

The Promise and Potential of Energy Parks

Exploring Opportunities for Energy Parks Webinar Series



Energy Parks are an emerging approach to designing integrated hubs that co-locate generation, storage, and large-scale load (e.g. data centers, advanced manufacturing) at one point of interconnection to the electric grid. This webinar will explore energy parks as a strategy to meet increasing energy demand and provide energy resilience and reliability in an efficient, cost-effective manner, while also enabling the testing of innovative technologies. Specific efforts to create energy parks and means for these efforts to address existing energy system challenges will be highlighted. Tune in to the livestream at [this link](#) and join our [Slido](#) to submit your questions. This is the first in a 2-part webinar series hosted by the [National Academies Forum on Energy Systems Transformation and Decarbonization](#). View the Forum's Statement of Task and stay up-to-date about Forum events at [this link](#).

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026

1:00 PM (ET)¹ Welcome & Opening Remarks

Brent Heard, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

1:05 PM The Promise and Potential of Energy Parks

Speakers will introduce the structure and concept of energy parks, highlight examples of cross-sectoral collaboration which would support these efforts, and discuss the investment and operational value proposition for this approach to energy innovation. A moderated discussion to highlight opportunities for energy parks to address existing energy systems challenges will follow.

Moderator: Clifford Ho, SB Energy, *Forum on Energy Systems Transformation and Decarbonization member*

Speakers:

- Eric Gimon, Energy Innovation
- Valerie Karplus, Carnegie Mellon University
- Andrew Levitt, Brattle

1:50 PM Audience Q&A

2:00 PM ADJOURN WORKSHOP

¹ All Times in Eastern

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Speaker Biographies

Clifford Ho, SB Energy

Dr. Cliff Ho is a Senior Manager of Advanced Renewable Energy at SB Energy, where he is helping to develop integrated energy technologies and energy-storage solutions for large data/load centers. Cliff previously worked at Sandia National Laboratories for over 30 years, where he developed technologies and models to address problems in energy, water, and the environment. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, Associate Editor of Elsevier's Solar Energy Journal, and a past invited member of the National Academies Transportation Research Board. Dr. Ho has expertise in diverse areas of the energy ecosystem, including nuclear waste management, water resources, sensing and monitoring, industrial process heat, technoeconomic analyses, grid technologies, and innovative solar technologies for electricity, heat, and transportation fuels. From 2022 to 2024, Dr. Ho served as a Legislative Fellow in the Office of U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich and advised on a wide range of energy policies, further enhancing his understanding of the intersection between technology, policy, and industry needs. Dr. Ho authored several bills pertaining to grid reliability, nuclear waste management, permitting, and alternative process heat for industries. Dr. Ho received the Outstanding Professor Award from the University of New Mexico in 1997 and the national Asian American Engineer of the Year Award in 2010. Dr. Ho received R&D 100 Awards in 2013 for the development of the Solar Glare Hazard Analysis Tool and in 2016 for the Falling Particle Receiver for Concentrating Solar Energy. He won Discover magazine's "The Future of Energy in Two-Minutes-or-Less" video contest in 2008. Dr. Ho received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Wisconsin Madison in 1989 and his M.S. and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of California Berkeley in 1990 and 1993.

Eric Gimon, Energy Innovation

Eric Gimon consults as a technical expert, research scholar, and policy adviser with Energy Innovation, where he works with the [Electricity](#) team to develop innovative thinking on policy solutions for clean, reliable, and affordable electric power in the U.S. More specifically, Eric works on questions of renewable energy integration, both in the context of today's challenges as well as for future pathways, with a current focus on electricity power markets. Eric holds B.S. and M.S. degrees from Stanford University in mathematics and physics, as well as a Ph.D. in physics from the University of California, Santa Barbara. He had a 15-year active career as a researcher in quantum gravity and high energy physics in some of the world's top research institutions. Eric's work at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and University of California, Berkeley, as well as an American Association for the Advancement of Science fellowship with two offices at the Department of Energy inspired his transition to climate and energy policy.

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Valerie Karplus, Carnegie Mellon University

Valerie Karplus is a professor of engineering and public policy and associate director of the Scott Institute for Energy Innovation at Carnegie Mellon University. Karplus studies resource and environmental management in organizations operating in diverse national and industry contexts, with a focus on the role of institutions and management practices in explaining performance. Areas of expertise include innovation in global corporate and industrial supply chains, regional approaches to workforce and economic revitalization, and the integrated design and evaluation of public policies. Karplus has taught courses on public policy analysis, global business strategy and organization, entrepreneurship, and the political economy of energy transitions. At CMU, she runs the Laboratory for Energy and Organizations. Karplus is also a faculty affiliate of the MIT Energy Initiative, the MIT Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research, and the MIT Center for Sustainability Science and Strategy. She has previously worked in the development policy section of the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin, Germany, as a Robert Bosch Foundation Fellow, and in the biotechnology industry in Beijing, China, as a Luce Scholar. From 2011 to 2016, she co-founded and directed the MIT-Tsinghua China Energy and Climate Project a five-year research effort focused on analyzing the design of energy and climate change policy in China, and its domestic and global impacts. Karplus previously served on the faculty at the MIT Sloan School of Management. Karplus holds a B.S. in biochemistry and political science from Yale University and a Ph.D. in engineering systems from MIT.

Andrew Levitt, Brattle

Andrew Levitt is a Senior Consultant at The Brattle Group specializing in wholesale electricity market design and policy. With 15 years of experience, he advises system operators, state agencies, investors, and market participants on market design reforms, resource valuation, transmission interconnection, and reliability on an evolving grid. Before joining Brattle, he was Senior Lead Market Designer at PJM Interconnection, leading capacity and ancillary services market reforms and integrating hybrids, storage, and distributed resources. His research has been published by the IEEE and Energy Policy, and he frequently speaks at industry conferences. He holds an MA in Policy from the University of Delaware (where he studied at the Center for Carbon-Free Power Integration) and a BSc in Physics from the University of Toronto.