

## Mid-Hudson Regional Renewable Energy Forum – Presenter Bios

**Welcoming Remarks:** **Pat Pomeroy** is Executive Director of the Hudson Valley Regional Council. She previously served as the Supervisor of the Town of Rockland for 8 years, guiding the Township through 5 major floods, several federal grants for mitigation and buy-outs, new zoning regulations and a comprehensive plan. In addition to her administrative duties with HVRC, Pat works primarily with communities who want to access federal funding for water and wastewater infrastructure upgrades that will create and/or retain jobs as per the US Dept. of Commerce Economic Development Administration protocols. She also works on HVRC's 604 B EPA Water Quality program, with NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, providing assistance, outreach and education communities, and on MS4's on water quality issues.

### New York State Agencies



**Manna Jo Greene, Moderator:** Clearwater's Environmental Action Director since 2000, Manna was formerly the Recycling Coordinator/Educator for the Ulster County Resource Recovery Agency for more than 10 years and a registered Critical Care Nurse for 22 years. Manna also serves as Ulster County Legislator from District 19, Towns of Rosendale and Marbletown, where she Chairs the Energy & Environment and the Ulster County Climate Smart Committees and the Solid Waste Planning Commission.



**Mark D. Lowery:** A 31-year veteran of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Mark is the assistant director of DEC's Office of Climate Change. He joined the Office of Climate Change as one of its original staff members in 2007. His principal areas of responsibility have included leading public outreach efforts for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, State Sea Level Rise Task Force and climate action planning. He was responsible for development of the state's principal program to support municipal climate action – Climate Smart Communities. He has led the implementation of the Community Risk and Resiliency Act, and is now helping to plan implementation of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act. Mark focuses on climate adaptation and leads the state's Interagency Climate Adaptation and Resilience Work Group.



**Brad Tito:** As Program Manager, Communities and Local Government at NYSERDA, Brad works with communities across NY State to save energy and improve the environment. He helped design and launch NYSERDA's Clean Energy Communities initiative. He served on the Faculty of Advanced Diploma in Clean Energy program at the NYU Center for Global Affairs. He was formerly the Director of Sustainability for the City of Yonkers and prior to that Director of Environmental Coordination for Nassau County



**Chris Reohr** is Senior Project Manager for the *New York State Energy Research and Development Authority* (NYSERDA). NYSERDA's mission is to use innovation and technology to solve some of New York's most difficult energy and environmental problems in ways that improve the State's economy. Over the past 20 years Chris has been member of the management team for both NYSERDA's New Construction and the Communities and Local Government Programs. Chris also oversees many facets of the deployment of these initiatives to ensure both efficiency, as well as maximize the environmental impacts and is a LEED® Accredited professional through the United States Green Buildings Council.



**Keith Hayes** is the Senior Vice President for Clean Energy Solutions at the New York Power Authority. Keith has over 30 years of regulated, unregulated, private, and public utility experience; this includes economic/ business development leading NYPA's customer strategy and programs to maximize customer satisfaction, attraction, retention, business expansion and job growth across NY State; risk analytics; power resource planning and acquisitions to accomplish rate case development, supply plans for reliable and economic long-term supply to meet customer needs, negotiation and execution of supply contracts, and acquiring other short-term supply obligations as needed to meet the needs of NYPA's customers.

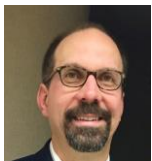


**Paul Beyer:** As Director of Smart Growth at NYS Department of State, Paul promotes the principles of Smart Growth, sustainable development, Livable Communities and collaborative governance on the state, regional and local levels. Paul's experience in land use and Smart Growth began when he worked in the New York State Legislature, where he focused on land use, environmental and public health policy. Paul served on the Planning Board in the Town of Amherst, NY for five years, where he helped develop the town's Comprehensive Plan. Paul has a law degree from the University at Buffalo.

## Contribution by Utilities



**Pat Courtney Strong, Moderator:** As ASC Director of Public Engagement -- Energy Services Pat Strong leads marketing communication teams that support innovation in government and industry through community engagement strategies. Pat's work centers on assisting those who are leading the transition to a clean energy economy, including the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority and the New York Power Authority.



**John J. Borchert:** As the Senior Director of Energy Policy and Transmission Development at Central Hudson, John monitors and provides strategic input in all technical and non-technical aspects of state and federal regulatory energy policy. He has more than 30 Years of broad experience in the Electric and Gas Utility Industry in planning, customer services, operations, gas and electric engineering management, and regulatory.



**Mark Sclafani** is the Director of Demand-Side Management at Central Hudson. Before this role, Mark spent several years designing, implementing, and evaluating Central Hudson's energy efficiency and load management programs. He also supported new business development through project management and key account relations. Mark has a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the State University of New York at Binghamton.



**Christopher Raup**, Director of State Regulatory Affairs, joined Con Edison in 2006. His work has included developing comments on the NY State Climate Action Plan and the State Energy Plan, and coordinating Con Edison's position on the State's Renewable Portfolio Standard. Chris has also worked in ConEd's Energy Markets Policy Group, addressing wholesale energy market issues, including coordinating transmission planning and market design activities with the New York Independent System Operator and PJM, and conducting natural gas quality discussions with the interstate gas pipelines.



**Kristen Barone:** As a Section Manager of Utility of the Future, Kristen is responsible for supporting Orange & Rockland's clean energy future, enabling customers to participate in new products and services while allowing the utility to manage the system with a high penetration of distributed assets, smart grid technologies, demand response, energy efficiency, and other customer-side technologies. Prior to her role in the Utility of the Future, Kristen supported large commercial and industrial customers' energy needs and managed complex energy efficiency programs and projects. She holds an undergraduate degree in Engineering and a Masters in Business with a focus in Infrastructure Management.

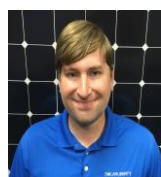
## Municipal, Institutional, and Commercial Models



**Carla Castillo, Moderator:** Carla began at HVRC in August 2016. As Deputy Executive Director and Clean Energy Communities Coordinator, Ms. Castillo directs NYSEERDA's Clean Energy Communities Program in HVRC's seven-county Mid-Hudson Valley Region, promoting economic development while reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions as well as increasing energy cost savings through the implementation of clean energy projects. She is also facilitating local communities' plans for organics collection programs while providing support on HVRC organizational matters.



**Audrey Friedrichsen, Esq., LL.M.,** Land Use & Environmental Advocacy Attorney, Scenic Hudson, Inc. Audrey has been at Scenic Hudson for 5 years, and is a member of the Policy, Advocacy and Outreach Team, which works to safeguard the environmental and economic resources of the Hudson River Valley. She also provides legal support to other program teams, as well as the Scenic Hudson Land Trust. She holds a J.D. and an LL.M. from the School of Law at Pace University, and a B.S. from Cornell University. Prior to joining Scenic Hudson, she practiced municipal, land use, and environmental law at a private firm.



**Bryant Carlson**, Electrical Engineer. Bryant began his career in renewable energy with Buffalo based Solar Liberty in 2014. Bryant entered the industry as a residential PV site designer and quickly transitioned to a project engineering role, managing technical aspects of several of Solar Liberty's multi-megawatt solar farms throughout New York State. Bryant managed technical design and installation aspects of the SUNY New Paltz solar + storage microgrid from project kickoff through completion.

## Municipal, Institutional and Commercial Models – continued...



**Rev. James B. Childs, M.Div, M.A.:** Pastor Childs is the spiritual leader of Pointe of Praise Family Life Center where he has pastored for 50 years. The Pointe Church provides tons of food each month for those who experience food insufficiency. Their King's Kids Program has mentored hundreds of kids and assisted many with scholarship incentive awards. Pointe members are involved in prison and substance abuse ministries. Rev. Childs serves on the Kingston City School Board of Education, the Kingston Interfaith Council, RUPCO and many other community organizations. He considers saving the environment as one of the most important endeavors we all must be involved in. He says, "We believe that God created this beautiful earth that we occupy and has commissioned us to be responsible and to take care of it." The Pointe partnered with SunCommon to develop a Community Solar Array on undeveloped land they own as a step toward saving our environment.



**Kai Nybro** is the Community Solar Development Manager at SunCommon Solar Energy Solutions. After studying architecture in college, Kai followed his interests in woodworking and wild spaces around the country: building boats in ME, timber frames in NC, and treehouses in Seattle. Kai returned to his roots in the Hudson Valley in 2006 to settle and start a family, where he combined his construction experience with his interest in environmental issues and ended up in the solar industry in 2008. After ten years, the urgency to implement responsible solutions to climate change has sustained his dedication to solar.



**Nina Orville** is the Director of Solar Programs for Sustainable Westchester. She designs and implements programs to accelerate the adoption of solar energy in Westchester County, including community solar, commercial solar development, and residential solar. Nina also founded Abundant Efficiency, which develops and implements innovative programs to address sustainability challenges and opportunities on behalf of its government, nonprofit, and corporate clients.



**Carol Roig** has worked as a grant writer, communications consultant and program manager focusing on community development, educational reform, energy policy, climate change, health and social services, planning, tourism and the arts. She joined Sullivan County as a Sustainability Analyst in 2017, after six years with the Sullivan Alliance for Sustainable Development. She does educational outreach on energy and climate issues, has worked associated policymaking, and on the Sullivan County's Climate Action Plan with specific GHG reduction targets.



**Stephen Stuart** brings a range of professional experience, from sustainable building materials and practices to renewable energy technologies, curriculum development, emergency management and building codes. He joined the Sullivan County Office of Sustainable Energy in 2017. His work as Sustainability Analyst utilizes his training in LEED for new construction; Net Zero Energy, building envelope and super-insulated homes; Building Analyst training; Passive House design and construction; and the Living Building Challenge.



**Larry Reeger** currently works as the Director of Sustainability and Associate Professor at SUNY Sullivan teaching Green Building and Renewable Energy courses, and promoting on-site wind, geothermal heating and cooling, and a 12-acre, 7,000 panel solar farm, that generates 2 MW per hour, or 50% of the college's energy usage. He has developed and taught over twenty different courses in a synchronous and asynchronous formats and in 2017 was awarded the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.



**Joe C. Simoes** is the Director of Planning for the Town of Clarkstown. He has 19 years' experience in municipal planning, three with the Rockland County Planning Department and 16 with Clarkstown. As Principal Town Planner, Joe directs the Planning Department, and as chair of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Planning Board, he reviews and processes subdivisions, site plans, special permits and zoning changes for the Clarkstown Planning Board and Town Board. For the past eight years, he has lectured at the Rockland Municipal Planning Federation's Certification Courses for new Planning Board members. He also coordinated the development of Clarkstown's 2009 Comprehensive Plan.

***Our sincere thanks to all the excellent presenters, moderators, sponsoring and endorsing organizations, and participants. Thanks also to SunCommon for livestreaming/videotaping this important event, which is available on their Facebook page.***