

# 2nd Annual **RENEWABLE ENERGY LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE**

August 22, 2023 • Houston, TX

**PROGRAM**



**REAL**  
Renewable Energy Alliance Houston



**RICE | BUSINESS**

EXECUTIVE EDUCATION



# AGENDA

**1:00 pm**      **Welcome and Introduction**

**Peter Rodriguez**

Dean, Jones Graduate School of Business, Rice University

**Kay McCall**

Board Chair, Renewable Energy Alliance - Houston

**1:05 pm**      **Keynote**

**William J. (John) Berger**

Chairman, President and CEO, Sunnova Energy International Inc.

**1:20 pm**      **Inflation Reduction Act One Year Later: How's it Going?**

**Greg Matlock**

Global Energy & Resources Industry Tax Leader, Ernst & Young LLP

**1:40 pm**      **Development and Other Investments Post-IRA**

Moderated by: **Jessica Adkins**, Partner, Sidley Austin LLP

**Omar Aboudaher**

Senior Vice President - Development, Leeward Renewable Energy

**Fred Day**

Managing Director - Investments, Brookfield Asset Management

**Doug Moorehead**

COO, Broad Reach Power

**2:25 pm**      **Show Me the Money: An Introduction to the Department of Energy's Loan Program Office**

**Norman Bay**

Head of Energy Regulatory & Enforcement Group, Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP; former Chairman, Commissioner and Director of the Office of Enforcement of FERC (2009-2014)

**Suresh Vasan**

Senior Investment Advisor, U.S. Department of Energy - Loan Programs Office

**2:55 pm**      **Coffee Break**



# AGENDA

**3:10 pm**    **The Big Swings: Transmission, Geothermal and Hydrogen**

Moderated by: **David Daley**, Regional Practice Manager -  
Power Generation, Burns & McDonnell

**Raj Mahagaokar**  
CFO, Grid United

**Gabe Malek**  
Chief of Staff, Fervo Energy

**Emily Wolf**  
Senior Director - West Development Region, Ambient Fuels

**4:00 pm**    **Talent: The Fuel of the Future**

Moderated by: **Todd Auwarter**, Consultant, Egon Zehnder

**Marie Bergeron**  
Director - Career Development for Experienced Hires, Jones Graduate  
School of Business, Rice University

**Martha Richards**  
Director - Talent Engagement, Pattern Energy

**Nancy Zakhour**  
Chief Commercial Officer, Clean Energy Services

**4:30 pm**    **Leading Through Change: A Fireside Chat**

**Sandhya Ganapathy**  
CEO, EDP Renewables North America

**Anastasiya Zavyalova**  
Associate Professor of Strategic Management, Jones Graduate School of  
Business, Rice University

**5:00 pm**    **Closing Remarks**

**Kay McCall**  
Board Chair, Renewable Energy Alliance - Houston

**6:30pm**    **Adjourn**

## SPEAKER BIOS



### **Peter Rodriguez**

#### **Dean, Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business, Rice University**

Peter Rodriguez has been dean of the Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business at Rice University since 2016. During that time, he has doubled MBA enrollment, grown the tenure-track faculty by more than 35%, introduced the first online graduate degree at Rice, launched the undergraduate business major, renovated McNair Hall, including a new public art project, and helped the Rice Business community survive Hurricane Harvey and grow stronger during COVID-19. His tenure as dean has also ushered in a new Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, a relationship with The Consortium for Graduate Studies in Management and a rise in underrepresented minority students.

An economist and professor of strategic management, Peter also teaches MBA classes on leadership. He is presently serving a three-year term on The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Houston Branch board of directors. Peter is also a board member for three nonprofit organizations: Good Reason Houston, Strake Jesuit College Preparatory, and Texas 2036.

Peter holds an M.A. and Ph.D. in economics from Princeton University and a B.S. in economics from Texas A&M University. He came to Rice from the University of Virginia's Darden School of Business where he was a professor, senior associate dean for MBA Programs and chief diversity officer. He also worked for several years as an associate in the Global Energy Group at JP Morgan Chase.



### **Kay McCall**

#### **Board Chair, Renewable Energy Alliance - Houston**

C. Kay McCall serves as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Renewable Energy Alliance - Houston. In this position, Kay provides strategic and tactical guidance to the organization. She is passionate about supporting Houston's continued leadership in energy.

A senior energy industry executive with close to two decades of experience in the renewable energy industry, Kay has worked extensively in the conventional power, oil and gas services, engineering and construction, and manufacturing industries. For eight years, Kay served as President, CEO and board member of Noble Environmental Power, LLC, a wind energy independent power producer which operated windfarms in both Texas and New York. In addition to her tenure at Noble, Kay served as an executive at GE, Enron and Technip. She began her career as a trial lawyer in Houston.

Kay currently serves as a director on both public and private boards, and advises investors in the energy industry. She also serves on advisory boards at Rice University and the University of Houston.



### **William J. (John) Berger**

#### **Chairman, President and CEO, Sunnova Energy International Inc.**

John founded Sunnova in 2012 and has since then served as Chief Executive Officer, President and Chairman of the Board. With more than two decades of experience in the electric power industry, John is an energy entrepreneur who has always supported free market competition, consumer choice and the advancement of energy technology to power energy independence. Before Sunnova, John served as Founder and Chief Executive Officer at SunCap Financial, a residential solar service provider. He also founded Standard Renewable Energy, a provider and installer of renewable energy and energy-efficient products and services.

John received his Masters of Business Administration from Harvard Business School and graduated cum laude from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering.

# SPEAKER BIOS



## **Greg Matlock**

**Partner and Global Energy & Resources Tax Leader, Ernst & Young**

Greg Matlock is a Partner at Ernst & Young in Houston and serves as the Global Energy & Resources Tax Leader and a number of other roles. Greg is a lawyer by background and focuses his time on helping clients evaluate, structure, finance and plan for energy-related investments throughout the entire energy value chain (mining and metals, oil and gas, power and utilities, and renewable and energy transition related assets).

Greg has worked as a lawyer at Norton Rose Fulbright and as a Partner at Mayer Brown, and he teaches Energy Taxation and Energy Transition at the University of Houston Law School. He is a frequent speaker and author on energy-related matters.



## **Jessica Adkins**

**Partner, Sidley Austin LLP**

A nationally recognized leader in the renewable energy finance and transactional space, Jessica Adkins represents power, renewable and other energy industry stakeholders to develop, finance and invest in energy projects and businesses. In addition to her project finance and M&A practice, she advises financial institutions, private equity funds, sponsors, and trading and marketing companies on hedges and other complex commodity transactions. As a trained engineer, Jessica combines her legal advice with a deep understanding of the

energy markets and her clients' businesses.



## **Omar Aboudaher**

**Senior Vice President - Development, Leeward Renewable Energy**

Mr. Omar Aboudaher is Sr. Vice President of Development at Leeward Renewable Energy (LRE). In this role, he heads the company's development activities in the Southern and Western US, where he leads a team of developers and is responsible for a 10+ GW portfolio of projects. He has more than 25 years of experience in the power generation sector, including engineering, development, and financing of renewable energy projects worldwide. Prior to joining Leeward, Omar developed renewable and thermal power projects at

First Solar, NRG, BP, Calpine, and Enron International.

Omar holds a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering from the University of Houston.



# SPEAKER BIOS



## **Fred Day**

### **Managing Director - Investments, Brookfield Asset Management**

Frederick Day is a Managing Director in Brookfield's Infrastructure Group. In this role, Fred leads the legal activities of the Infrastructure Group in the U.S. and has legal oversight over Brookfield's infrastructure credit investments and capital markets activities.

Prior to joining Brookfield in 2015, Fred was an associate with a leading law firm. Fred holds a Juris Doctor degree from the SMU Dedman School of Law, a Master of Business Administration degree from IE Business School and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Houston.



## **Doug Moorehead**

### **COO, Broad Reach Power**

Doug Moorehead currently serves as Chief Operating Officer of Broad Reach Power, one of the largest standalone energy storage Independent Power Producers in the United States. Previously, Doug served as President and Chief Technology Officer of FlexGen, a veteran owned and operated technology company of hybrid power equipment and software power generation products for the oil & gas, marine, mining & industrial sectors.

Doug started his corporate career as Director of Business Development for A123 Systems, a company founded on technology and patents Doug developed and filed during his graduate research at MIT. At A123 Systems, Doug's market focus was aviation, electric vehicles, and utility scale energy storage product lines. A123 went on to have a \$1.5B initial public offering in 2009.

Prior to this he served as a Naval Special Warfare Officer (SEAL) for nearly 10 years. During this time, he led an 18 SEAL unit deployed in flooded submersibles, launched from submarines and used by SEALs to complete clandestine underwater infrastructure demolitions. In Iraq, Doug was charged as Task Unit Commander to lead the 58-person Special Operations Wing during eleven days of intense urban warfare, in Najaf. For his actions in Iraq, Doug was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor.

Doug received his S.B. in Chemistry with distinction from the U.S. Naval Academy (1996). He also received an S.M. in Materials Science and Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2002) and his MBA from Harvard (2007). He is a member of the 2017 Class of Henry Crown Fellows within the Aspen Global Leadership Network at the Aspen Institute.

# SPEAKER BIOS



## **Norman Bay**

**Head of Energy Regulatory & Enforcement Group, Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP; former Chairman, Commissioner and Director of the Office of Enforcement of FERC (2009-2014)**

Norman C. Bay is a partner in the Corporate and Financial Services Department, Chair of the Energy Regulatory & Enforcement Practice Group, and Co-Chair of the Energy & Commodities Practice Group. Norman advises clients on a range of energy market issues, including enforcement and compliance, policy and ratemaking, mergers and acquisitions, and infrastructure development.

Norman was Director of the Office of Enforcement at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) from 2009 to 2014, before becoming a Commissioner and Chairman of the Commission. He has extensive litigation experience, as earlier in his career he spent more than a decade at the U.S. Department of Justice, where he was an Assistant U.S. Attorney and then the U.S. Attorney for the District of New Mexico.

In 2021, Norman was appointed to serve as a member of the Secretary of Energy Advisory Board, which provides advice and recommendations to the Secretary of the DOE on energy policies and research and development activities.



## **Suresh Vasani**

**Senior Investment Advisor, U.S. Department of Energy - Loan Programs Office**

Suresh Vasani has held various roles in capital advisory and principal investing in his 24+ year career. He is currently a Senior Investment Advisor at the Department of Energy's Loan Program Office (LPO). He was previously a Partner at Energy Power Partners (EPP) responsible for general investment management and a member of the investment committee. He recently led the sale of EPP's RNG business to NextEra for \$1.2BN yielding significant return outcomes for its

LPs, which include TIAA CREF and Eversource.

Prior to joining Lazard, Suresh spent over 12 years at GE Energy Financial Services, the energy principal investing arm of GE Capital, responsible for risk management and business development functions. Suresh has also held other principal investing and business development roles at XL Fleet, Cargill, and BHP Billiton. Suresh started his career at Enron, holding junior level positions in energy trading and principal investing.

In his career as a principal investor, Suresh successfully originated, underwrote and closed several billion dollars of transactions with simultaneous sell downs to investor groups across the energy and infrastructure value chain, including Power & Renewables, Fleet Electrification and Oil & Gas Infrastructure. He has global exposure, having worked overseas for ~9 years in London, the Hague, and Dubai.

Suresh received his Bachelors in Business Administration from the McCombs School of Business at The University of Texas at Austin, with a focus on finance and a concentration on electrical engineering. He resides in Houston and is married with three children.

# SPEAKER BIOS



## David Daley

### Regional Practice Manager - Power Generation, Burns & McDonnell

David is a regional practice manager for power generation at Burns & McDonnell. He has more than 28 years of experience developing and managing contracted and merchant utility-scale power and cogeneration natural gas combined-cycle facilities, as well as negotiating energy supply and off-take agreements with utilities and large power and steam users. David currently leads efforts to support utilities, industrial customers and private power developers and owners with a full scope of technical services, ranging from project conceptualization and permitting through engineering design, procurement and construction services for new generation and existing plant retrofit projects. He earned a Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering and his MBA from the University of Houston.



## Raj Mahagaokar

### CFO, Grid United

Raj Mahagaokar oversees Grid United's financial activities and helps drive strategy and commercialization for all of Grid United's transmission development activities.

Previously, Raj was a Principal of Riverstone Holdings LLC. At Riverstone, he invested in and managed public and private portfolio companies in the decarbonization, power and oil & gas sectors and served on numerous boards.

Prior to joining Riverstone, Raj was a co-founder and Partner of Marka, LLC from 2012 to 2014. Marka explored growth equity investment opportunities in East Africa. Earlier in his career, Raj was an investment professional at Silver Lake Kraftwerk providing growth equity to tech-enabled energy and resource companies. Raj began his career in the Investment Banking Division at Goldman Sachs in the Natural Resources group and later in the Urban Investment Group, a principal investing strategy.

Raj received his B.A. in Mathematical Economic Analysis from Rice University.



## Gabe Malek

### Chief of Staff, Fervo Energy

Gabe Malek is Chief of Staff at Fervo Energy, a next-generation geothermal power developer leveraging proven oil and gas drilling technology to deliver 24/7 carbon-free electricity. Gabe oversees Fervo's Inflation Reduction Act compliance, among other special projects.

Prior to joining Fervo, Gabe served as Deputy Chief of Staff to Mark Carney, Co-Chair of the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ) and former Governor of the Bank of England. In this role, Gabe devoted particular attention to GFANZ's energy transition work, providing leading financial institutions with guidance on the energy transition. Gabe began his career at Environmental Defense Fund, where he helped formalize the organization's engagement with the financial sector on clean energy and climate risk. He holds a BA from Yale University.



# SPEAKER BIOS



## **Emily Wolf**

### **Senior Director - West Development Region, Ambient Fuels**

Emily brings over 10 years of experience in investment banking and project development in the energy sector across the power generation, petrochemicals and synthetic fuels sectors. Emily is responsible for leading the strategy, development, and execution for Ambient Fuels' western region.

Before joining Ambient Fuels, Emily was a Director of Business Development at Proman, a global, vertically integrated petrochemical and energy company.

While at Proman, she led the development of an 80 MW electrolyzer project in Canada and a 200,000 MTPA bio-methanol project in Texas, including the waste-to-methanol and electrolyzer components. In addition, Emily's role included greenfield development of natural gas-derived petrochemical projects, corporate strategy and project financing.

Prior to Proman, Emily held roles in investment banking at Barclays, J.P. Morgan and Merit Capital Advisors, where she worked on municipal financings for public power utilities and M&A transactions for power generation assets.

Emily holds a Bachelor of Science in Economics (concentration in Finance) from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania, where she competed on the Women's Varsity Tennis team.



## **Todd Auwarter**

### **Consultant, Egon Zehnder**

Todd Auwarter is a leader at the intersection of energy and private equity in Egon Zehnder's Energy Practice and is active in the firm's Industrial, Board and Private Equity practices. Based in Houston, he assists clients across all sectors of the energy industry, including upstream, midstream, downstream, oil service and equipment, power and renewables, and energy technology. Todd also conducts management appraisals and provides accelerated integration support to transitioning executives.

Prior to joining Egon Zehnder, Todd was a Principal with Bain & Company, where he developed particular expertise in upstream and oilfield services and led numerous private equity due diligence assignments. Todd began his career at the Corporate Executive Board, helping the firm develop new products and services. Todd has a BA in public policy from Brown University and an MBA with concentrations in strategy and finance from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. Outside of work, Todd enjoys traveling and spending time outdoors with his wife and two sons. He and his wife support the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center through fundraising and volunteer efforts. Todd is also a leader in the Kellogg Alumni Club of Houston.

# SPEAKER BIOS



## **Marie Bergeron**

**Director - Career Development for Experienced Hires, Jones Graduate School of Business, Rice University**

Marie Bergeron serves as the Director of Career Development for experienced hires - alumni and EMBA's - in Rice Business School. She has enjoyed a long career in academia and career management consulting, including 25+ years in the areas of executive coaching, outplacement, entrepreneurship, and corporate career development. Marie holds fellow practitioner status as a Certified Career Management Professional through ICCL. Ms. Bergeron was a professor of

Marketing in the MBA program at UST for 20+ years. She served on the board of the Houston Chapter of Prospanica for 15 years and served as ex officio board member for the GHWCC-Greater Houston Women's Chamber of Commerce. Marie holds a B.S. and an M.S. in education and counseling from Louisiana State University, as well as an MBA from the Harvard Business School.



## **Martha Richards**

**Director - Talent Engagement, Pattern Energy**

Martha is a certified HR professional with over 13 years of experience in a variety of human resources functions. She worked in both education and oil & gas industries before transitioning into the renewables sector in 2017 as a HR Business Partner at EDPR North America. Martha joined Pattern Energy in 2020 and serves as the Director of Talent Engagement on the People & Culture team. She has directly supported a variety of client groups including engineering, construction, operations, business and project development, IT, and general and

administrative teams. Martha is also active in SHRM (Society for Human Resources Management) and served as a board member on the Texas Bay Area SHRM board for many years. Over the course of her career, she's developed a strong focus on employee engagement strategies through open feedback loops, DE&I, talent programs and leadership enablement initiatives, with a goal to make companies the best place to work for all employees. She is passionate the mission of the renewable energy industry to change the world, and how employees directly impact that mission. In her free time, she loves to stay up too late reading, cook new recipes and spend time with her husband and two young daughters.



## **Nancy Zakhour**

**Chief Commercial Officer, Clean Energy Services**

As Chief Commercial Officer, Nancy Zakhour brings extensive experience in strategy and business development in the energy industry. She previously worked as an Investment Banker at Piper Sandler in the Energy & Power group and as the Business Development Manager for Oxy Low Carbon Ventures, where she supported developing low-carbon technologies. Nancy's completion engineering expertise earned her industry recognition including the SPE Regional Completions Optimization and Technology Award and Hart's Energy

# SPEAKER BIOS

40 under Forty Award. Nancy's career also includes engineering and advisory roles with Callon Petroleum and Schlumberger in North America and international locations. She holds a bachelor's degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering, an MBA, and is a certified Project Management Professional. Nancy is an active member of industry organizations, including the Rice Alliance Advisory Board. She also teaches MBA courses as a Corporate Fellow at UHD.



**Sandhya Ganapathy**  
CEO, EDP Renewables North America

Sandhya Ganapathy is the Chief Executive Officer for EDP Renewables North America (EDPR NA) and a member of the Management Team of EDP Renewables (EDPR), the fourth largest renewable energy producer in the world. Sandhya joined EDPR in 2012 as Head of Investments and M&A North America. From 2017 to her CEO appointment in early 2022, she served as Global Head of Investments and M&A, responsible for M&A, investment and capital allocation decisions, and asset rotation for EDPR across all of its geographies. She was

also a member of EDPR's investment committee. Sandhya has extensive experience in renewable energy evaluations as well as leading acquisitions and evaluation of investments enabling geographical and asset class diversification. She ran EDPR's asset rotation or self-financing strategy, thereby being at the helm of one of the company's core income generators and critical enablers of future growth.

Prior to joining EDPR, Sandhya worked as an investment banker for more than a decade with regional and global banks across multiple geographies. She holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Carnegie Mellon and is a Chartered Accountant from India.



**Anastasiya Zavyalova**  
Associate Professor of Strategic Management, Jones Graduate School of Business, Rice University

Anastasiya is an associate professor of strategic management at the Jesse H. Jones Graduate School of Business, Rice University, an International Research Fellow at the Oxford University Centre for Corporate Reputation, and an Associate Editor at the Academy of Management Review. She received her Ph.D. in strategic management from the University of Maryland, Robert H. Smith School of Business. Anastasiya's research focuses on socially responsible

and irresponsible organizational actions that build, damage, and restore social approval assets, such as reputation and celebrity. Anastasiya has taught reputation management, ESG issues in strategy, organization theory, strategic management, and social entrepreneurship courses.

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