

# Energy Storage for Social Equity

ROUNDTABLE

June 28 - 29, 2021

10 am - 1 pm PST



## Energy Storage as an Equity Asset Panel Bios

This panel will discuss how deployment of energy storage can respond to local environmental and health concerns and community needs

**Moderator:** **Bethel Tarekegne**, Systems Engineer in the Renewables team, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory

### Participants:

- **Julia Prochnik**, Executive Director, Long Duration Energy Storage Association of California
- **Jeremy Richardson**, Senior Energy Analyst in the Climate and Energy program, Union of Concerned Scientists
- **Elena Krieger**, Director of Research, PSE Healthy Energy
- **Abbe Ramanan**, Project Manager, Clean Energy States Alliance and Clean Energy Group

**Julia Prochnik** is the Executive Director of the Long Duration Energy Storage Association of California. The nonprofit is dedicated to advancing the long-duration energy storage technologies needed to enhance California's ability to achieve its climate goals while operating a safe and reliable energy grid. She is also the founder and CEO of JASenergies where she promotes education and outreach of transmission and just and equitable transition with fossil fuel based economies. Previously, Julia Prochnik was a director at the Natural Resources Defense Council where she oversaw energy policy creation and implementation with a focus on grid operations and transmission planning. She has also worked in multiple roles at the U.S. Department of Energy and served as director of intergovernmental relations for the North American Electric Reliability Corporation and as a project developer for Clean Line Energy Partners. She received a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California and holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science and International Relations from Oregon State University

**Jeremy Richardson** is a senior energy analyst in the Climate and Energy program at the Union of Concerned Scientists. Hailing from a third-generation coal mining family in West Virginia, and with more than ten years of experience in climate and energy issues, Dr. Richardson focuses on

federal climate and energy policy development, specializing in the economics of energy—particularly coal and nuclear power—and writes and speaks passionately about the need for a just transition for the coalfields. He has testified before a West Virginia field hearing of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on the importance of economic diversification in Coal Country in the context of the EPA’s Clean Power Plan. In 2007-2008, he was the American Association for the Advancement of Science Roger Revelle Fellow in Global Stewardship. Dr. Richardson has been quoted widely in the media, including by the Associated Press, The Charleston Gazette-Mail, Los Angeles Times, The New York Times, and National Public Radio, and has appeared on MSNBC’s Melissa Harris-Perry. He holds PhD and MS degrees in physics from the University of Colorado at Boulder and a BS in physics from West Virginia University.

**Dr. Elena Krieger** is the director of research at PSE Healthy Energy, where she oversees the organization’s scientific research efforts. Dr. Krieger joined PSE in 2013 to launch the organization’s work on clean energy. Her research focuses on accelerating the transition to clean and renewable energy resources and developing transition pathways that realize health, environmental, equity, and resilience co-benefits. Her recent work includes analyzing the integration of energy storage and other distributed energy resources to reduce greenhouse gas and criteria pollutant emissions and increase resilience and clean energy access for underserved communities. She currently serves on the board of the Carbon Lighthouse Association and the Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Group to the California Energy Commission and the California Public Utilities Commission. Dr. Krieger received her doctorate in Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering at Princeton University, where her research focused on optimizing energy storage in renewable energy systems. She also holds a bachelor’s degree in Physics and Astronomy & Astrophysics from Harvard University.

**Abbe Ramanan** is a Project Manager at Clean Energy States Alliance and Clean Energy Group. In her role at CESA, Abbe specializes in equitable low-income solar policy. She manages the Solar with Justice: Connecting States and Communities project, which focuses on how state agencies can collaborate with community-based organizations to develop impactful, equitable solar policies for underserved communities. At CEG, Abbe supports the development of equitable solar and battery storage projects in underserved communities through the Resilient Power Project, which strives to provide resilient power technologies to the communities that need it most. Abbe received a master’s degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, where she wrote a master’s thesis on state models for improving access to solar energy for LMI communities. Prior to working at CESA/CEG, Abbe worked with the Access and Equity team at Vote Solar, where she helped develop solar workforce development initiatives for low-resource communities. In addition to her master’s degree from The Fletcher School, Abbe holds a bachelor’s degree in international studies from American University.

**Dr. Bethel Tarekegne** joined PNNL in 2021 and she is part of the Renewables team in the Distributed Systems group. Her work focuses on understanding the social equity implications of renewable energy technologies. She is currently exploring the equity/justice implications of energy storage for the DOE - OE’s Energy Storage Program to imagine the ways energy storage can benefit people in underserved communities. Bethel’s work in this space set the framework for applying energy justice principles to storage technologies. She is now investigating how storage can provide local non-energy benefits by developing fundamental data and metrics to measure these benefits. Bethel received her doctorate in Energy & Environmental Policy from Michigan Technological University.