



Decarbonization Forum Series

# **Data Center Energy Use and Impact on the Clean Energy Transition**

Panel and Discussion

April 22, 2025  
K&L Gates LLP  
Seattle, WA

# Decarbonization Forum Series

The Clean Energy Transition Institute (CETI) is an independent, nonpartisan research and analysis nonprofit whose mission is to accelerate an equitable clean energy transition in the Northwest. CETI advances technical, economic, and equitable decarbonization solutions tailored to the energy landscape of Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington through research and analysis, decarbonization studies, convenings, and fact-based conversations.

The CETI Decarbonization Forums aim to illuminate the trade-offs of complex aspects of decarbonizing the Northwest. The forums bring together experts, policymakers, industry representatives, civil society organizations, and interested citizens to debate the opportunities and challenges of transitioning to a low-carbon economy.

Future forums will cover:

- Carbon dioxide removal
- Building decarbonization
- Sustainable aviation fuel
- Maritime decarbonization

## **Event Description**

Growing reliance on digital technologies, cloud computing, and artificial intelligence (AI) is driving a surge in energy-intensive data centers in the country and in the Northwest.

Today's panel of experts explores the impact that growing energy demand from data centers is having on the Northwest's electricity system and clean energy transition.

## **Agenda**

3:00-5:00 PM: Panel Presentations and  
Moderated Discussion

5:00-6:30 PM: Networking Reception

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## Moderator



### **Eileen V. Quigley**

Founder & Executive Director,  
*Clean Energy Transition Institute*

Eileen is CET's Founding Executive Director. She conceived the Northwest Deep Decarbonization Pathways and Net-Zero Northwest projects and led the efforts to produce the Washington 2021 State Energy Strategy, the Oregon Clean Energy Pathways analysis, and the Washington Green Electrolytic Hydrogen Report. She currently leads the team working with the Oregon Department of Energy to produce Oregon's Energy Strategy.

Eileen has researched and written extensively about a wide range of decarbonization solutions since 2009. Prior to CETI, she spent seven years as Director of Strategic Innovation at Climate Solutions, where she oversaw programs that identified transition pathways off fossil fuels to a low-carbon future in the region and advanced clean energy solutions in cities and rural areas, as well as in aviation, carbon sequestration, and

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# Panelists



**Brian Janous**  
Co-Founder and CCO,  
*Cloverleaf Infrastructure*

Brian has over 20 years of experience in the electricity and data center industries. Most recently, he was Vice President of Energy at Microsoft, overseeing the company's global data center energy footprint. At Microsoft, Brian managed the execution of over 15 GW of renewable energy power purchase agreements and a team of over 100 employees. He also played a critical role in developing siting and growth strategies for over 4 GW of data centers in 40+ countries. Brian led power supply planning—and helped to develop the overall strategy—for Microsoft's cloud and artificial intelligence infrastructure. Prior to Microsoft, Brian advised large energy users on rate, regulatory, procurement and sustainability strategies.



**Crystal Ball**  
Executive Director,  
*Pacific Northwest  
Utilities Conference  
Committee*

Crystal serves as the Executive Director of the Pacific Northwest Utilities Conference Committee (PNUCC). In her role she provides a platform for industry leaders to discuss common interests, explore differences and collaborate on regional solutions. She also helps raise awareness of the Pacific Northwest's changing energy landscape.

With more than 25 years of experience, Crystal has advised executives on state and federal energy policies, overseen the implementation of the region's most comprehensive fish and wildlife mitigation program and driven efforts to develop sustainable strategies for managing change. Known for her strategic vision and exceptional communication skills, Crystal is dedicated to advancing innovative, sustainable solutions through collaboration and leadership.



**Edith Bayer**  
Energy Policy Team Lead,  
OR Department of Energy

Edith is the Energy Policy Team Lead at the Oregon Department of Energy, where she is leading work on developing a statewide Oregon Energy Strategy. Edith joined ODOE after five years at the International Energy Agency in Paris, where she led cooperation on energy efficiency with governments across Latin America. Before that, she spent nine years at the Regulatory Assistance Project in Vermont and Brussels, Belgium with a focus on electricity markets, utility regulation, and energy efficiency policy. Edith has a J.D. from New York University School of Law and a B.A. in Russian and Spanish from Tulane University. In her spare time, you can find her biking around town, hiking, and enjoying time with her family.

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**Kate Brouns**  
Climate and Energy  
Policy Advisor,  
Washington Governor's Office

Kate Brouns serves as the Climate and Energy Policy Advisor to Governor Bob Ferguson. She recently managed Washington clean energy policy for the 501(c)(3) Renewable Northwest, where she worked to advance the socially and environmentally responsible buildout of utility-scale clean energy projects and transmission statewide. In 2024, she was selected to be a Fellow with the Clean Energy Leadership Institute. Previously, Kate worked on physical environment budgeting at King County and consulted the Washington Department of Agriculture and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration on regulatory efficiency. Kate holds a Master of Public Administration with a focus in environmental policy from the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance and a Bachelor of Mathematics from Hamilton College.



**Nicole Hughes**  
Executive Director,  
*Renewable Northwest*

Nicole joined Renewable Northwest in 2018. She has over 20 years of experience in the renewable energy industry; including work in project development, construction, finance, permitting and policy for utility-scale wind and solar. Previously, she worked at AWS Truepower, HDR, Element Power, RES Americas, Tetra Tech, and The Bonneville Power Administration. She currently serves on the board of the Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies. Nicole lives in Portland, OR with her husband and two kids and spends most of her free time recreating in the mountains of the Pacific Northwest.



**Joshua Basofin**  
OR Clean Energy  
Program Director,  
*Climate Solutions*

Joshua works to advance clean energy policies in Oregon, including implementation of HB 2021, the state's groundbreaking clean energy law. Joshua also works in coalitions to identify clean energy pathways for industry, seek consensus on siting and permitting of renewable energy facilities, and extend the benefits of our clean energy transition to rural parts of Oregon. He began his career working in conservation with a focus on freshwater fisheries, marine protected areas, deserts, and wetlands. He spent several years as a sustainability advisor for businesses. Joshua holds a BA in English and Environmental Studies and a JD with a concentration in environmental law.

**Thank you for  
attending.**

Learn more about CETI:



Clean Energy  
Transition Institute ➤