Communities Through Transition Panel Biographies

Community leaders from traditionally energy-burdened communities are at the forefront of climate change and environmental justice. In this conversation, a diverse group of voices will discuss the energy needs and priorities of underserved and vulnerable populations, including capacity and data.

Moderator: **Stan Atcitty**, Distinguished Member of Technical Staff in the Energy Storage Technology & Systems Department, Sandia National Laboratories

Participants:

- **Sergio Lopez**, Energy, Climate, and Transportation Program Coordinator, Verde NW
- **Reverend Michael Malcom**, Founder and Executive Director, The People's Justice Council and Alabama Interfaith Power and Light
- **Kevin Blaser**, Business Growth/Development & Energy Specialist, Midwest Tribal Energy Resources Association
- **Derrick Terry**, Renewable Engineer Specialist, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority

Sergio Lopez is the Energy, Climate, and Transportation Program Coordinator at Verde where he focuses on the strategic direction of the organizations' environmental justice values and policy priorities. Prior to Verde, Sergio has worked at BIKETOWN, coordinated with Cully community groups through the Community Cycling Center, and managed transportation equity programs at Forth.

Reverend Michael Malcom is the Founder and Executive Director of The People's Justice Council and Alabama Interfaith Power and Light and a licensed and ordained United Church of Christ Minister. He is also the Environmental Justice Representative for the Southeast Conference of the United Church of Christ. He is currently the co-chair of the Building Power from the Grassroots Task Force with Climate Action Network International, and the co-chair of the Environmental Justice working group for the Southeast Climate and Energy Network. He currently serves as co-facilitator for the International Solidarity Working Group for the National Black Environmental Justice Network and is a steering committee member for the Kitchen Cabinet. Reverend Michael Malcom received an MBA from the University of Georgia, holds a Master of Divinity Degree from the Interdenominational Theological Center, and a bachelor's degree in Biblical Education and Leadership from Beulah Heights University.

Kevin Blaser is part of the Migizi Economic Development Company of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan. As Business Growth/Development & Energy Specialist he is responsible for all aspects of energy development for the Tribe. Kevin also is in charge of the Tribe's MISO activities. He manages the electricity needs for Tribal operations and the non-Tribal commercial and industrial tenants located within the Tribe's trust lands. He was instrumental in creating Tribal Ordinance 35 that established a Tribal Electric Authority. Migizi's primary driver of economic development strategy is the ability to source low-cost wholesale energy. Kevin works with companies interested in on-shoring their operations or forming joint ventures with Migizi's SBA certified 8(a) entity. He is also involved with deal sourcing, due diligence, and strategic analysis of startup and venture capital investments as well as non-gaming mergers and acquisition activities of Migizi. Prior to working for the Tribe, he co-founded a consulting firm that specialized in business formation, strategy, capital sourcing, and commercialization of intellectual property. Before that Mr. Blaser was the Senior Portfolio Manager for an asset manager in Chicago managing fixed-income and complex structured finance portfolios for institutional clients. Mr. Blaser was in charge of the team that ran the investment operations, asset gathering, valuations, and portfolio decisions for its clients and investors.

Derrick Terry is a Renewable Energy Specialist for Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (NTUA) where he assists in managing the Off-grid solar program for NTUA as well as the On-grid Distributed Generation Program. NUTA maintains, monitors, and operates 502 off-grid systems with the assistance of 30 qualified personnel located throughout the NTUA service area. The on-grid program evaluates the grid-connected systems to ensure the safety of our NTUA personnel as well as our customers. Our goal with the program is to provide reliable and safe photovoltaic systems to our customers of the Navajo Nation. Derrick has over 14 years of experience working on and around photovoltaic systems. For the most part, his efforts have largely been dedicated to optimizing off-grid photovoltaic systems for people that don't have grid power. Derrick's background is rooted in sustainable building and sustainable development in the Navajo Nation for the past 20 years.

Dr. Stan Atcitty is a member of the Navajo Tribe and he received his BS and MS degree in electrical engineering from New Mexico State University in 1993 and 1995, respectively. In 2006, he was the first American Indian male to receive a Ph.D. in electrical and computer engineering from Virginia Tech University. He is presently a Distinguish Member of Technical Staff at Sandia National Laboratories in the Energy Storage Technology and Systems department. He leads the power electronics subprogram as part of the DOE Energy Storage Program and has gained international recognition for its state-of-the-art research and development under his leadership. Five of his projects have won the prestigious R&D 100 award and one Gold Green Energy award from the Research & Development magazine. His research interest is power electronics necessary for integrating energy storage and distributed generation with the electric utility grid. Stan has over 60 publications and holds four patents and another three pending. In 2007, he received the American Indian Science and Engineering Society Technical Excellence Award for his American Indian community involvement and technical achievement. He was recently featured in a middle school level children's book titled "Energy Basics – Energized!" published by Sally Ride Science book in 2012. In 2013, he co-authored a book titled Power Electronics for Renewable and Distributed Energy Systems. In addition, President Barack Obama presented Stan with the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientist and Engineers on July 31, 2012. This is the highest honor bestowed by the US government for outstanding scientists and engineers who show exceptional leadership at the frontiers of scientific knowledge during the twenty-first century.