

# Emissions Accounting to Accelerate Decarbonization

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

*Co-hosted by the Institute for Policy Integrity and the Sustainable Engineering Initiative*

**New York University School of Law, 40 Washington Square South  
and via livestream**



# Conference Agenda

## Emissions Accounting to Accelerate Decarbonization

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

*Co-hosted by the Institute for Policy Integrity and the Sustainable Engineering Initiative*

**New York University School of Law, 40 Washington Square South  
and via livestream**

**10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.                      REGISTRATION**

**10:30 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.                      INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

**Dr. Christoph Graf**, Senior Economist, Institute for Policy Integrity

**10:35 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.                      STATE OF THE ART IN EMISSIONS  
ACCOUNTING**

**Dr. Nkiruka Avila**, Energy Strategy Research Lead, Meta

**Dr. Bryan Bollinger**, Professor of Marketing, NYU Stern School of Business

**Dr. Michael Macrae**, Director of Scop2 and Senior Advisor on Impact Accounting, World Resources Institute

**Dr. Tim Schittekatte**, Senior Director, FTI Consulting and Research Affiliate, MIT Energy Initiative

**Dr. Parikhith Sinha**, Director of Sustainability, Electric Hydrogen

Moderator: **Jennifer Danis**, Federal Energy Policy Director, Institute for Policy Integrity

**11:50 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.                      LUNCH (*lunch provided*)**

**12:20 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.**

**KEYNOTE PRESENTATION**

**Lily Batchelder**, Professor at NYU School of Law and former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for tax policy

Moderator: **Dr. Burçin Ünel**, Executive Director, Institute for Policy Integrity

**1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.**

**RULES, REGULATIONS, AND IMPLEMENTATION**

**Dr. Pete Budden**, Hydrogen Advocate, Natural Resources Defense Council

**Michael Gergen**, Senior Strategic Advisor and Counsel, Coalition for Green Capital

**Tom Plant**, Commissioner, Colorado Public Utilities Commission

**Dr. Leehi Yona**, Assistant Professor of Law, Cornell Law School

Moderator: **Matthew Lifson**, Attorney, Institute for Policy Integrity

**2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.**

**COFFEE & NETWORKING BREAK**

**2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.**

**IMPLICATIONS FOR TECHNOLOGY AND FINANCE**

**Dr. Dharik Mallapragada**, Assistant Professor, NYU Tandon School of Engineering

**Gavin McCormick**, Co-founder and Executive Director, WattTime

**Katie Ott**, Vice President for Sustainability and Climate Strategy, Constellation

**Dr. Harry Singh**, Vice President, Goldman Sachs

Moderator: **Elizabeth Stein**, State Policy Director, Institute for Policy Integrity

**3:45 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.**

**CLOSING REMARKS**

**Dr. Christoph Graf**, Senior Economist, Institute for Policy Integrity

## INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

10:30 a.m. – 10:35 a.m.

### **Dr. Christoph Graf**

Senior Economist, Institute for Policy Integrity



Dr. Christoph Graf is a senior economist at the Institute for Policy Integrity at New York University School of Law. His research focuses on energy and climate policy supporting the energy transition to a sustainable, low-carbon future. In those areas, he has published several articles in international peer-reviewed academic journals using tools from economics, operations research, machine learning, and public policy. Before joining Policy Integrity, Dr. Graf held several research positions, including at Stanford University, the University of California, Berkeley, and the Florence School of Regulation at the European University Institute. He has taught at several universities in Vienna and received a diploma in economics as well as a Ph.D. in management from the University of Vienna.

# STATE OF THE ART IN EMISSIONS ACCOUNTING

10:35 a.m. – 11:50 a.m.

## **Dr. Nkiruka Avila**

Energy Strategy Research Lead, Meta



Dr. Nkiruka Avila is the Energy Strategy Research Lead at Meta where she employs her skills as an interdisciplinary research scientist to advance system-scale decarbonization. Prior to Meta, she led strategic engagement and local capacity building with inter-ministerial stakeholders in Southeast Asia (Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam), advising on policy issues for sustainable development across the water-energy-food nexus. She also served on the Board of Directors of Grid Alternatives Bay Area, working to ensure that the clean energy transition is just and inclusive for all. She holds a Ph.D. in energy & resources from the University of California, Berkeley.

## **Dr. Bryan Bollinger**

Professor of Marketing, NYU Stern School of Business



Dr. Bryan Bollinger is a professor of marketing at the New York University Stern School of Business. Professor Bollinger's research portfolio aims to understand the causal effects of policymakers' decisions in sustainability domains and the interdependent reactions by consumers and firms. His research has been supported by grants from the Department of Energy, National Science Foundation, Environmental Protection Agency, and others. He currently serves on the editorial boards of *Marketing Science*, *Journal of Marketing Research*, *Journal of Marketing*, *Journal of Consumer Research*, *Quantitative Marketing and Economics*, and *Journal of Sustainable Marketing*. Professor Bollinger received his B.A. and B.E. in engineering at Dartmouth College and his M.A. in economics and Ph.D. in marketing at Stanford University.

## **Dr. Michael Macrae**

Director of Scope 2 and Senior Advisor on Impact Accounting,  
World Resources Institute



Dr. Michael Macrae is the Director of Scope 2 and Senior Advisor on Impact Accounting with the GHG Protocol at the World Resources Institute (WRI). Prior to joining WRI, Dr. Macrae worked with Enel North America, leading the development of Enel's market advocacy strategy for New England and New York and supporting the growth of Enel's existing and new Distributed Energy Resources, Renewable and Storage Resources, Demand Response, and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure solutions across the NY-ISO & ISO-NE wholesale markets as well as the various state regulatory agencies and related retail markets. Michael earned his Ph.D. in chemistry from UCSD.

## **Dr. Tim Schittekatte**

Senior Director, FTI Consulting and Research Affiliate at the  
MIT Energy Initiative



Dr. Tim Schittekatte is a senior director at FTI Consulting in London, working on projects related to power market design and regulation across the globe. He is also a part-time assistant professor at the Florence School of Regulation. He is affiliated to the MIT Energy Initiative (MITEI) and the MIT Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research (CEEPR). Previously he was a senior lecturer at the MIT Sloan School of Management, where he instructed the course “Engineering, Economics and Regulation of the Electric Power Sector”; a research scientist at the MITEI; and a research fellow at FSR. He graduated as an engineer from Ghent University, Belgium and completed the EMIN program, an international master's program in economics. He holds a Ph.D. in energy economics from University Paris-Sud XI.

## **Dr. Parikhith Sinha**

Director of Sustainability, Electric Hydrogen



Dr. Parikhith Sinha is the Director of Sustainability at Electric Hydrogen, a company focused on driving down the costs and driving up the scale of hydrogen-producing electrolyzers. Previously, he was a senior scientist and Director of Sustainable Development, Environmental at First Solar, where he led the company's research on environmental product safety and life cycle

assessment. He has also been a member of the International Energy Agency PVPS Task 12 Committee on PV Environmental, Health, and Safety. He is a former study director at the U.S. National Academy of Sciences Board of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate. He holds a Ph.D. in atmospheric sciences from the University of Washington, Seattle, and a B.A. in environmental engineering from Harvard University.

## **Jennifer Danis (Moderator)**

Federal Energy Policy Director, Institute for Policy Integrity



Jennifer Danis is the Federal Energy Policy Director at the Institute for Policy Integrity where she leads advocacy in front of federal energy regulators, including the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Prior to Policy Integrity, she litigated energy infrastructure issues, with a focus on conflicts between state public utility commissions and FERC, as part of Niskanen's litigation team.

Prior to that, she was senior fellow at the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia Law School, having previously worked as an attorney and clinical instructor for Columbia Law School's Environmental Law Clinic. She is an alumna of University of Pennsylvania and Boston University.

## KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

12:20 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.

### Lily Batchelder

Professor and former Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Tax Policy, NYU School of Law



Lily Batchelder is the Robert C. Kopple Family Professor of Law at NYU School of Law, an affiliated professor at the NYU Wagner School of Public Service, and co-founder and co-faculty director of the NYU Tax Law Center.

Batchelder was nominated and confirmed by the Senate to be Assistant Secretary of Tax Policy for the U.S. Department of the Treasury in 2021 and served in that role until February 2024. As Assistant Secretary, she played a pivotal role in advancing some of the Biden administration's most far-reaching legislative and regulatory initiatives. She led Treasury's Office of Tax Policy (OTP), which is responsible for developing legislative proposals, issuing tax regulations together with the IRS, negotiating tax treaties, advising on tax policy aspects of tax administration, and providing revenue and distributional estimates for the Executive Branch. During her tenure, OTP issued guidance clarifying and implementing more than \$1 trillion of tax provisions in landmark pieces of legislation. This included 50 proposed rules, final rules, and pieces of sub-regulatory guidance implementing the IRA's \$900 billion in clean energy tax subsidies.

From 2014 to 2015, Batchelder served as Deputy Director of the White House National Economic Council and Deputy Assistant to the President under President Obama. From 2010 to 2014, she served as Majority Chief Tax Counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance.

Batchelder's scholarship spans a wide array of topics in taxation and social policy. Her work has been published in books, major law reviews, journals, and press outlets. She has testified numerous times before Congress. Batchelder received an A.B. with honors and distinction from Stanford University, an M.P.P. from the Harvard Kennedy School, and a J.D. from Yale Law School.



## **Dr. Burçin Ünel (Moderator)**

Executive Director, Institute for Policy Integrity



Dr. Burçin Ünel is an expert in utility regulation and environmental and energy policy who has authored over 100 papers and other publications on these topics. Prior to her current role, Dr. Ünel had been Policy Integrity's Energy Policy Director, leading the institute's stakeholder involvement both at the federal and state level in front of regulatory agencies, such as public utility commissions and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Her policy work in New York and California led to state utility commissions adopting more robust frameworks for valuing emissions, helping achieve the respective states' goals of increasing clean energy and distributed energy resource deployment. She also served as a senior fellow in the Department of Energy's Office of Policy, where she worked on domestic energy and climate policy issues, focusing on federal clean energy legislation, clean energy deployment, and infrastructure planning.

# **RULES, REGULATIONS, AND IMPLEMENTATION**

**1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.**

## **Dr. Pete Budden**

Hydrogen Advocate, Natural Resources Defense Council



Dr. Pete Budden leads NRDC's global and U.S. regional-level hydrogen policy work. Prior to joining NRDC, Dr. Budden researched next-generation solar energy technology, earning his Ph.D. in physics and undertaking a postdoctoral fellowship. He also worked for the Climate Change Committee in the United Kingdom as an industrial decarbonization analyst, where he

modeled decarbonization pathways for the UK industrial sector, assessing the emissions reductions potential of competing technologies, including hydrogen. His work informed the UK's 2030 NDC and Sixth Carbon Budget targets. Budden graduated from the University of Cambridge and the University of Oxford. He is based in NRDC's New York office.

## **Michael Gergen**

Senior Strategic Advisor and Counsel, Coalition for Green Capital



Michael Gergen is currently a senior strategic advisor and Counsel at the Coalition for Green Capital (CGC). Michael is also an adjunct professor of law at the New York University School of Law, where he regularly teaches a course on energy law, regulation, and policy, and periodically gives public lectures on pressing legal and policy issues in the energy industry. Prior to joining CGC, Michael was a Partner, Of Counsel, and Associate at Latham & Watkins LLP for 25 years, where he worked

in the Project Finance and Energy Regulatory and Markets Groups. Prior to becoming a lawyer, Michael earned a graduate degree in applied economics, after which he worked as an economist in the energy industry, including working for an investor-owned utility in New England.

## **Tom Plant**

Commissioner, Colorado Public Utilities Commission



Tom Plant was appointed to the Colorado Public Utilities Commission on January 13, 2023, by Governor Jared Polis and confirmed by the Colorado Senate on February 3, 2023. Prior to his appointment, Tom served as director of the Governor’s Energy Office in the Ritter administration, with principal responsibility for developing and implementing the Governor’s policies for a new energy economy. After graduating from Colorado State University,

Plant worked as an exploration geologist. Then he joined the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) in its Climate Change Department. At UCS, he explored the causes of global climate change and examined transportation and energy solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

## **Dr. Leehi Yona**

Assistant Professor of Law, Cornell Law School



Dr. Leehi Yona, an interdisciplinary legal scholar with a robust background in climate science, recently joined the Cornell Law faculty as an assistant professor of law. Dr. Yona’s expertise lies at the intersection of law, climate science, policy, and justice. She recently completed her Ph.D. in the Emmett Interdisciplinary Program in environment and resources at the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability, alongside her J.D. at Stanford Law School. Her research addresses the challenges and gaps in greenhouse gas

inventorying and seeks to enhance the accuracy and efficacy of climate laws and policies. Yona holds an A.B. in environmental studies and biological sciences from Dartmouth College and a Master of Environmental Science degree from Yale University.

## **Matthew Lifson (Moderator)**

Attorney, Institute for Policy Integrity



Matt Lifson is an attorney at the Institute for Policy Integrity. He primarily works on electricity policy, with a focus on transmission lines, electricity markets, hydrogen, and environmental justice. Matt earned his J.D. from Yale Law School and a master's in environmental management from the Yale School of the Environment. Before joining Policy Integrity, he clerked for Chief Judge Jon D. Levy of the U.S. District Court for the District of Maine and Associate Justice William W. Hood III of the Colorado Supreme Court. Matt previously taught 7th-grade science, and he received his B.A. magna cum laude from Brown University in economics.

# IMPLICATIONS FOR TECHNOLOGY AND FINANCE

2:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

## **Dr. Dharik Mallapragada**

Assistant Professor, NYU Tandon School of Engineering



Dr. Dharik Mallapragada is an assistant professor in the Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering department at New York University, where his research focuses on developing advanced decision-support tools for planning and operating resilient, low-carbon energy systems as well as the design and integration of novel energy technologies. Prior to joining NYU in January

2024, he was a principal research scientist at the MIT Energy Initiative, where he kick-started his academic research career after spending nearly five years in the energy industry working on a range of sustainability-focused research topics. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. in chemical engineering from Purdue University and a B.Tech. in chemical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, India.

## **Gavin McCormick**

Co-founder and Executive Director, WattTime



Gavin McCormick is Co-founder and Executive Director of WattTime, a nonprofit founded to raise awareness of the potential to reduce emissions by shifting electricity in time and place. Today, over 900 million electricity-consuming devices across 45 countries use WattTime's techniques to reduce emissions daily. Gavin also co-founded and leads several research coalitions, notably Climate TRACE, a

project of over 100 contributing universities, nonprofits, and tech companies to transparently monitor the monthly greenhouse gas emissions of over 340 million of the highest-emitting facilities on Earth. Gavin previously worked at Pacific Northwest National Lab, and has a master's in environmental and behavioral economics from University of California, Berkeley.

## **Katie Ott**

Vice President for Sustainability and Climate Strategy,  
Constellation



Katie Ott is Vice President for Sustainability and Climate Strategy at Constellation. Constellation is the nation's largest producer of reliable, clean, carbon-free energy and a leading supplier of energy products and services. Prior to Constellation, Katie was Senior Director for Government Relations at Breakthrough Energy and Director of Federal

Government Relations for Exelon, the nation's largest utility company. Katie is a graduate of James Madison University.

## **Dr. Harry Singh**

Vice President, Goldman Sachs



Dr. Harry Singh is a vice president in the Global Banking & Markets Division at Goldman Sachs. Dr. Singh has extensive experience in renewable energy transactions, energy transition solutions, and power market design. His responsibilities include work on offtakes for battery storage and renewable projects, risk management products for corporate offtakers of renewable energy,

environmental products, resource adequacy and capacity transactions, and renewable power prepay transactions. He holds a Ph.D. in electrical engineering from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

## **Elizabeth Stein (Moderator)**

State Policy Director, Institute for Policy Integrity



Elizabeth Stein is the State Policy Director at the Institute for Policy Integrity. Elizabeth's work focuses on utility regulation and environmental and energy policy. Before joining Policy Integrity, Elizabeth was Lead Counsel, Energy Transition, at Environmental Defense Fund. In that role, Elizabeth led EDF's state utility commission advocacy in support of widespread electrification of

trucks and buses, and contributed to relevant research efforts. She received an A.B. from Harvard University, and a J.D. from NYU Law.

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

**3:45 p.m. – 3:50 p.m.**

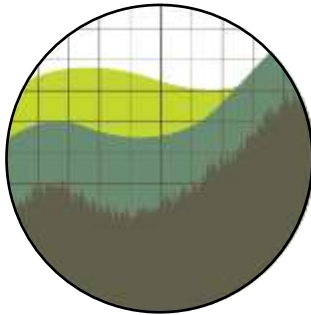
### **Dr. Christoph Graf**

Senior Economist, Institute for Policy Integrity



Dr. Christoph Graf is a senior economist at the Institute for Policy Integrity at New York University School of Law. His research focuses on energy and climate policy supporting the energy transition to a sustainable, low-carbon future. In those areas, he has published several articles in international peer-reviewed academic journals using tools from economics, operations research, machine learning, and public policy. Before joining Policy Integrity, Dr. Graf held several research positions, including at Stanford University, the University of California, Berkeley, and the Florence School of Regulation at the European University Institute. He has taught at several universities in Vienna and received a diploma in economics as well as a Ph.D. in management from the University of Vienna.

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