

1000 Islands  
Harbor Hotel  
Clayton, NY



# CLEAN ENERGY CONFERENCE

2024

May  
**20-21**  
2024

Building a Community  
for a Clean Energy Future



*Atwood Media Production*

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\*Cover photo by Atwood Media Production, courtesy of the 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel.

## Important Information



**WiFi:**

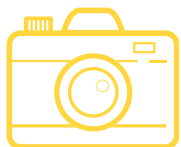
**Clayton Hotel**  
*No Password*



**View this program  
on your device**



Following the event, you will receive an email with a link to a conference survey. Your insights will help the conference team plan for future events and strengthen our work together to meet climate goals while advancing a clean energy economy that strengthens businesses and communities across northern New York.



Photos and videos may be recorded at this event. By attending the event, you may be included in some of these photos or videos. Your attendance grants your permission to be included in photos or videos, which may be used by ANCA for promotion, development, education or archival purposes. If you have questions or concerns about photo use, please speak with an event organizer at the event or email [events@adirondack.org](mailto:events@adirondack.org).

# Hello & Welcome

Welcome dear friends, colleagues, mentors, neighbors, partners, and new acquaintances to the 10th ANCA Clean Energy Conference! We are pleased to host you at the 1000 Island Harbor Hotel in Clayton, NY. During our day and a half together, we hope you find the event fun, informative, and inspiring. By our departures on Tuesday afternoon, we wish to part ways having gained new relationships and perspectives on clean energy transitions.

This year's conference content was curated based on feedback from last year's event, as well as lessons ANCA's Energy Team has learned this year. The conference's underlying theme is building community and we did our best this year to welcome attendees who are preparing to enter the workforce. As always, we encourage all attendees to welcome newcomers into their circle and share their knowledge and resources. If we are to achieve an impactful transition away from fossil fuels, the movement must, at its core, engage individuals at the community level. We offer this gathering of the state's most valuable clean energy assets, our attendees, to connect and build relationships. As Ted Lasso said, "we invite you to be curious, not judgmental."

With that, we thank our sponsors for their incredible support. We thank the staff of the 1000 Island Harbor Hotel and our friends at the Village of Clayton. We thank the presenters, field trip hosts, and exhibitors for their expertise and feedback. And mostly, we thank YOU for making time in your busy lives for this event!

Sincerely,

The 2024 Clean Energy Conference Planning Team

# Hosts



The Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) is an independent, nonprofit corporation with a transformational approach to building prosperity across northern New York. Using innovative strategies for food systems, clean energy, small businesses, and equity and inclusion, ANCA delivers targeted interventions that create and sustain wealth and value in local communities.

ANCA's Clean Energy Program (CEP) works with North Country residents, businesses and communities to help them reduce energy use, costs and carbon emissions. Staffed by an expert team of Energy Circuit Riders, we collaborate with community leaders and partner organizations to provide equitable access to climate smart initiatives, while growing our region's clean energy workforce. Learn more at [www.adirondack.org](http://www.adirondack.org).



## **Clean Energy Conference planning team members from ANCA staff:**

Annie Arnold, Nancy Bernstein, Caitlin Bottcher, Dani Delaini, Nicole Draina, Jill Henck, Keeley Jock, Zach Hobbs, Shawnea Hull, Carlie Leary, Audrey Schwartzberg.



# Venue



200 Riverside Drive  
Clayton, NY 13624

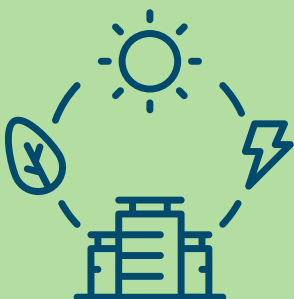


**Thank you to the 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel for their hospitality in hosting this year's Clean Energy Conference!**



**Explore the local area and support small businesses:**

<https://www.1000islandsharborhotel.com/thousand-islands-area-guide>

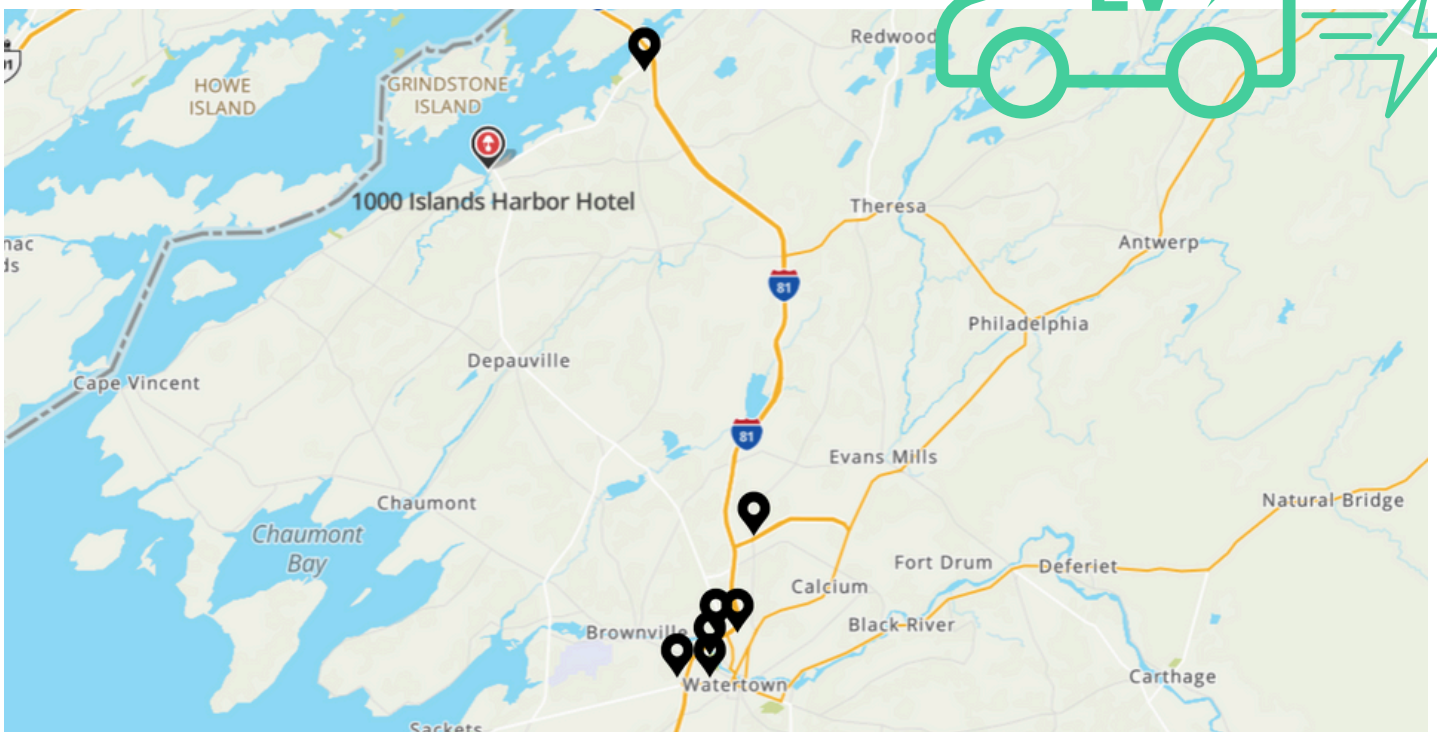


**We use geothermal!** Our geothermal system helps us have more predictable energy costs by using the earth as an exchange medium instead of burning fossil fuels. This system helps propel New York State's electrification goals.

# Area EV Charging Stations

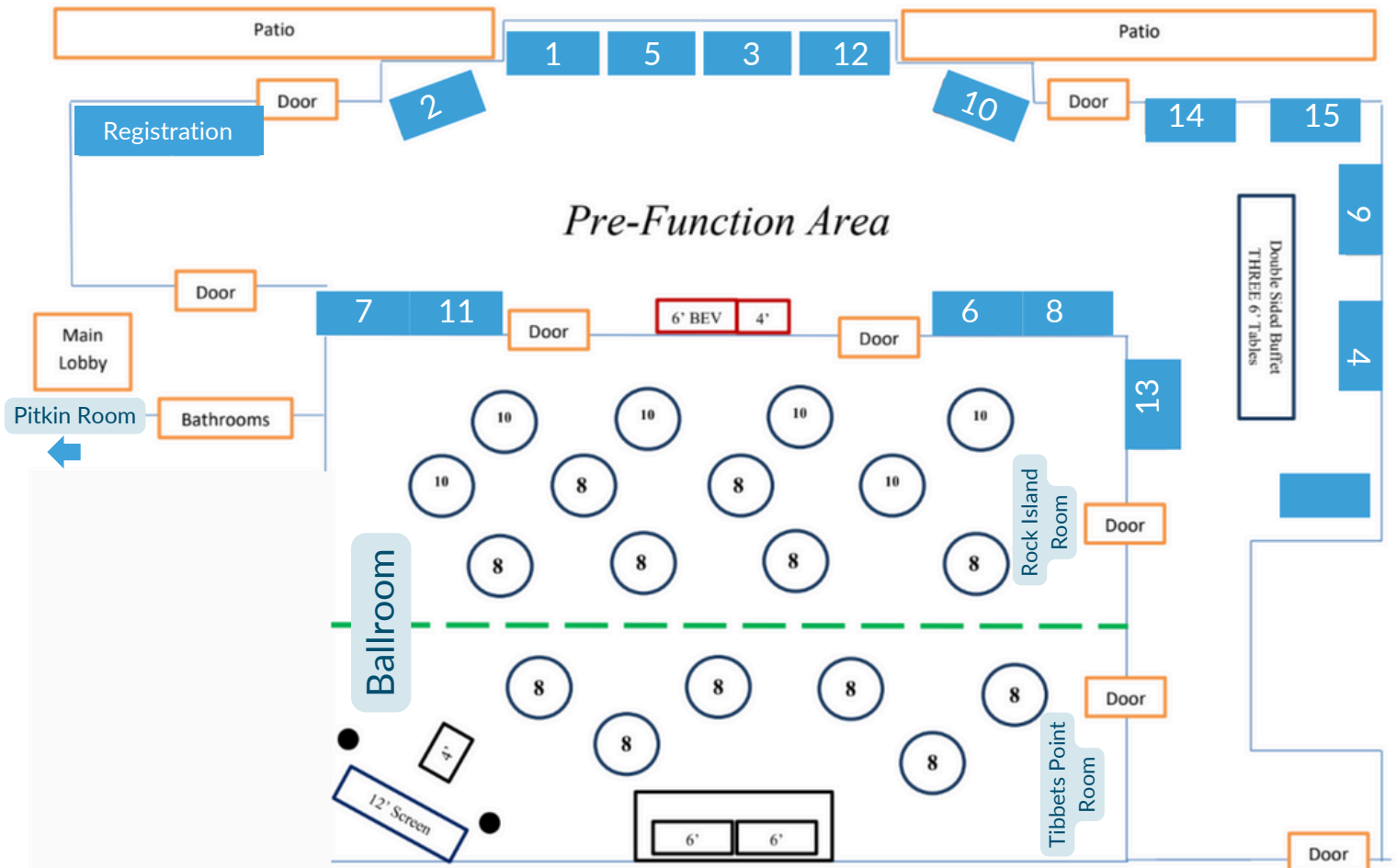


<p><b>NORTH COUNTRY WELCOME CENTER</b> 7.2 MILES</p>	<p>43350 Collins Landing Rd, Alexandria Bay, NY 13607 J-1772</p>
<p><b>UNCLE SAM BOAT TOURS</b> 12 MILES</p>	<p>45 James St, Alexandria Bay, NY 13607 CCS/SEA, CHAdeMO</p>
<p><b>HILTON GARDEN INN</b> 23 MILES</p>	<p>1290 Arsenal St, Watertown, NY 13601, USA CCS/SEA, CHAdeMO</p>
<p><b>SALMON RUN MALL</b> 23 MILES</p>	<p>21182 Salmon Run Mall Loop W, Watertown, NY 13601-2237 Tesla</p>
<p><b>DAVIDSON FORD &amp; CHEVROLET</b> 30 MILES</p>	<p>18621 US-11, Watertown NY 13601 J-1772</p>
<p><b>BLINK NETWORK</b> 30 MILES</p>	<p>18352 US-11, Watertown, NY 13601 J-1772, CCS/SEA</p>



# Exhibitors

Conference exhibitors will be available in the pre-function area of the hotel (by the patio doors). Be sure to visit them during meals and breaks throughout the day on Tuesday. Don't forget to **have exhibitors sign your raffle card** (on the last page) for a chance to win a great prize or experience.



- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1: ANCA                    | 8: National Grid         |
| 2: Brookfield Renewable US | 9: NYSERDA               |
| 3: CCE Jefferson County    | 10: AES                  |
| 4: NYPA                    | 11: Jefferson County OFA |
| 5: NC Clean Energy Hub     | 12: Energy Navigators    |
| 6: Northern Power & Light  | 13: Acadia Energy        |
| 7: Compost for Good        | 14: Poster Session       |
|                            | 15: Poster Session       |

# Exhibitors



**ANCA** is an independent, nonprofit corporation with a transformational approach to building prosperity across northern New York. Using innovative strategies for food systems, clean energy, small businesses, and equity and inclusion, ANCA delivers targeted interventions that create and sustain wealth and value in local communities. Meet members of our clean energy and entrepreneurial teams and our other programs. (1)



**Brookfield Renewable U.S.** is a leading owner, operator and developer of renewable power, delivering innovative, renewable power solutions that accelerate the world towards a sustainable, low-carbon future. Our table will include information about our facilities as well as an opportunity to ask our staff questions. (2)



**Cornell Cooperative Extension (CCE) of Jefferson County** educates youth, families, farmers, and communities using research-based knowledge for practical application and lifelong learning. Interact with members of the Energy Program and learn more about energy saving opportunities for residents and small businesses, including those available through the North Country Clean Energy Hub. (3)



The **New York Power Authority (NYPA)** is America's largest state power organization, with 16 generating facilities and more than 1,400 circuit-miles of transmission lines. Check out our booth to learn more about NYPA's Mission to lead the transition to a carbon-free, economically vibrant New York through customer partnerships, innovative energy solutions, and the responsible supply of affordable, clean, and reliable electricity. (4)



The **North Country Clean Energy Hub** is a team of organizations working to support people and businesses in adopting clean energy technology, utilizing energy efficiency programs, and finding jobs in the clean energy industry. These initiatives can save money, make homes healthier, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. (5)



**Northern Power & Light** | Green energy. Made here. NP&L works to build a more trusted and sustainable electric grid, by connecting North Country homes and businesses with local renewable hydro producers. (6)

# Exhibitors



**Compost for Good (CfG) and Clarkson University** work in partnership to raise community awareness about food waste reduction impacts and strategies, while supporting community scale composting and food waste hauling businesses, organizations, institutions, and municipalities. The CfG is supported by both ANCA and AdkAction. (7)



**National Grid** is committed to delivering safe and reliable energy to the customers and communities we serve. We are one of the largest investor-owned energy companies in the US, serving more than 20 million people throughout New York and Massachusetts. (8)



**NYSERDA** offers objective information and analysis, innovative programs, technical expertise, and support to help New Yorkers increase energy efficiency, save money, use renewable energy, and reduce reliance on fossil fuels. A public benefit corporation, NYSERDA has been advancing energy solutions and working to protect the environment since 1975. Visit our booth to learn more about the Regional Clean Energy Hubs program and other opportunities to promote renewable energy. (9)



**AES** is a renewable energy developer, owner, and operator whose mission is to accelerate the future of clean energy. We have a large portfolio of wind, solar, and battery storage projects nationwide, both at the community and utility scale. In the state of New York, AES has over 52 operational projects, as well as over 800 operational megawatts. From up state to down state and everywhere in between, we utilize our experience and in house expertise to foster partnerships with our customers and co-create solutions to responsibly meet the energy and economic needs of communities across the state. (10)



**Jefferson County Office of the Aging (OFA)** provides services to individuals 60 years and older. The OFA has been developing cost effective community services that help meet the needs and improve the quality of life for older adults. We provide supportive, cost effective programs designed to assist our aging population to remain independently in their home. (11)



# Exhibitors



**Energy Navigators**, volunteers with the the North Country Clean Energy Hub, are concerned and capable residents of the North Country who offer their time to help their friends, neighbors, and other community members learn about ways they can reduce their energy use and energy bills, and enjoy safer and more comfortable homes. They also try to lead by example! (12)



**Acadia Energy** | Powering the energy transition by empowering communities. Acadia builds microgrids to provide local communities, businesses, and residents affordable renewable energy, electrified transportation, advanced manufacturing, financial and IT hosting services, workforce development and job placement, protein production and more! (13)

## Climate Change Poster Session

This student poster session focuses on climate storytelling from youth across the North Country. Climate storytelling confronts the climate crisis by improving inclusivity and understanding in the movement for justice. Through diverse stories, we can fight for a better future with increased appreciation for our planet and everything on it. From compost to clean energy, everyone's story can make a difference for our future. Hearing the voices of the youth is one of the many ways to better understand the importance of the fight for our planet.

### Created By:

- Trinity Bisbort
- Paige Britton
- Nyah Chiodi
- Rosalie Dekay
- Olivia Derouin
- Luke Elvy
- Grace Favreau-Ames
- Francis Frank
- Ayden Hoyt
- Sophia Kotz
- Cale Laduc
- Gwen Lapierre
- LI Lin
- Zoey Olesker-Norminton
- Liliana Planty
- Brynn Rafferty
- Bennett Scott
- Nicholas Tartaglia
- John Tartakoff
- Ethan Tracy



# Detailed Agenda | Monday, May 20th

12:00-1:00 PM

**Tour 1: Brookfield Renewable's Black River Hydropower Facility**

1:15-2:15 PM

**Tour 2: Brookfield Renewable's Black River Hydropower Facility**



27852 NYS 3, Black River, NY 13612

**\*Attendees will meet at the hyrdo facility location for the tour times**

Thank you to Brookfield Renewable US for hosting conference attendees. Learn more about Brookfield's work at <https://brookfieldrenewableus.com>.



Brookfield Renewable US is a leading owner, operator and developer of renewable power.

4:00-6:00 PM

**Electric School Bus Tour**

AND

**Reception**



1000 Islands Harbor Hotel

200 Riverside Dr, Clayton, NY 13624

Take a ride and enjoy the quiet of an electric bus! Feel the difference between an ESB and one powered by fossil fuels, while also learning about one school district's experience in working towards the 2035 mandate.

Enjoy light refreshments and an open bar, mingle with other conference attendees.



Alexandria Central School District's transportation supervisor Delmar Lambert will lead tours of the district's new electric bus.

5:00-6:00 PM

### North Country Climate Collaboration Roundtable, *Pitkin Room*

Join us for a discussion on the challenges North Country Communities face in taking climate action and brainstorm ways to increase collaboration amongst our rural communities. This roundtable is open to anyone interested in increasing climate action in the North Country, including non-profit organizations, community volunteers, municipal leaders, and local businesses. Our discussion will be the basis for a new effort at ANCA to connect Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Task Forces across the North Country. This conversation will be led by ANCA’s North Country Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Coordinator, Carlie Leary.

**Speakers:** Carlie Leary (ANCA Energy Circuit Rider), & Mary Lambert (Climate Action Planning Institute Coordinator).

6:30-9:30 PM

### Sunset Boat Tour, *leaving from 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel*

Enjoy an evening cruise on the water, exploring the beauty of the 1000 Islands region. Learn from friendly staff as they share the legends and lore of the beautiful St. Lawrence River.

*\*We recommend closed-toed shoes for warmth & safety.*



Thank you to Clayton Island Tours for sharing a piece of your region with our attendees!





# Detailed Agenda | Tuesday, May 21st

7:30-8:30 AM

## Registration, Exhibitors, & Hot Breakfast

Enjoy a hot breakfast while you check-in at the registration table. Additionally, exhibitors will be located throughout the main conference area by the patio doors, where you are invited to visit and chat with them.

*\*Don't forget to have exhibitors sign your raffle card for a chance to win an awesome prize at the end of the day!*

8:30-9:30 AM

## WELCOME

remarks by

**Chief Spencer Ohsgoñ:da' Lyons**

Chief Spencer Ohsgoñ:da' Lyons is a traditional Haudenosaunee born to the Onondaga Hawk Clan and was raised in the central fire of the Confederacy. In 2019 he was chosen by his clan to serve as Hoyane (Chief) under the title Haudenosaunee and continues to represent the Onondaga Hawk Clan family. Along with serving his role on the Onondaga Nation Council, he is currently working with the Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force as well as assisting the Onondaga Language Program. Spencer also consults with the Haudenosaunee External Relations Committee on behalf of the Onondaga Nation Council.



The Haudenosaunee Environmental Task Force (HETF) is composed of delegates chosen by each of the Haudenosaunee Nations who are committed to identifying environmental problems in their communities and working to find solutions to these problems.

9:30-9:45 AM

**BREAK**

9:45-11:00 AM

### **Workforce Development Plenary, *Ballroom***

In this plenary session, we aim to begin a conversation about clean energy workforce development, especially opportunities for on-the-job training in the sector. We will learn about state and regional barriers and opportunities, discuss programs training workers in the sector, and identify topics for discussion in future workforce development programs. We hope it inspires an exchange of ideas and business cards over lunch which sparks new ideas and partnerships to strengthen our North Country clean energy workforce.

**Speakers:** Cheryl Mayforth (Executive Director, Jefferson-Lewis Workforce Development Board) Mike Lyons (President, Greater Capital Region Building Trades), Laura Gibson (Director of Workforce Development, Champlain Hudson Power Express), Jenny Jennings (Office Director, ADK Solar), and Arron Fregeau (On-the-Job Coordinator, North Country Chamber of Commerce).

**Moderated by:** Zach Hobbs, Regional Advocacy and Workforce Development Coordinator, ANCA.

11:00-11:15 AM

**BREAK**

Ballroom

Pitkin Room

Tibbetts Point  
Lighthouse  
Room

Rock Island  
Lighthouse  
Room

11:15 AM-12:15 PM

### **Breakout Sessions 1**

**Abbreviated Bridges Out of Poverty Training, *Pitkin Room***

Do you sometimes find it difficult to connect with residents when promoting or introducing clean energy initiatives? Understanding your audience and knowing how to communicate is key to reaching your goals. Bridges Out of Poverty is a unique program designed to teach a common language to educators and businesses so they can better understand residents living in poverty. Join Kayla Nycz, Energy Program Manager for CCE Jefferson and the North Country Clean Energy Hub, for an overview of Bridges concepts and get acquainted with a program that will help not just you, but your residents, meet success with clean energy and energy efficiency!

**Speaker:** Kayla Nycz, CCE Jefferson County.



### **Electric School Bus Adoption in the North Country, *Ballroom***

Join our panelists for a robust discussion on electric school bus adoption. New York State has put into motion a plan to transition all school buses from fossil fuel to electric by 2035. This has brought about unprecedented challenges such as funding electrical upgrades at bus garages and developing inter-district agreements for charging in addition to financing the buses themselves. Our panelists will offer an array of perspectives ranging from early adopters to program implementers and technical assistance providers.

**Speakers:** Nancy Bernstein (ANCA Energy Circuit Rider and Saranac Lake School Board VP), Delmar Lambert (Alexandria School Transportation Director), Jeremy Johnston (Director of Sales, New York Bus), Hannah Abdoo (Clean Transportation Project Manager, NYSERDA).

**Moderated by:** Jill Henck, Clean Energy Program Director, ANCA.

**12:15 PM-1:45 PM**

**Lunch, Climate Storytelling Poster Session, & Exhibitor Booths**

**1:45-2:45 PM**

**Breakout Sessions 2**

**Empowered: What part of the solution do you want to be? *Tibbetts Point Lighthouse Room***

Join Emmett Smith Founder and CEO of Northern Power & Light to discuss the state of clean energy policy, New York State goals, and the role of individuals, businesses, and municipalities in driving the clean energy transition. Emmett will recap the story of NP&L and how this innovative model has led to job creation in the North Country and increased support for local power providers, leading to a broader discussion of clean energy entrepreneurship and the interaction between state policy, innovation, and the development of new business models.

**Speaker:** Emmett Smith, Founder NP&L.

### Cap & Invest and Stakeholder Impact, *Rock Island Lighthouse Room*

Sameer Ranade, Senior Advisor for Climate Justice at NYSERDA, will present on the pre-proposal of New York's Cap-and-Invest Program, with an emphasis on the modeled impacts of the program on household energy costs, job creation, pollution reduction, and health benefits. The presentation will also describe the work of the Energy Equity Collaborative and effort to expand the network of NGO's and CBO's supportive of climate justice. This network will have the opportunity to participate in various activities, including the recently established sectoral working groups to inform NY State climate and clean energy policies and programs.

**Speaker:** Sameer Ranade, NYSERDA.

**2:45-3:00 PM**

**BREAK**

**3:00-4:00 PM**

### Breakout Sessions 3

#### Electrification and Transmission, *Tibbetts Point Lighthouse Room*

New York's ambitious goal to decarbonize the electric grid is not as simple as building new renewables and storage systems. To transport upstate power to NY's population centers, the New York Power Authority and utility companies (such as National Grid) have set into motion a multi-billion dollar initiative to upgrade transmission lines and substations across the state. Join National Grid's Bart Franey and NYPA's Rob Cameron as they discuss the details of National Grid's Electric Investment Plan and what transmission planning looks like from a boots-on-the-ground perspective.

**Speaker:** Bart Franey (Vice President of Clean Energy Development, National Grid), Rob Cameron (Transmission Maintenance Planner, New York Power Authority).

## Just and Inclusive Financing for Rural Clean Energy Business Development, *Rock Island Lighthouse Room*

The Inflation Reduction Act and other historic investments in clean energy are resulting in a massive amount of federal funding that will flow through various public and private entities. You may be asking, how can the private sector look beyond federal and state contracts to fund innovative ideas that further decarbonization efforts? In this session we will begin to scratch the surface together to learn about different models, including social impact lending and worker ownership, which could catalyze private sector innovation to ensure everyone in the North Country can participate in a just, inclusive clean energy transition.

**Speaker:** Joe Marraffino (Loan Office at Cooperative Fund of the Northeast), and Zack Young, (Director of Integrated Capital Solution).

**Moderated By:** Dani Delaini, Entrepreneurial Economy Program Director, ANCA.

**4:00-4:30 PM**

**Raffle & Closing**

*Raffle Reminder*

**Don't forget to visit the exhibitors throughout the event. Have them sign your raffle card (last page of program) for a chance to win local prizes!**

# Agenda Overview

Ballroom

Pitkin Room

Tibbetts Point  
Lighthouse  
Room

Rock Island  
Lighthouse  
Room

## Monday, May 20th

*\*Please note locations*

<p><b>12:00-1:00 PM</b> (Tour #1)</p> <p><b>1:15-2:15 PM</b> (Tour #2)</p>	<p><b>Tour of Brookfield Renewable's Black River Hydropower Facility</b> <i>27852 NYS 3, Black River, NY 13612</i></p>
<p><b>4:00-6:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Electric School Bus Tours</b> <i>1000 Islands Harbor Hotel</i></p> <p><b>Reception with light refreshments and open bar</b> <i>1000 Islands Harbor Hote</i></p>
<p><b>5:00-6:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>North Country Climate Collaboration Roundtable</b> <i>Pitkin Room, 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel</i></p>
<p><b>6:30-9:00 PM</b></p>	<p><b>Sunset Boat Tour</b> <i>Leaving from 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel</i></p>

## Tuesday, May 21st

*1000 Islands Harbor Hotel*

<p><b>7:30-8:30 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Registration, Exhibitor Booths, Hot Breakfast</b></p>
<p><b>8:30-9:30 AM</b></p>	<p><b>Welcome Remarks by Chief Spencer Ohsgoñ:da' Lyons</b></p>

# Tuesday, May 21st Continued...

1000 Islands Harbor Hotel

9:30-9:45	Break
9:45-11:00 AM	Workforce Development Plenary
11:00-11:15 AM	Break
11:15 AM -12:15 PM	<b>Breakout Sessions 1</b> Abbreviated Bridges Out of Poverty Training Electric School Bus Adoption in the North Country
12:15-1:45 PM	Lunch, Poster Session, Exhibitor Booths
1:45-2:45 PM	<b>Breakout Sessions 2</b> Empowered: What part of the solution do you want to be? Cap & Invest and Stakeholder Impact
2:45-3:00 PM	Break
3:00-4:00 PM	<b>Breakout Sessions 3</b> Electrification and Transmission Just and Inclusive Financing for Rural Clean Energy Business Development
4:00-4:30 PM	Raffle and Closing



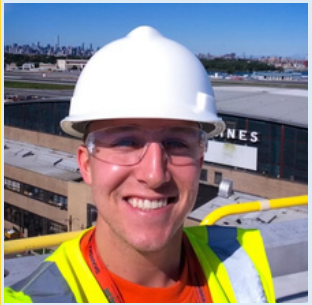
# Our Speakers



**Hannah Abdo** is a project manager in the Clean Transportation group at NYSERDA, bringing nine years of experience in the transportation industry to her role. In this capacity, she is actively involved in the electrification of New York's school buses by 2035, including developing and managing the NY School Bus Incentive Program. Hannah holds an MBA from NYU Stern School of Business, an engineering degree from Fordham University, and is a certified automotive fleet manager (CAFM).



**Nancy Bernstein** has been utilizing and promoting her passion for renewable energy for over 25 years, and is excited to share her skills as an ANCA Energy Circuit Rider. For over 10 years, Nancy organized local green building home tours, and more recently coordinated Solarize Tri-Lakes, a 2-year educational campaign to increase awareness about solar energy, encouraging more than 80 residential and small business solar PV arrays to be installed throughout the Tri-Lakes region. Graduating from Cornell University with a B.S. in Biology, Nancy began adult life teaching environmental education and river ecology aboard the sloop Clearwater on the Hudson River, as well as other sailing ships around the world.



**Rob Cameron** was raised in Massena, NY. After graduating from Massena Central in 2013, he went to college locally to complete a dual degree program in 2018, receiving a BA in Mathematics from SUNY Potsdam and a BS in Civil Engineering from Clarkson University. After interning with the Transmission Maintenance department in NYPA's Northern Region before his last year of college, Rob found himself lucky to be hired full-time in the same department a year later. For the past 6 years, he has held the position of Transmission Maintenance Planner. Based out of Massena Substation, he's around a 15-minute drive from our St. Lawrence-FDR Power Project. Licensed as an FAA Part 107 drone pilot since 2020, he enjoys helping to grow the drone program internally and excited to see how this technology, and others, will affect our business moving forward.



**Danielle "Dani" M. Delaini** is ANCA's Entrepreneurial Economy Program Director with 15+ years of relevant small business and non-profit experience. Dani works to develop and sustain a strong network of small business technical assistance ecosystem partners for the future of rural communities and the overall health and vitality of rural regions. Dani has a background in economic development, small business support service, nonprofit management, relationship building, project development, event and workshop creation and coalition-building by leveraging the knowledge, passion and commitment of our leadership team and the partners that we work with throughout the region. Dani has worked on programs within each of ANCA's four program areas in Small Business Development, Clean Energy, Food Systems and Welcoming and Belonging and coordinated the development of the Center for Businesses in Transition partnership. Dani is the former president of the Board of Directors at the Saranac Lake Area Chamber of Commerce, where she continues to serve in a volunteer role and regularly supports community projects and events.

# Our Speakers



**Bart Franey** has over 25 years' experience working in various utility leadership roles and is currently serving as Vice President of National Grid's Clean Energy Development. As head of Clean Energy Development, Bart is responsible for overseeing the work of a high performing team, dedicated to the development of innovative energy solutions and sustainable infrastructure programs that address the challenges associated with decarbonizing New York's electric grid and the electrification of transport. Prior to leading business development activities, Bart was head of Transmission Planning, Asset Management and Systems Data where he led engineering teams in the development of capital work plans and data management. Bart has first-hand experience, working as Director of Regulation and Pricing, providing written and oral testimony in several state and federal rate proceedings, and testified in legislative hearings on energy related matters. Bart received a bachelor's degree in physics from the State University of New York at Oswego and a MS in Engineering Management from Syracuse University.



**Aaron Fregeau** is the On-the-Job Training Coordinator, North Country Chamber of Commerce.



**Laura Gibson** builds on years of experience in economic development and workforce development. Currently, Laura serves as the Director of Workforce Development at TDI LLC. Laura has long been committed to working with disadvantaged communities across New York State to create career opportunities in the green economy for workers. This involves close coordination with the building and construction trade labor unions, workforce development training programs, and local leaders to maximize opportunities for disadvantaged workers and Minority and Women Owned Business Enterprises. Laura is focused on creating both project opportunity for those workers who may not traditionally have had access to jobs on CHPE, ensuring that significant economic benefits of the project are felt in underserved communities and overseeing the Green Economy Fund (GEF), a \$40M workforce development fund created to support career pathways into green jobs for disadvantaged communities and providing workers the tools they need to succeed. Laura previously served as both Economic Development Advisor for the New York City Mayor's Office of Talent & Workforce Development and Sandy Workforce Development Manager for the New York City Housing Authority's Office of Recovery & Resilience. She holds a Master's degree in Urban Policy Analysis and Management from the New School, as well as a Bachelor's in Sociology from St. John's University.

# Our Speakers



**Jill Henck** has served as ANCA's Clean Energy Program Director since 2021, bringing an eclectic toolkit of experience to the Clean Energy Team. She earned a Bachelor's in Environmental Policy from Union College in 2010 and a Master's in Urban and Regional Planning with a focus in Environmental Planning from the University of Colorado Denver in 2015. Jill is committed to implementing the change needed to strengthen local communities and preserve the planet for generations to come. In addition to her work as ANCA's Clean Energy Program Director, Jill is also a member of NYS's Climate Justice Working Group and NYSERDA's Energy Equity Collaborative. Jill also manages her husband's chainsaw carving business, teaches yoga, and last but not least is raising two humans to be kind and thoughtful stewards of the Earth. She is a firm believer in positive energy, thoughtful conversation, and leading by example.



**Zach Hobbs** is a passionate builder of effective partnerships that empower individuals and strengthen communities. Before joining the ANCA team, he worked in experiential education and community partnerships in the Boston and New Orleans areas, including as Director of the Community Service Center at Boston University. Most recently, he served as an Empire State Fellow in New York's Executive Office of Workforce Development. Zach holds a B.A. in History from Boston University and a Master's in Education from Harvard University. Zach lives in Westport, where fixing up his old house is becoming his entire identity. He is an avid hiker, paddler, baker, road tripper, civic engagement enthusiast and media aficionado.



**Jeremy Johnston** is the Director of Sales for New York Bus Sales, LLC and School Lines Connecticut, INC. He has 15 years of experience in the school bus industry and more than a decade of experience with multiple alternative fuel offerings and product launches. He is a graduate of SUNY Brockport and is from Upstate New York. He is passionate about the industry and the customers that he works alongside.

# Our Speakers



**Mary Lambert**, Climate Action Planning Institute Coordinator. Ms. Lambert joined HVRC in July 2022. As Coordinator of the Climate Action Planning Institute, Mary provides support for local communities' greenhouse gas inventories and climate action plans in Westchester and Dutchess counties. Ms. Lambert previously served on the Hastings-on-Hudson Board of Trustees and as the Trustee Liaison for the Hastings-on-Hudson Conservation Commission and as the Co-Chair of the Hastings-on-Hudson Climate Smart Communities (CSC) Task and as a member of the Zero Waste Advisory Task Force. She has also served as the Executive Director of the Weeden Foundation, specializing in biodiversity preservation, and as a project coordinator for Conservation International. In addition, Ms. Lambert has worked for over 20 years in technology and media, holding senior management roles at Google, Opera Software, and at Volta Charging, the country's most utilized electric vehicle (EV) charging network. She was the Founder of an award-winning green e-marketplace, and most recently, ran her own marketing consulting business, Closed Loop Consultants, working to drive marketing and sales for companies in the building management systems space. Ms. Lambert received her master's degree in business administration from Columbia University and her bachelor's degree in American Studies from Yale University.



**Carlie Leary** has been with ANCA since December 2022 working on the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) and Clean Energy Communities (CEC) programs. She assists North Country communities with climate and clean energy projects. In addition, she serves on the Adirondack Land Trust's Next Generation Council and the City of Plattsburgh's Planning Board.



**Mike Lyons** is a 19-year member of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 158. Prior to joining the Operators, Mike studied Labor Relations at Cornell University. Since becoming a member, Mike has served on the Local's Advisory Board, Executive Board, and Board of Trustees. Currently, Mike is now a Business Agent covering 21 counties Upstate. Mike has also had the honor of serving as the President of the Greater Capital Region Building Trades for two terms, representing all of the Construction Trades in ten counties Upstate.



# Our Speakers



**Joe Marraffino, Cooperative Fund of the Northeast.** Joe is CFNE's New York State loan officer, supporting loans to cooperatives from Buffalo to the Adirondacks to Brooklyn. He previously coordinated the Workers to Owners program for the Democracy at Work Institute, convening a national collaborative working to transition small businesses to democratic employee ownership. Prior to that he was the Finance Manager for the 12,000 member GreenStar Food Co-op. Joe's formative years with the cooperative model were spent walking to 4am shifts in the fog as a worker-owner at Arizmendi Bakery in San Francisco, and as cooperative entrepreneur launching new bakeries for the Arizmendi Association of Cooperatives, which now has more than 200 worker-owners.



**Cheryl Mayforth** is the Executive Director of the Jefferson-Lewis Workforce Development Board. She currently serves on the Partners in Education Committee at SUNY Jefferson, The Recruiting and Retention committee for Fort Drum Regional Healthcare Planning Organization, on the boards of Jefferson County Community Action Planning Council and CREDO. She serves on the Jefferson County Community Economic Development Strategy committee, is the lead of the North Country Regional Economic Development Council's Workforce Development Work group, and the North Country STEM Network . She is also active in her community. She holds a Bachelor's degree from Cornerstone University, Grand Rapids, MI and a Master's degree in Education from Nazareth College, Rochester, NY. She resides with her husband in Clayton, New York, and has one daughter, a son-in-law and the cutest grandson!



**Kayla Nycz** has worked in the clean energy sector under the North Country Clean Energy Hub as the Energy Program Manager for Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County for just over a year. She has nine years of experience working with nonprofit organizations, previously as the Communications and Development Director for Watertown Urban Mission, and is preparing to graduate with her Master's degree in Management this Spring. When Kayla attended the ANCA Clean Energy Conference in 2023, she realized there is a need for better communication and understanding of residents in the LMI communities, who are also the prime customers for New York State energy efficiency programs. She was introduced to Bridges Out of Poverty in 2017 and decided to set up training for her team in October 2023. The training was a success in providing new tools and mindsets to the North Country Clean Energy Hub, and Kayla thought, why not share this with other Regional Hubs? She moved forward with the support of CCE, the North Country Clean Energy Hub, and NYSERDA, to become a certified Bridges Out of Poverty Trainer in March 2024. Kayla hopes to bring "Aha!" moments to her colleagues and create better practices for successful communication in the field.



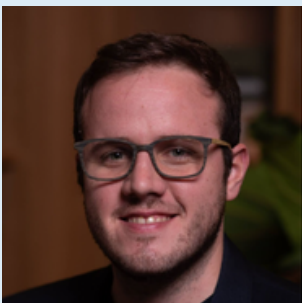
# Our Speakers



**Sameer Ranade** serves as a Senior Advisor for Climate Justice on the Energy, Climate, & Equity Team of the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority. He holds a B.A. in Political Science from Washington State University and an M.P.A. in Environmental Policy & Management from the University of Washington. At NYSERDA, Sameer leads the State's engagement of disadvantaged communities on the cap and invest program and co-chairs a community led advisory body focused on increasing public participation in State processes. Sameer boasts extensive work experience on a range of high profile State and Federal level elections, including both of President Obama's historic 08' and 12' campaigns, on 'The Hill' as a staffer in the both U.S. Senate and the Washington State Senate, and for NGO's with missions focused on clean energy and climate justice. In 2016, Sameer ran for an open seat in the Washington State House of Representatives on a climate justice platform, earning endorsements from every environmental group and demonstrating a strong grassroots presence. His expertise is at the intersection of ethics, social science, climate policy and public administration. His hobbies include writing and performing rhymes at open mics, reading the NYT, drinking coffee, and jogging in New York City's parks.



**Emmett Smith** co-founded NP&L in 2018 to connect his family's hydroelectric plant, Azure Mountain Power in St. Regis Falls, directly to local customers using New York's Community Distributed Generation program. NP&L now works with independent hydro generators throughout the region, providing local homes and businesses with a truly Adirondack renewable power option. He is also an advocate for healthy river systems and Watershed Guardian for the Upper St Regis River. Emmett earned his undergrad in Ethics and International Relations at Hampshire College and his Master's degree in Energy Relation and Law from Vermont Law and Graduate School. He is a resident of Lake Clear and splits his off hours between ceramics, kinetic sculpture, and boating.



**Zack Neville Young** brings both an understanding of alternative investments and mission-driven organizations to his work at BII, contributing to both investing activities and Cohort and Advisory programs. Zack began his career in Private Equity consulting for Investor Group Services before moving on to the social impact sector. Zack joined BII in the Fall of 2019 and has been with the organization through its deployment of Fund I and launch of the Fund-Building Cohort program. During his time at BII, Zack expanded his proficiency with direct investment structures by obtaining his CAIA designation. Zack relishes the opportunity to work with inspiring entrepreneurs and fund managers in pursuit of a more equitable economy and gets excited by pushing the impact investing field further in the direction of impact. He holds an MBA from Brandeis' Heller School for Social Policy and Management and a BA in Mathematics from Hamilton College.

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# SUPPORT

## Local food Pantries

Thank you for attending the 2024 Clean Energy Conference! As energy professionals, we all know the importance of supporting the communities we work and live in, and sometimes that involves giving back. We are excited to announce this year's conference will help to support local food pantries throughout Jefferson County with a Clean Energy Food Drive! The United Way of NNY hosts an annual event to combat food insecurities in the North Country. ANCA and the North Country Clean Energy Hub would like to invite you to be a part of this initiative by bringing in a non-perishable food item, or personal care item, to donate for the cause. A list of needed items can be found below, but any non-perishable, unexpired, item will do! **A box will be available at the conference.** Let's work together to show our community our top-notch energy and meet a goal of collecting 100 items!

### Examples of in-demand items:

- Juice boxes or pouches
- Fruit cups or canned fruit in natural juices
- Soap, shampoo, conditioner
- Applesauce
- Razors
- Cereal
- Diapers
- Shelf-stable milk (powdered milk)
- Deodorant
- Nut butter (peanut, almond, etc.)
- Tooth brushes/toothpaste
- Canned soups
- Pasta and pasta sauce
- Granola bars, crackers, popcorn, and other shelf-stable snacks
- Instant Oatmeal
- Rice
- Mac & Cheese
- Instant Drink Mixes (hot chocolate, coffee, etc.)

For more information, contact Kayla Nycz at [kng34@cornell.edu](mailto:kng34@cornell.edu).

# Building Community

**Some considerations for effective engagement from the Clean Energy Conference Team and our friends at The Advocacy Institute:**

**Clean your house:** Being entrenched in our respective echo chambers often results in buzz words or phrases that can be polarizing and laden with judgment typically assigning the role of villain to another group. We will strive to avoid subjective or politically charged statements that seat ourselves in a position of expert with others being to blame or in need of education.

**One mic:** One person speaks at a time, avoid side conversations.

**Lean in, Lean in:** If you are someone who tends to talk all of the time, lean in to actively listening. If you are someone who tends to stay out of the conversation, lean in to participating, be part of the conversation, let your voice be heard.

**Everyone participates, No one dominates:** This is a space where all voices have value. We want to be sure that everyone has a chance to be heard and share their thoughts, ideas, comments and suggestions.

**Land the plane:** As we want to be sure to respect the time of each other and our time together, let us also get to the point when talking and allow time for others to speak. Don't circle the runway. Land the plane.

**Free to BE:** People in this space may have responsibilities outside of here, including but not limited to children or other caregiving roles. Checking phones or taking calls may be necessary to BE in this space. We also want to take care of ourselves to BE fully participating. Be aware of where the bathrooms are, snacks, and drinks, etc. Pee, share great moments on social media, get a snack, stand and stretch, but also BE aware of the space you take up and don't disturb others.

**Lead with Loving Intention:** When harmed, people are often encouraged to find the good intentions of the person who caused harm, putting the onus and work on the person experiencing the harm, instead of asking the person who has caused harm to be mindful of their behavior. In these spaces, we ask that each individual takes ownership of the way they show up and participate in this space, ensuring that their words and actions align with an environment that fosters supportive learning and building.

**Keep it in the "I":** Use "I" statements when sharing. Refrain as best you can from generalizing groups of any kind

# NOTES

# NOTES



# Raffle

1. Visit **at least 10 exhibitor tables** and ask them to initial their box below
2. Write your name, tear it off, and drop it in the box at the raffle table
3. Stick around for the Conference Wrap-up at 4:15 p.m. on Tuesday

You could win one of these amazing prizes or experiences:

- Clayton Distillery Gift Card
- NYS DEC Conservationist Magazine 1 Year Subscription
- Soil & Compost
- 1 year NYS Park Pass
- Boldt Castle Tour
- River Rat Cheese Basket
- Patagonia Merch
- Ticket to the Wild Center, Tupper Lake
- Coyote Moon Vineyard Tasting for 2
- Tug Hill Artisan Roasters Gift
- Local Product Basket from the North Country Store

Tear out and drop at the raffle table before the drawing at 4:15 p.m. on Tuesday for a chance to win.

Name			
			
			
			
 <p>Poster Session</p>	 <p>Poster Session</p>		<p>THANK YOU!</p>

Thank you for attending our conference!



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**Back of Raffle Card**