



**Keynote from ISO New England's Vamsi Chadalavada and
Panels on Energy Affordability in New England**

March 20, 2026

Biographies of Speakers & Moderators



Dr. Vamsi Chadalavada is president and CEO of ISO New England. He was promoted to that role in January 2026 after serving 18 years as ISO New England's executive vice president and chief operating officer. In that role, he was responsible for power system and market operations, markets development, system planning, information and cybersecurity services, program management, participant relations, and advanced technology solutions. Previously, Vamsi held several positions at Siemens, including vice president and general manager of Energy Management and Information Systems. He is a member of ISO New England's Board of Directors, as well as the Executive Committee of the US National Committee of CIGRE, the ISO/RTO Council, and the IEEE Power & Energy Society.

Vamsi holds an MS and a doctorate in electrical and computer engineering from Iowa State University. He received a doctoral research excellence award, professional progress in engineering award, and has numerous publications in industry journals.



Elin Swanson Katz is the founder of Blue Swan Energy Strategies, LLC, where she advises policymakers, regulators, and stakeholders on how to deliver reliable infrastructure and cleaner energy while keeping costs affordable for households and businesses.

Previously, she served as the inaugural Director of FERC's Office of Public Participation, created to strengthen the role of consumers and communities in federal energy proceedings. Prior to that, she served as Connecticut's Consumer Counsel, Chair of the Connecticut Siting Council and President of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates. At the federal level, Elin served as a consumer protection expert for the U.S. Department of Energy's \$8.8 billion Home Rebates Program. She has also held senior leadership roles in the telecommunications sector, including Associate General Counsel and Vice President of Utilities at Tilson Technology Management.

Elin holds degrees from Cornell University, Boston University School of Law, and Trinity College in Hartford.



Dr. Ryan Wiser is a Senior Scientist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, where he helps to lead a 60-person department that seeks to inform public and private decision making within the U.S. electricity sector through research on electric system planning, reliability, and regulation. Ryan has published over 100 peer-reviewed journal articles, 20 book chapters, and 400 other conference papers, magazine articles and research reports. He regularly advises public and private entities on issues related to the power sector.

Ryan holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Stanford University and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Energy and Resources from the University of California, Berkeley.



James Bride is president of Energy Tariff Experts. He is an experienced expert witness with appearances in multiple states on topics including rate design, cost allocation, electric vehicles, storage, net metering, and service quality. He is also a strong report writer, researcher, and modeler and is able to use these skills to complete assignments ranging from benchmarking projects to economic feasibility studies for various conventional and renewable energy technologies. He serves as a trusted advisor to a diverse range of clients throughout the energy industry.

Prior to founding ETE, Jim was a subject matter expert in the energy procurement consulting practice group at EnerNOC, Inc. where he focused on North American power and gas markets.

Jim has an M.B.A. from Cornell and a B.S. in Geophysics from Boston College.



Jeremy McDiarmid is Chair of the MA Department of Public Utilities. Prior to his appointment to the DPU, Jeremy was the Managing Director and General Counsel for Advanced Energy United, serving on Governor Healey's Commission on Energy Infrastructure Siting and Permitting, leading multiple efforts at the intersection of clean energy and affordability, and developing policies to support advanced transmission technologies in multiple states.

Previously, he served as Vice President for Policy & Government Affairs at the Northeast Clean Energy Council, as a Senior Advisor at Acadia Center and as the Senior Director of Innovation and Industry Support at Massachusetts Clean Energy Center. Before that, he was the Massachusetts Director at Acadia Center and worked at the Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation.

He is a graduate of Syracuse University and Boston College Law School.



Mary Wambui is the Director of Asset Management, Residents and Energy for the Planning Office for Urban Affairs (POUA), a non-profit social justice ministry of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston.

Mary is a member of the Grid Modernization Advisory Council's Equity Working Group and sits on the boards of the Massachusetts Energy Transformation Advisory Board, Green Energy Consumers Alliance, Climate Exchange, and the Coalition for a Better Acre in Lowell.

She holds a bachelor's in business education from Kenyatta University in Nairobi, an MS in international community economic development from Southern New Hampshire University and an MPP in Urban and Environmental Policy from Tufts University.



Caitlin Peale Sloan is CLF's Vice President for Climate & Energy, leading CLF's largest advocacy program across all six New England states for an equitable clean energy future. Before assuming this role, she served as CLF's Vice President for Massachusetts and as a team lead in the Climate & Energy Program. Caitlin has been a CLF attorney since 2011 and has represented the organization in federal and state courts, before utility, climate, and environmental regulators, and at the Massachusetts legislature.

Caitlin holds a J.D. from Columbia University Law School and a B.A. in Government from Colby College.



Penni McLean-Conner is Chief Customer Officer and Senior Vice President of Customer Group for Eversource Energy. She is responsible for providing Eversource's 3.5 million electric and gas customers with high-quality customer service and delivering a cost-effective portfolio of electric and gas energy efficiency programs.

In her current role, Penni leads an integrated team of customer service employees, charged with delivering consistent, positive customer experiences across multiple platforms. This also includes management of an energy efficiency portfolio of programs that tops \$500 million annually and provides Eversource customers with highly valued energy efficiency services ranked number one in the nation.

She is a published author and the customer service columnist for Electric Light and Power Magazine. Penni holds a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from North Carolina State University and is a registered Professional Engineer.



Lauren Gage, Co-Moderator, is a Principal at Apex. Prior to joining Apex, she served as the Evaluation Lead at Bonneville Power Administration, where she designed evaluation policies, developed evaluation strategies and managed consulting contracts of over \$8M. She managed the impact and process evaluation activities across all sectors. She has extensive experience in stakeholder processes for research projects and participated in many regional and national committees. Prior to joining Bonneville, Lauren was a Project Director at Quantec, LLC (later Cadmus). She led teams to estimate potential for energy efficiency, demand response, renewables, and emerging technologies.

Lauren holds a BA in economics, graduating magna cum laude from Northwestern, and a MS in economics from Portland State.



Matthew Nelson, Co-Moderator and Convener, is a Principal of Regulatory Strategy at Apex Analytics. Prior to joining Apex, he served as Chair of the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities and lead the regulatory team at Eversource Energy.

Matt created nation-leading reporting and bill protections to aid consumers during COVID-19, pioneered a pathway for the future of natural gas and approved geothermal heat pumps pilots, and launched a process to enhance public participation and language access rules and regulations. In addition, he has served on numerous energy-related boards and committees. He has provided expert testimony on a wide range of topics, including safety, system planning, consumer protection, competitive electricity markets, and transmission development, before the Massachusetts legislature, US Congress, FERC, and state and regional planning councils.

Matt completed his Masters in Economics at Tufts University and his Bachelors in Economics at Stonehill College.



Seth Jaffe, Foley Hoag, Partner at Foley Hoag is a leading practitioner in environmental compliance and related litigation. He works on a wide range of environmental law issues, representing clients in the permitting/licensing of new facilities and offering ongoing guidance on permitting and enforcement related matters under federal and state laws, with a focus on the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act. Seth also advises on wetlands and waterways regulation. Before joining Foley Hoag, he clerked for United States District Judge Walter Jay Skinner.

Seth earned his JD at Yale, his MPP at Harvard Kennedy School and his undergraduate degree at MIT.