy technologies is large. Utilities throughout the region are reacting to the changing landscape differently; some utilities are seeking to secure revenue through rate structure changes that could impose barriers to the deployment of new technologies. Others are re-envisioning their role and the functions the utility provides. Participants will describe their vision and identify key steps to achieving it.

Panelists

- *Moderator*, Abigail Anthony, Director, Grid Modernization and Utility Reform Initiative, Acadia Center
- Nathan Adams, Vice President, Business Development and Strategy, Green Mountain Power
- Jonathan Schrag, Senior Fellow in Energy, Guarini Center, NYU School of Law
- Peter Rothstein, President, New England Clean Energy Council
- Tim Woolf, Vice President, Synapse Energy Economics, Inc.

12:00 PM **Lunch and Speaker:** Klaus Vesløv, Østkraft

Developer of a €23M smart grid pilot program on the Danish island of Bornholm, the first pilot in the EU to focus on how customer behavior impacts grid modernization efforts. The ECOGRID pilot is one of the foundations for fulfilling the Bornholm strategy of being 100% fossil free by 2025, and becoming a Bright Green Island. With Denmark as a whole setting the goal to be fossil free by 2050, reforms are underway to use wind turbines as the foundation of the grid and electrify heating and transportation.

1:15 PM **Panel: Leveling the Playing Field for Distributed Energy Resources**

The current system for planning and paying for the energy system favors expenditures on poles and wires over investments that reduce demand for grid-supplied power. The failure to utilize all of the tools in the energy toolbox drives transmission and distribution costs higher than they would be if “non-wires

alternatives” (NWAs) could compete on a level playing field. At the same time, successful policies and falling costs are leading to increasing investments in distributed energy resources. This panel will examine recent examples of utilizing NWAs, and explore policy reforms that can facilitate competition and reduce transmission and distribution system costs.

Panelists:

- *Moderator*, Scudder Parker, Director of Policy, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation
- Amy Boyd, Senior Attorney, Acadia Center
- Fran Cummings, Vice President, Strategic Consulting, Peregrine Energy Group
- Jim Grevatt, Managing Consultant, Energy Futures Group
- Kerrick Johnson, Vice President of Communications and Strategy, VELCO

2:15 PM **Coffee and Networking Break**

2:30 PM **Panel: The Role for Energy Efficiency and Demand Side Resources to Reduce Price Pressures in the Energy System**

Flexibility in energy efficiency investment programs offers the potential to quickly react to changing market conditions to mitigate high energy or infrastructure costs. States across the region are beginning to target efficiency at specific geographic locations to defer or avoid infrastructure needs and at specific time periods, such as summer or winter peak demand for natural gas and electricity. This panel will explore current efforts to utilize efficiency investments to help alleviate issues, and consider challenges to efficiency program design, cost effectiveness, and implementation related to targeted efficiency.

Panelists:

- *Moderator*, Jamie Howland, Director, Climate and Energy Analysis Center and Energy Efficiency Program, Acadia Center
- Jeremy Newberger, Manager, of Program Strategy, National Grid
- Jeff Schlegel, Schlegel and Associates
- Michael Stoddard, Executive Director, Efficiency Maine Trust
- Eric Wilkinson, Senior External Affairs Representative, ISO-NE

3:30 PM **Concluding Remarks**

Thank you to the Emily Hall Tremaine Foundation for its support of this forum.