



GREEN ENERGY  
INSTITUTE  
Lewis & Clark Law School

# TOMORROW'S ENERGY SYSTEM

FEBRUARY 9TH CONFERENCE



“Limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society.” - *Global Warming of 1.5 Degrees Celsius*, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

## ABOUT THE EVENT

***Tomorrow's Energy System*** will discuss the hurdles preventing us from transitioning to a zero-carbon energy future and ways to overcome them. Join the Green Energy Institute at Lewis & Clark Law School as we convene **elected officials, renewable energy industry leaders, policy and advocacy experts, and regulators to explore solutions from a political, business, and policy perspective**. Speakers will touch on opportunities at the federal, regional, and local levels, as we explore innovative changes in technology and economics that may transform the way we generate, transmit, and use energy.

## PRESENTATIONS & PANEL DISCUSSIONS

### 9:30AM - 1.5 Degrees or Bust: The West's Climate Progress?

In October 2018, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a blockbuster report that makes it clear that global temperature increases must not exceed 1.5 degrees Celsius. To reach that goal, emissions must drop by 45% by 2030. The West is not on target to meet these targets. This session will highlight why and how Oregon could play a leading role in decarbonization and energy innovation. ***Presented by GEI founder and director, Melissa Powers.***

### 9:45AM - The Federal Perspective: What Now for Energy and Climate?

For most of 2018, clean energy advocates were focused on the midterm elections. Now that they're over, what can we expect from the U.S. Congress and Trump Administration in terms of climate and energy policy? This moderated discussion with a U.S. representative and senator will explore whether the new Congress can achieve any progress on climate and energy policy. It will also discuss Trump Administration efforts to repeal Obama-era regulations. Finally, the discussion will examine whether west coast political leaders, businesses, and organizations can make progress on climate and energy policy despite national politics. ***Expected speakers: federal legislators moderated by clean energy CEO.***

### 11:00AM - 2019 Legislative Agenda: What can we expect from the NW and the rest of the West?

How did November's election results change the landscape for clean energy? In Oregon, Democrats swept the elections, giving Governor Brown another 4 years and establishing a supermajority in both legislative chambers. A Portland clean energy initiative also passed with a wide margin, demonstrating voter desire for local, renewable energy generation and use. Oregonians also rejected a state ballot initiative that would have made it more difficult to rescind tax breaks and create pollution fees. In Washington, Democrats expanded their majorities in the legislature, but voters rejected a ballot measure to create the country's first carbon fee-and-invest mechanism. Meanwhile, while voters rejected an increased Renewable Portfolio Standard in Arizona, they approved a 50% RPS in Nevada and elected governors in other states who have committed to rapid increases in renewable power. How will these developments affect western energy markets and future legislative efforts? This panel will feature state-level elected officials and local leaders to discuss what's next for the west's clean energy future in the current political landscape. ***Expected speakers: state governors moderated by clean energy CEO.***

### 12:00PM- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission: Past and Present

Since the election of Donald Trump, four new commissioners have been appointed to FERC. How, if at all, has FERC policy changed with the new commissioners? This session will include a moderated discussion with at least one current and one past commissioner. Topics will include grid regionalization efforts, FERC's orders related to demand response and storage, the fate of coal and nuclear power, FERC's relationship with Bonneville Power Administration, and whether FERC expects to play an increased role in western energy markets. ***Expected speakers: current and former FERC commissioners.***

### 1:00PM- Local 100% Renewable Commitments: Realizing the Ambition

Cities account for nearly 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions, and they could play an essential role in counteracting federal administration efforts to rollback Obama Administration climate change rules. The City of Portland and Multnomah County were pioneers in local climate action planning, and they broke new ground when they committed to obtaining 100% of their energy from renewable resources by 2050. Recently, Portland was selected as one of 20 cities to participate in Bloomberg Philanthropies' Climate Challenge. This panel will explore the opportunities and challenges associated with local climate action and 100% renewable energy targets. It will begin with an assessment of local climate action thus far and potential ways to accelerate progress. A moderated discussion will follow with local experts and government officials regarding future actions and how to identify and overcome potential barriers. ***Expected speakers: presentation by leading researchers and philanthropists in local climate action; moderated discussion with local elected officials and experts.***

### 2:45PM- Technical advances, market dynamics, and the policy framework

Technological and market breakthroughs in the clean energy sector have exceeded expectations by leaps and bounds. Wind and solar have reached grid parity with fossil resources, and storage technologies have become efficient and affordable in record time. Electric vehicles, smart meters, and other components of a zero-carbon energy system are also poised for rapid deployment. But the policy framework has not kept pace. This session will highlight the technical progress and explore, through a moderated discussion, how policy can and should change to enable clean energy technologies to break through while maintaining an equitable and affordable energy system. ***Expected speakers: presentation by clean energy CEO; moderated discussion with regulators, storage experts, and clean energy executives.***





## SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Elected officials, business leaders, regulators, and policy advocates came together for *Re-energizing the West*, GEI's 2017 conference. The purpose of the event was to open a discourse about the legislative and economic forces catalyzing a future for clean energy in the West.

The successful convening hosted speakers such as:



Jeff Merkley, U.S.  
Senator for Oregon



Earl Blumenauer, U.S.  
Representative for  
Oregon



Michelle Romero, Deputy  
Director, Green for All



Tom Starrs, Vice President,  
Market Strategy and Policy,  
SunPower Corp.



Eileen Wenger Tutt, Executive  
Director, California Electric  
Transportation Coalition



Jerry McNerney, U.S.  
Representative for  
California



Tarika Powell, Senior  
Research Associate,  
Sightline Institute



Rocky Chavez, California  
Assembly Member, 76th  
Assembly District



Ruchi Sadhir, Energy &  
Climate Change Policy  
Advisor to Oregon Governor  
Kate Brown



Elliot Mainzer, Administrator  
& CEO, Bonneville Power  
Administration



Megan Decker,  
Commissioner to the  
Oregon Public Utility  
Commission



Michael Garland, President  
and Chief Executive Officer,  
Pattern Energy

The well attended audience included more than 250 business leaders, philanthropy organizations, local and regional advocates, media personnel, and regulators. We anticipate similar turnout for the 2019 event, with the addition of federal regulators, research organizations, and energy lawyers.