



Summit Agenda & Bios

Monday, March 14

- 9:30-10:30** **Check-In (coffee/tea/water service is available throughout the conference)**
- 10:30-10:50** **Welcome and Attendee Introductions – Sharon Pillar and Ron Celentano** *Keystone D,E*
- 10:50-11:50** **PA Solar Overview and Legislative Updates for increasing renewables goals, bonding requirements and community solar and discussion on advocacy strategies**
- Ron Celentano – President, PASSIA and Celentano Energy Services
 - Sharon Pillar – Renewables Work for PA (RWPA) and Exec. Dir., PA Solar Center
 - Bruce Burcat – Executive Director, MAREC
 - Scott Elias, Director, State Affairs, SEIA
- 11:50-12:45** **Lunch** *Keystone A,B,&C*
- 12:45 – 1:40** **Aquavoltaics: Developing Floating Solar**
- Moderator, Matt Tripoli, Director, Project Development, CS Energy
- Doug Berry, CEO & President, Solar Renewable Energy, LLC
 - Jason Wert, P.E., BCEE, Market Leader, Renewables and Energy Production, RETTEW
 - Chris Savastano, Managing Director of Development, NJR Clean Energy Ventures
- 1:45- 2:45** **Jobs, Workforce Training and Increasing Diversity in the Solar Industry**
- Moderator, Micah Gold-Markel, Owner, Solar States
- Cherie Brooks, Executive Director, Power52
 - Jackie Robinson, Lead Instructor, Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA)
 - Alison Diehl, Director, Clean Energy Center, Pennsylvania College of Technology
- 2:45-2:55** **BREAK**

Speaker Bios (in order of appearance)



Ron Celentano – President, PASSIA and Celentano Energy Services

Ron Celentano is a solar energy industry consultant with Celentano Energy Services (CES). He started working in the solar energy field over 40 years ago, with more than 25 years focused on solar PV. Generally, his experience covers technical and policy related fields, including system design, commissioning, testing, performance monitoring installation; project oversight representing the customer; expert witness regarding technical assessments of PV systems and products; installer/code official training, curriculum development, rebate program administration. He's trained hundreds of solar PV installers, and has conducted many teacher workshops on solar PV curriculum development for secondary/HS education across PA, and presented many seminars to engineers/architects on the subject of solar energy technologies. He has also worked on solar PV projects in Africa and Central America, designed/oversaw installations, conducted diagnostics and trained installers. He has been involved with helping shape most all of Pennsylvania's state laws and regulations in solar energy over the past two decades, including net metering, interconnection, PA's solar share requirement, closing the borders and many other policy related issues. Currently, he is President of Pennsylvania Solar & Storage Industries Assoc. (PASSIA) and V.P. of Mid-Atlantic Solar & Storage Industries Assoc. (MSSIA) for Pennsylvania, and he holds a BS in Physics and MS in the field of Mechanical Engineering.



Sharon Pillar – Renewables Work for PA (RW4PA) and Executive Director & Founder, PA Solar Center

Sharon Pillar is the co-leader of the Renewables Work for Pennsylvania (RW4PA), a coalition of nearly 100 renewable energy companies working together to advance policy in the state along with PASSIA and MAREC. Sharon is also the founder and executive director of the Pennsylvania Solar Center, a nonprofit that works to expand the benefits of solar through technical assistance to nonprofits and businesses, savvy communications and outreach, and solar policy reform. Sharon owns the Hot Earth Collaborative LLC, a consultancy she started in 2013 to advance clean energy markets that transform our communities, economy, and environment. Since 2016 she has also consulted for Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2) as their Pennsylvania Advocate working with businesses across the state to advocate for clean energy and served as a co-facilitator for the PA Department of Environmental Protection's Finding PA Solar Future project. Previously, Sharon worked for seven years at PennFuture, where she worked as the Project Manager for solar programs and as a climate change advocate. Prior to her work in clean energy, Sharon worked in the pharmaceutical research field for 15 years. She holds an M.A. in Earth Literacy from St. Mary's-of-the-Woods College, Terre Haute, IN, and a B.A. in Psychology from Mansfield State University, Mansfield, PA.



Bruce Burcat – Executive Director, MAREC

Bruce Burcat is an attorney with over thirty-years' experience in the utility and energy regulatory fields. He is responsible for MAREC Action's efforts to promote the growth and development of renewable energy in its ten jurisdictions. Mr. Burcat joined the Mid-Atlantic Renewable Energy Coalition in 2010 as its Executive Director and later transitioned to heading MAREC Action in his current position as Executive Director. This organizational change has allowed him to focus more on direct advocacy for MAREC Action's utility-scale wind and solar companies in the states in the MAREC Action region. Prior to assuming his roles in the renewable energy industry, Mr. Burcat served for nearly fifteen years as the Executive Director of the Delaware Public Service Commission. He was also an attorney for the New Jersey Division of the Ratepayer Advocate, managing the Division's water and wastewater utility cases and represented the Advocate in energy cases, and prior to that served as a Senior Rate Attorney for General Waterworks Management and Service Company. Mr. Burcat is a graduate of the University of Delaware. He received his Juris Doctor degree from Rutgers University School of Law – Camden and a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree in Taxation from the Villanova University School of Law.



Scott Elias, Director, State Affairs, SEIA

As SEIA's Director of State Affairs, Mid-Atlantic, Scott manages and supports SEIA's policy efforts in a number of states, including Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Washington, D.C and West Virginia. Originally from Oceanside, New York, Scott graduated with High Honors from Wesleyan University's College of Social Studies, a rigorous multidisciplinary major focusing on Economics, History, Government, and Political and Social Theory. Always passionate about tackling climate change, Scott's roots in the clean energy industry began in high school when he proposed that his school district invest in solar. This passion continued at Wesleyan, where he organized a Climate Change conference that laid out organizing, technological, and policy

solutions to the climate crisis and explored how taking action on climate change can improve social justice, create good jobs, grow business, and enhance national security. In his spare time, Scott enjoys hanging out with his rescue dog, Rigby, and exploring the outdoors, sports, HBO, Netflix, and rooting for the Green Bay Packers.



Matt Tripoli, Director, Project Development, CS Energy

Matt Tripoli works on the development of commercial solar and energy storage projects for CS Energy. Prior to joining CS, Matt developed distributed generation projects for IMG Energy Solutions throughout Pennsylvania, developed various renewable energy projects for PPL, and worked in offshore oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico for Chevron. Matt is a professionally licensed engineer in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, has an MBA from Lehigh University, and a BS in Electrical Engineering from Penn State. Matt lives and works in Allentown.



Doug Berry, CEO & President, Solar Renewable Energy, LLC

Mr. Berry is the CEO and President of Achieve Energy Solutions, LLC (AES) and Solar Renewable Energy, LLC (SRE). Mr. Berry has over 35 years' experience in providing a wider variety of energy solutions, solar energy systems, healthcare, and real estate consulting and development services. His experience includes the areas of energy solution services, capital investment and financing, development services, merger and acquisition and strategic planning. Mr. Berry's experience includes oversight/owner of AES which is licensed in 8 states and provides services to clients for energy procurement, lighting efficiency projects and Demand Response. Has has developed, managed, and monitored over 250 commercial Solar Energy Systems up to 8.9MW in size and generating over 100MWhs of output annually in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Regions of the United States. SRE maintains a majority equity ownership in a large number of these solar energy systems. SRE has constructed ground mount, roof mount, parking garage, and floating solar arrays. SRE has partnered with lenders and other capital sources to provide project financing to credit qualified customers through Power Purchase Agreements, Power Service Agreements and Tax Credit Equity Financing. He is highly active in the Solar Renewable Energy Credit (SREC) futures exchange market. SRE is a PJM GATs Aggregator and Broker that sells SRECSs for 75MWhs of solar output to public utilities in PA, NJ, MD, OH, MA, CT, DE and D.C. Mr. Berry was Partner at KPMG, LLC for over 20 years, Partner-in-charge of the Senior Living Consulting Practice nationally, Partner at ParenteBeard, LLC for 7 years, and Partner-in-charge of the Healthcare and Senior Living Consulting Practice.

Chris Savastano, Managing Director of Development, NJR Clean Energy Ventures

Chris Savastano has been the Managing Director of Development at NJR Clean Energy Ventures for nearly 12 years. Prior to NJR Resources, he worked as the Sr. Director C&I Solutions at Comverge, Director of Corporate Strategy at PSEG and Director Development and Financial Services at PSEG Energy Technologies. Chris has an MBA in Corporate Finance from Fairleigh Dickinson, Florham Campus and an BSME, Mechanical Engineering from New Jersey Institute of Technology.



Jason Wert, P.E., BCEE, Market Leader, Renewables and Energy Production, RETTEW

“Jason Wert is RETTEW’s Market Leader for in the Renewables and Energy Production markets. His responsibilities include application of new technologies and processes to unconventional infrastructure challenges, development of new clients and markets, and project oversight of critical portfolio projects. He has led RETTEW’s efforts in the deployment of Floating Solar for our clients and communities and is a registered Professional Engineer in seventeen states.”



Micah Gold-Markel, Owner, Solar States

Micah founded Solar States in 2008. Solar States is the on ramp for inner city residents looking to find jobs in the solar industry. As a result of our founding ethos, we have a dual mission to install solar and educate the next generation of solar installers. We have completed over 800 projects for residential and commercial clients, impacted hundreds of students through our curriculum and job placement, and hired a number of these students ourselves. In 2008, not long after we'd heard Van Jones speak about the coming Green Collar Economy at the Academy of Natural Sciences, we launched with a dual-mission to educate *and* install. We knew that, in order to accomplish our objective of making the rise of solar a benefit to ALL in our communities, we had to design a business model that wasn't industry standard. The business model of Solar States is to 1) train and hire locally, 2) treat our people well, and 3) make solar accessible to all.



Jackie Robinson, Lead Instructor, Energy Coordinating Agency (ECA)

Jackie Robinson helps train about 300 people each year to do weatherization, solar installation, and energy audits at the Energy Coordinating Agency, **In March 2010**, ECA opened the Knight Green Jobs Training Center to prepare unemployed/underemployed young people, returning citizens, veterans, and older workers looking to re-tool their skills to enter the growing clean energy workforce. ECA offers industry-driven training that includes classroom theory, hands-on training, and field experience. We equip our graduates with portable and stackable credentials recognized nationwide, and are committed to diversifying the building and energy trades. Our Energy Auditor and Solar PV Installer programs are accredited by the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC), and in 2013 ECA's Training Center was recognized as IREC's 3i Clean Energy Training Program of the Year.



Alison Diehl, Director, Clean Energy Center, Pennsylvania College of Technology

Alison Diehl is the Director of the Clean Energy Center at Pennsylvania College of Technology, which offers industry-aligned clean energy workforce training and credentials in the U.S. Mid-Atlantic region. Alison brings over 12 years of expertise in training and workforce development specific to the building performance sector and spearheaded efforts to achieve training program accreditation through IREC – the Interstate Renewable Energy Council. She works directly with the US Dept of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program in Pennsylvania to develop creative strategies to attract and retain a diverse pipeline of new energy efficiency workers. She is a member of the PA Weatherization Policy Advisory Council, the National Weatherization Trainers Consortium, and the Crew Leader Scheme Committee for US DOE's National Guidelines for Home Energy Professionals.



Cherie Brooks, Executive Director, Power52 Foundation

Cherie Brooks is Visionary Co-Founder, President & CEO of Power52 Foundation (Power52, Inc). Under Cherie's guidance and vision, Power52 Foundation launched its first Private Career School in 2017, Power52 Energy Institute Baltimore City. The Institute's curriculum is accredited by the National Center for Construction, Education, and Research (NCCER). Power52 Energy Institute is the first clean energy private career school in the State of Maryland to be approved by The Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC). Power52 Foundation is one of two non-profits to ever receive approval from the Maryland Higher Education Commission to own and operate a private career school in the State of Maryland. Mrs. Brooks has obtained her Master Trainer credentials from NCCER as well. Training programs are currently offered in both Howard and Baltimore Counties with future programs being developed in the British Virgin Island, Florida, and Arizona. Prior to Power52, Cherie served as the Executive Director of Prosperity Pail Ministry Works. Under Cherie's leadership, Prosperity Pail worked to provide STEM centers for local schools to introduce youth to renewable and clean technologies. Before launching into the 501(c)3 world, Cherie worked in the wireless industry with direct negotiation of contracts, project management, and site acquisition services for fortune 500 companies, including Verizon and AT&T. She has sited and managed over 200 telecom sites and negotiated and oversaw each site through leasing to construction milestones. Cherie managed subcontractors/site acquisition specialists on all project phases (leasing, zoning, compliance, A&E, and Regulatory) on AT&T's LTE Project as well as Verizon's New Site /Raw Land Builds. Mrs. Brooks attended Bowie State University for undergrad and is an active member of Alpha Nu Omega Sorority, Inc. as well as a member of Jack & Jill of America, Columbia, MD Chapter where she has held various chair positions during her seven year tenure.



Annika Colston, President & Founder, AC Power

Annika Colston founded AC Power to bring unique vision to solar project development on landfill and brownfield sites. She passionately leads AC Power with the goal of improving the local environment for future generations by turning obstacles into opportunities. Annika has been developing alternative energy projects for over two decades and has experience across all aspects of project development. Annika's most recent experience includes Vice President at PV Navigator where she originated and developed over 50 MW of solar projects on landfills and brownfields and President of C2i Methane where she developed and sold a portfolio of landfill gas to energy projects. Ms. Colston has worked on solar, landfill gas, anaerobic digestion, coal mine methane, hydropower, and energy efficiency projects. A pioneer in carbon credit markets, both compliance and voluntary markets, Annika was responsible for sourcing, developing and marketing the first ever climate change project under the Kyoto Protocol to receive carbon credits. She has been innovating ever since. Ms. Colston holds a Masters of City Planning from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Environmental Studies from Boston University.



Bryan Wehler, President and CEO ARM Group

Mr. Wehler is the President and CEO of Hershey-based ARM Group and has completed dozens of designs and permits for C&I and utility-scale solar projects throughout the Mid-Atlantic Region over the last 20+ years. Mr. Wehler led the design-build team for the successful completion of the award-winning 1MW solar project at the Country Meadows Retirement Community in Frederick, MD. Mr. Wehler specializes in completing solar projects at challenging sites, such as historical mining sites, landfills, and other brownfield sites. Mr. Wehler developed the patented design of a first of its kind solar system integrated into the face of a retaining wall at a landfill in South Hadley, Massachusetts. This project received the Solid Waste Association of North America (SWANA) *Excellence Award* for Landfill Re-Use. Mr. Wehler is a licensed Professional Engineer in PA, MA, OH, CT, KY, RI, WV and a licensed Professional Geologist in PA. He is an instrument-rated private pilot and enjoys mountain biking, hunting, surfing, snowboarding and golf. He lives with his wife and three children, in Mechanicsburg, PA.



Bobby Hughes, Executive Director, Eastern PA Coalition for Abandoned Mine Reclamation (EPCAMR)

Bobby Hughes has 27 years of experience in abandoned mine land reclamation, water pollution control technologies, environmental education, and capacity building in coalfield communities throughout Northeastern & Northcentral PA. He is a coalition builder, grant writer, and grant administrator, coordinator of 24 State-wide Conferences on Abandoned Mine Reclamation, author of an activity/coloring book for youth on EPCAMR's work, an e-book on our AMD Environmental Education Programs, and a Cornell University Press publication on Civic Ecology. He is currently working with EPCAMR Staff to advocate for renewable energy projects on mine lands related to solar and the further development of a GIS Tool for siting potential solar projects on mine lands across PA, geothermal projects utilizing underground mine pool water, rare earth elements recovery, pump storage of underground mine pool water, and implementation of green infrastructure best management practices in coalfield communities.



Julian Boggs, Manager, Regulatory and Policy Affairs, Key Capture Energy

At Key Capture Energy, Julian Boggs works to develop incentive and procurement structures state programs to support front-of-the-meter energy storage systems. Prior to working at KCE, Julian was the state policy director for the US Energy Storage Association (now part of American Clean Power) where he advanced energy storage policy in state legislatures and utility commissions in key states across the country. Prior to that, Julian was the policy director for the Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance (KEEA) in Pennsylvania where he helped secure that state's extension of utility energy efficiency programs and establish the use of Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) in Pennsylvania. Julian also was a leading voice on energy policy in Harrisburg, the state capitol. He has been an advocate for clean energy policies since 2009 and has a bachelor's degree from Colorado College.



Mike Borgatti, Vice President, RTO Services & Regulatory Affairs, Gable Associates

Mr. Borgatti has over 14 years of energy industry experience and leads Gabel Associates' RTO Services team. He is an expert on the complex, technical operations of RTOs and has been a leader in the development of RTO rules related to capacity, energy, and other structural issues. He frequently develops position papers, analyses, briefs, and provides expert testimony at the RTOs, FERC, and state utility commissions. He identifies the impact of RTO technical complexities on the business plans of his clients and helps to evaluate the risks, costs, and revenue implications associated with tariff changes. He also works on project development and risk analysis related to generation interconnection, merchant transmission, and credit issues.



Tim Burdis, Sr. Manager of State Policy Solutions, PJM Interconnection LLC

As senior manager of state policy solutions, Burdis manages a team of professionals who endeavor to harmonize emerging state electricity policies with wholesale market design and transmission system planning policies. His organization specifically focuses on: offshore wind development; clean energy development; resource adequacy evolution; grid modernization; and, grid security maintenance. Before his current post, Burdis served as the business operations manager to PJM's General Counsel / Senior Vice President of Law, Compliance and External Relations. Here he managed a portfolio on matters relating to corporate governance, regulatory filings, development of policy and messaging, and long-term corporate strategy. Prior, Burdis served as manager of policy analysis & strategy, managing a team of economists focused on the outreach and strategy development for state government engagement, focusing on policy assessment, market design and transmission planning. Additionally, he managed PJM's engagement with the Organization of PJM States, Inc. (OPSI) and its interaction with the company's Executive Team and Board of Managers. Burdis started his career as an engineer working in PJM's markets and operations divisions. He is a master's candidate at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. He holds a Master of Science in Engineering from West Virginia University and a Bachelor of Science from Lebanon Valley College.



Nicole Sitaraman, Deputy Director, Office of Public Participation, FERC

Nicole Sitaraman serves as Deputy Director of the Office of Public Participation at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Nicole has extensive experience in clean energy policy, consumer and civil rights advocacy and stakeholder engagement. Prior to joining FERC, she served as Vice President of External Affairs and Policy at Sustainable Capital Advisors, a Black-owned financial advisory and consulting firm dedicated to connecting capital to communities for inclusive sustainable infrastructure projects. Prior to joining Sustainable Capital Advisors, Nicole was a Senior Manager of Public Policy at Sunrun, Inc., the nation's largest residential solar, battery storage and energy management services provider.

Her work at Sunrun followed several years of service as an Assistant People's Counsel in the Office of the People's Counsel for the District of Columbia where she was the chief advisor on local, regional and federal clean energy policy on behalf of DC ratepayers. She began working on energy issues after serving as an attorney at one of the nation's leading civil rights litigation firms. Nicole has been featured in such publications as *Forbes*, *Utility Dive*, *CleanTechnica*, *PV Magazine*, *Solar Power World* and *the AFRO*. She serves on the Advisory Board of the Yale Center for Business and the Environment and as a member of the District of Columbia Commission on Climate Change and Resilience. Nicole is a first-gen college graduate, earning her Bachelor of Arts degree in English Language and Literature at Yale University in 2000 and J.D. at Boston University School of Law in 2004.



Michael Roth, Policy Director, PA Department of Agriculture

Michael Roth graduated from the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School for Public and International Affairs. He then served as a Resilience AmeriCorps VISTA in the City of Pittsburgh, focusing on disaster preparedness. He continued a career in public service as a William Penn Fellow with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture. Michael is now the Policy Director at the Department and works on numerous topics in agriculture including topics such as climate change, hemp, and food security.



Caroline Owens, Solar Shepherd, Owens Family Farm and Board Member, American Solar Grazing Association (ASGA)

Caroline Owens and her husband David raise Katahdin sheep in Sunbury, Pennsylvania. They have been sheep producers for over 30 years, on 2 farms in 2 states starting in New Hampshire and relocating to Pennsylvania in 2008. They currently run 300 ewes on 112 acres. They sell consumer-direct lamb, live lambs, and breeding stock. Part of their flock manages the vegetation at the Susquehanna University solar array in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, a 14 acre/3 mw site which provides 30% of the university's power needs. Caroline is an active member of the American Solar Graziers Association and serves on the Board of Directors.



Michael Baute, Director of Regenerative Energy and Land Management, Silicon Ranch Corporation

As the Director of Regenerative Energy and Land Management, Michael is responsible for developing and implementing the strategy and internal plans to establish Silicon Ranch as the solar industry leader in cost-effective regenerative land management by transitioning the care of our land towards more holistic methods. Key to this goal is the integration of regenerative agriculture and carbon farming practices into the long-term land management strategies of utility-scale solar power plants. Michael comes to Silicon Ranch with more than 15 years of diverse land management experience- from fighting wildfires in Alaska to holistically managing large-scale cattle and bison ranches in Colorado and Kentucky. From local food system innovation work in Fort Collins to target grazing for ecosystem service goals throughout the west and midwest, Michael's extensive boots-on-the ground experience is balanced by his formal education in Soil and Crop Sciences and his entrepreneurial background.