

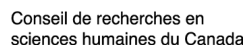


COOPERATIVE ENERGY FORUM

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

JUNE 8 - 9, 2024
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

DAY 1: ENERGIZING THE NATION

LOCATION: DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY (5793 UNIVERSITY AVE, HALIFAX)

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Registration and Welcome Coffee
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Community Energy Forum Opening Remarks (In-person) ◦ Keynote with Elder Ann LaBillios with Dalhousie University ◦ Welcome Message from CECC Board President Martin Boucher ◦ Research Announcements with Anna Rogers and Raisa Rahman from University of Alberta
10:00 AM - 11:15 AM	International Perspectives: Best Practices in Community Energy <i>Speakers: Julie MacArthur, Karl Janelle, Neil McInroy, Andy O'Brien</i>
11:15 AM - 11:45 AM	Refreshment Break
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM	From Global to Local: Community Energy Atlantic Canada Moving from global to local, Chad Walker with Dalhousie University introduces Community Energy Atlantic <i>Speakers: Chad Walker (Moderator), Josh McLean, Tanna Pirie Wilson, Nicholas Mercer, Tynette Deveaux</i>
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Lunch Break
2:30 PM - 4:00 PM	Community Energy Cooperative Canada Inaugural AGM Meeting for community energy members and cooperatives

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

DAY 2: MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

LOCATION:DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY (5793 UNIVERSITY AVE, HALIFAX)

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Better Together: Community Energy Pathways To start off day two, <i>Moving Forward Together</i>, Julie MacArthur and Chad Walker will deliver a conversational keynote about how we can support each other in the energy transition. <i>Speakers: Julie MacArthur and Chad Walker</i>
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Refreshment Break
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Practical Matters: How to Finance Your Co-op Director of the Canadian Centre for Cooperative Studies, Marc André Pigeon, talks with Board President of Cooperative and Mutuals Canada, John Kay, about what it takes to fund a co-op <i>Speakers: Marc-André Pigeon and John Kay</i>
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	Lunch Break
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	What’s New: Innovation Research Showcase Networking Chad Walker with Dalhousie University introduces a showcase of student-led research projects (findings and methodologies) in community energy. Chad is assisted in this work by Dalhousie graduate students Emily Snair, Myah Shantz, Ignacio Lopez, and Joseph Fiander. <i>Speakers: Emily Snair, Myah Shantz, Ignacio Lopez, Joseph Fiander</i>
2:00 PM - 2:30 PM	Refreshment Break
2:30 PM - 4:30 PM	The Policy Landscape: Implications for the Future CECC Board President, Martin Boucher, and Marc André Pigeon will lead a discussion on the current policy environment for community energy and its implications for the future. They are assisted in this work by Josie Ward, a graduate research assistant from the University of Saskatchewan. <i>Speakers: Martin Boucher, Marc-André Pigeon, Josie Ward</i>

SPEAKERS AND BIOGRAPHIES

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Ann LaBillois **(Elder in Residence at Dalhousie University)**

Ann LaBillois is a Mikmaw from Eel River Bar First Nation, NB. She grew up in Boston and got her Certification from U Mass as a facilitator in Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction. She worked for 12 years in her community as an Addiction Counsellor, and recently received her BA from Dalhousie in Philosophy. Ann is currently the Elder in Residence at Dal. She has three children and three blessed grandchildren.

PANELISTS



Nick Mercer

Nicholas (Nick) Mercer is a settler researcher, as well as an Assistant Professor of Island and Environment Studies at the University of Prince Edward Island. Nick holds a PhD (Geography) from the University of Waterloo, as well as a Master of Arts (Environmental Policy) from Grenfell Campus: Memorial University. Nick's research focus includes supporting energy sovereignty, resilience, and local priorities via community-based participatory action research. Nick serves as one of eight members of the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's Net Zero Advisory Committee, has advised the provincial government on the future of the Upper Churchill Hydroelectric Project, and is a proud husband and father of two young boys.



Tanna Pirie Wilson

Tanna is a proud Wolastoqiyik from the Neqotkuk Maliseet Nation (Tobique First Nation) in New Brunswick, whose journey is marked by a steadfast commitment to advancing Indigenous rights and fostering sustainable development. With a degree from the University of New Brunswick, she embarked on a career spanning various sectors, leaving a trail of impactful initiatives and leadership milestones. Her professional trajectory began with a distinguished 15-year tenure in the federal public service, followed by eight years as a groundbreaking CEO of Band Operations for her community. Notably, she was the first woman to hold such a position, a testament to her trailblazing spirit. Additionally, she actively participated in initiatives such as the Wocawson Energy Project, the Burchill Wind Project, and the Neqotkuk First Nation Solar Farm, all aimed at advancing renewable energy solutions and mitigating environmental impact. She currently presides as President of Gignoo Transition House Inc., providing vital support to those in need. Her involvement with the Advisory Council of Indigenous Clean Energy (ICE) underscores her dedication to shaping policies that empower Indigenous communities and promote sustainable practices.



Tynette Deveaux

Tynette Deveaux is the Atlantic Regional Coordinator for Canadian Association of Physicians for the Environment. She became interested in community energy and energy democracy while working for Sierra Club Canada on a campaign to get Atlantic Canada off of coal and accelerate the transition to renewable energy. Having grown up in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, she understands the complexity of local and regional issues and the value of community-based solutions. She is passionate about clearing paths for social justice and action on climate change and brings to the challenge her decades-long experience in communications, media, and community organizing. Tynette is based in Halifax.

SPEAKERS AND BIOGRAPHIES

PANELISTS



Julie MacArthur

Julie MacArthur is an Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in Reimagining Capitalism at Royal Roads University. She is the author of *Empowering Electricity: Co-operatives, Sustainability and Power Sector Reform in Canada* (UBC 2016), co-editor of *Environmental Politics and Policy in Aotearoa New Zealand* (with Maria Bargh, 2022) and author of numerous articles and book chapters on energy democracy, inclusive low carbon transitions, participatory environmental governance, and comparative energy policy.



Marc-André Pigeon

Marc-André Pigeon is the director of the Canadian Centre for the Study of Co-operatives and an Assistant Professor at the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. He has worked in a number of economics and policy-related positions, most recently as assistant vice-president of public policy at the Canadian Credit Union Association. His research interests include the study of co-operatives, behavioural economics/psychology, income distribution, money and banking, and fiscal and monetary policy.



Marin Boucher

Martin Boucher is a Faculty Lecturer and the academic lead for the online Master of Public Administration (online MPA) at the Johnson Shoyama Graduate School of Public Policy. Martin plays a key role in the Governance and Entrepreneurship in Northern and Indigenous Areas (GENI) program. His research is dedicated to advancing the energy transition with focus on northern energy futures, governance, decentralized energy transitions, entrepreneurship, and skills development.



Chad Walker

Chad Walker is an interdisciplinary environmental social scientist with broad interests in justice, equity and support for low-carbon transitions. He is an Assistant Professor in the School of Planning and is cross-appointed with the School for Resource and Environmental Studies at Dalhousie University. Recent research endeavours include studying the impact of environmental justice and partisanship in shaping support for Canadian wind energy development and investigating the meaning of community energy to better understand reconciliation, autonomy and pathways for improved health via Indigenous-led renewable energy development. By utilizing diverse methodologies such as Community-based Participatory Research, he is interested in the ways we think about and practice mixed methods within research.



Josh McLean

Josh McLean has worked in the energy efficiency, small-scale renewable, and climate change mitigation sector for over 20 years. This includes working for non-profit organizations in three provinces, government, and as part of the first group of staff for Canada's first energy efficiency utility (Efficiency Nova Scotia). Specific to energy poverty, Josh helped establish what is now known as the HomeWarming program, when it began in early 2007.

SPEAKERS AND BIOGRAPHIES

PANELISTS



Karl Janelle

Karl Janelle is a PhD candidate in management at the Alphonse-et-Dorimène-Desjardins International Institute for Cooperatives at HEC Montréal, specializing in the transformative role of community initiatives in the energy sector. As an advocate for engaged research and civic life, he chairs the Montréal Climate Coalition, which promotes citizen participation in socio-ecological transition challenges. He also serves on the Governance Committee of the Conseil Québécois de la Coopération et de la Mutualité and the Housing Committee of Transition en Commun, an alliance that brings together citizen groups, civil society organizations, the City of Montréal, and other institutions to facilitate socio-ecological transitions in the city's neighborhoods. Additionally, Karl lectures in Management and Sustainable Transition at HEC Montréal. Karl holds a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering from Polytechnique Montréal and a master's degree in management and sustainable development from HEC Montréal. He has led various strategic innovation projects for non-profit and public organizations, including the City of Montréal. During his master's studies, his curiosity drove him to explore alternative organizational structures in healthcare and contribute to Hydro-Québec's strategic plan for energy efficiency.



John Kay

Over the last twenty years, John Kay has held senior and executive positions in both the private and public sectors, and supported projects spanning social services, real estate, insurance, finance, food and beverage, education, arts, tourism, and more. As a Principal Consultant at Realize Solutions, John assists executive clients in driving sustainable, transformative organizational change through strategy, governance, culture, and business model innovation. As CEO of Realize Solutions, he supports and empowers his team in unlocking their potential and creativity to strengthen and support their clients. John serves as chair on several nonprofit and co-op boards across the country, and seeks inspiration in people-centred businesses locally and abroad.



Andy O'Brien

Andy O'Brien is a founder director of Bristol Energy Cooperative, in England. He has helped develop the co-op from a voluntary group into a community energy business with 1600 members. The co-op has funded and developed 21 clean energy projects including rooftop and ground-mount solar, battery storage and microgrids. It has also channelled over £400,000 of project revenues into local community projects.



Neil McInroy

Neil McInroy is an experienced policy thinker and adviser, researcher, practitioner, and organisational leader. He is the Global Lead for Community Wealth Building at The Democracy Collaborative. Based in USA, TDC are a leading think, do and change tank, working to grow the democratic economy. Neil is also the Chair of Economic Development Association Scotland (EDAS) - the go to body for all individuals and organisations with an interest in Scotland's economic development. Up till July 2023, he was a Community Wealth Building Adviser, within the economic development directorate of the Scottish Government. Recently, he was appointed by the Scottish Government as Chair of an independent review into growing the democratic economy in Scotland, with a part focus on the renewable energy sector in Scotland. For 20 years till 2021, he was the Chief Executive of the Centre for Local Economic Strategies (CLES)- the UK's national organisation for progressive local economies. Neil is driven by a desire and passion to build an economy that truly works for people, place and planet.

SPEAKERS AND BIOGRAPHIES

DALHOUSIE GRADUATE RESEARCHERS



Emily Snair

Emily is a graduate student at Dalhousie University with experience in community outreach, resource management, and social science research. After obtaining a Bachelor of Environmental Studies from Saint Mary's University, she is now completing a Master of Environmental Studies, involving research regarding citizen reactions to solar farm projects and local landscape change in rural areas. Through her work, Emily aims to demonstrate how understanding community values can make resource management and renewable energy development more equitable and sustainable.



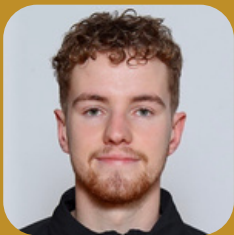
Myah Shantz

Myah is a Master of Planning student at Dalhousie University. Her passion lies in justice, equity, sustainability, and climate change resilience. Myah is focused on building a career as a professional planner working in the renewable energy sector and assisting Canada's renewable energy transition. She is a research assistant in Dr. Walker's Climate & Local Energy Action Network (CLEAN) Lab, assessing levels of participation and equity within Halifax's solar energy transition. In this work, she is investigating questions that concern justice and equity and working to identify pathways toward a Just solar energy transition for Halifax and beyond.



Ignacio Lopez

Ignacio graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Community Design with honors in Urban Design and Planning. He also has a certificate in Environment, Sustainability, and Societies. His thesis focused on the social and economic value of smart grid projects in Canada and investigates how smart grid technologies can enhance community resilience, improve energy efficiency, and generate economic benefits. Ignacio has also gained experience working with the Halifax Regional Municipality on the Transportation Planning team.



Joseph Fiander

Joseph is a Master of Resource and Environmental Management (MREM) student at Dalhousie University. He holds a bachelor's degree in planning from the same institution. His research focuses on the social dimensions of energy transitions, with a particular emphasis on energy democracy and public support. His recently published work in Energy Research and Social Science examines national survey data and public support for local energy system changes. As part of a summer co-op program to fulfill his master's requirements, Joseph is currently working as a policy analyst with the federal government.

SPEAKERS AND BIOGRAPHIES

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA GRADUATE RESEARCHERS



Anna Rogers

Anna is a MSc student in the Rural and Environmental Sociology Department at the University of Alberta. She received her BA in Environmental Studies at the University of Alberta with a concentration in Environment and Peoples of Canada. Her thesis research explores the views and beliefs that motivate renewable energy cooperatives across Canada. Her research aims to create a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities for local energy development in Canada.



Raisa Rahman

Raisa is currently pursuing a MSc in Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of Alberta. Her thesis focuses on the impacts of policy changes, particularly the withdrawal of Feed-in Tariffs (FITs), on Renewable Energy Cooperatives (RECs) in Canada. She investigates how these cooperatives manage financial and operational challenges following policy shifts and how their leaders' perceptions of financial risks influence investment decisions. Raisa's work aims to provide actionable insights to enhance the sustainability and effectiveness of RECs in promoting renewable energy. She looks forward to engaging with the community at the Cooperative Energy Forum to exchange ideas and gather data for her research.



Alma Ali Chowdhury

Alma Ali Chowdhury is a MSc student in the Agricultural and Resource Economics Department at the University of Alberta. Alma just started working with Dr. Philip Marcoul and Dr. Dan Yu on her master's thesis, which aims to do a comparative analysis on cost efficiency of cooperatives vs private firm in retrofitting a home. One of her research questions is "Are renewable energy cooperatives actually efficient in retrofitting a home or do they act similar to private firm and maximizing their profits?" She looks forward to engaging with the community at the conference and gather ideas and knowledge about cooperatives.

