



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Erik Bakke

Project Development Executive, EnSync Energy Systems

Erik Bakke is a strategic and tactical leader of Western region project development for EnSync Energy Systems, providing complete energy management systems to maximize value of renewable energy with energy storage solutions. EnSync develops assets using its vital power control and energy storage technologies levered with financing solutions for projects “behind the meter” in commercial, industrial and multi-tenant buildings. EnSync also delivers patented energy management systems for off-grid applications such as island or remote power.



Prof. Jack Brouwer

Associate Director, Advanced Power Program and Energy, UC Irvine

Jack Brouwer received his Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1993. From 1993 to 1997, he served as a research assistant professor at the University of Utah and was a member of the technical staff at Reaction Engineering International. He came to UC Irvine in 1997 as

associate director of the National Fuel Cell Research Center (NFCRC), concurrently holding appointments as lecturer, assistant and then associate adjunct professor.

His primary research focus since joining UC Irvine has been high-temperature electrochemical dynamics and integrated energy systems research that includes fuel cells, gas turbines, electrolyzers, and solar and wind power.



Mark Byron

Executive Director, Renewable Energy Programs

Mark Byron is the Executive Director – Renewable Energy Programs for the University of California Office of the President. During his first year at the University of California he lead the effort for the University of California to become an Electric Service Provider and subsequently launched direct access electricity supply to UC’s account in all three investor owned utility service territories.

Additionally, Mr. Byron lead the effort that resulted in the University of California entering into long term renewable power supply arrangements, for the direct access load, that doubled the amount of renewable energy purchased by the University over the state’s minimum requirements for renewable energy supply.

Mr. Byron has more than 20 years of experience in the power sector on both the wholesale power supply and retail service side of the California energy market. Before joining the University of California, Mr. Byron was the Director of Asset Management for GWF Power Systems, a Pittsburg, California based independent power producer.

Mr. Byron represented GWF on the boards of both the Independent Energy Producers Association (IEP) and the Western Power Trading Forum (WPTF). He has a Mechanical Engineering degree from Boston University and an MBA from University of California, Irvine.



Lisa Cohn

Editor, Microgrid Knowledge

Lisa Cohn is a writer and editor at MicrogridKnowledge.com, which leads the way providing news on microgrids and distributed energy resources. The award-winning writer's energy-related articles have appeared in Mother Earth News, Natural Home Magazine, Horizon Air Magazine, Oregon Business, The Oregonian, Renewable Energy World, EnergyBiz, and other publications. She recently contributed to a National Geographic Roundtable Discussion about renewable energy. Visit her at www.MicrogridKnowledge.com or www.RealEnergyWriters.com



James Cook

Director of Development, First Solar

Professionally, James is a Director of Business Development at First Solar (and prior to that for start-up OptiSolar), leading up First Solar's development efforts in the Western USA and Latin America. Projects he has lead include the 550 megawatt (MW) Topaz Solar Farm in San Luis Obispo, the 150 MW Copper Mountain two project in Boulder City, Nevada and the 139MW Campo Verde Solar Project in Imperial County, California (all fully operational today).

James served on active duty in the United States Marine Corps from 1992 through 1996.

James lives in Palo Alto with his wife and son where he is active as a community volunteer, having served on the Palo Alto Parent Teacher Association Council for many years, on the board of Canopy, bringing the life-giving benefits of trees to schools and neighborhoods. He has also served as a commissioner and three time former Chair of the Palo Alto Utilities Advisory Commission (UAC); he served on the UAC from 2010-2017.



Karen Douglas

Commissioner, California Energy Commission

Karen Douglas was originally appointed to the California Energy Commission by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in February 2008 and re-appointed by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in December 2012 and February 2018. She served as Chair from February 2009 to February 2011. She fills the Attorney position on the five-member Commission where four of the five members by law are required to have professional training in specific areas—engineering or physical science, environmental protection, economics, and law. Commissioner Douglas is the lead commissioner on power plant siting.

From 2005 to 2008, Ms. Douglas served as Director of the California Climate Initiative at the Environmental Defense Fund. Prior to going to the Environmental Defense Fund, Ms. Douglas spent four years at the Planning and Conservation League. Commissioner Douglas is a 2001 graduate of the Stanford Law School and holds a Master’s Degree in public policy from the University of Colorado, Boulder.



Tosh Dutt

Senior Manager, Sales, EnerNOC

Tosh Dutt is a Senior Manager for EnerNOC Flexibility Solutions and is subject matter expert on Distributed Energy Resources. He is a 10-year veteran of the energy business and served commercial and industrial customers by facilitating the transition to renewable energy in Domestic and International markets. His background in electrical and mechanical engineering and global business development experience combines to offer customers a full scope of understanding of the business cases relative to the technologies and solutions being deployed in the marketplace. He has degrees from USC in Biomedical Engineering and Business Administration.



Ron Durbin

Executive Director, University of California Advanced Solar Technologies Institute (UC Solar), UC Merced

Ron Durbin is the Executive Director of the University of California Advanced Solar Technologies Institute (UC Solar). UC Solar is a multi-campus research institute made up of faculty from the University of California's Merced, Berkeley, Santa Barbara, Davis, San Diego, Riverside, Santa Cruz, Irvine and Los Angeles campuses and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL). Headquartered at UC Merced, UC Solar creates technologies that make solar energy systems more efficient, more affordable, and easier to integrate. In addition, UC solar educates and develops tomorrow's solar energy leaders and entrepreneurs. Before coming to UC Merced in 2007, Ron spent five years at UC San Diego working in the information storage field at UCSD's Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS). He also worked in high tech, spending 10 years with San Diego-based QUALCOMM Incorporated. Ron has a B.A. in English and Communication Arts from California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, CA.



Noemi Gallardo

Senior Manager of Public Policy, Sunrun

Noemí Gallardo is a Senior Manager of Public Policy at Sunrun Inc., the nation's largest dedicated residential solar, storage and energy services company. Based in Sacramento, she leads Sunrun's legislative affairs for the state of California and is Sunrun's voice at the capitol. Noemí is also responsible for monitoring relationships with municipal utilities and helping the policy team expand its strategic partnerships with organizations throughout the state. To advance Sunrun's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion, she helped launch a Diversity & Outreach committee, which she now leads.

Prior to Sunrun, Noemí served as The Greenlining Institute's 2012-2013 Energy & Telecommunications Legal Fellow, advocating for utility companies to have better language access policies and less restrictive background checks. From 2015 to 2016, she served as the Program Fellow at the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, supporting the grant making team to advance immigrant rights. Prior to working in policy and

advocacy, Noemí served as a California certified Spanish interpreter and ran an interpreting business in her native Ventura County.

Noemí holds a BA from Pepperdine University, an MPP from the University of Southern California and a JD from UC Hastings.



Matt Gregori

Technology Development Manager, Southern California Gas Company

Matt Gregori serves as a Technology Development Manager for Low Carbon Resources in the SoCalGas Research, Development, and Demonstration (RD&D) group. In this role, he seeks out new clean energy technologies that are ready for deployment at the pilot or demonstration scale. His current focus is on technologies that convert woody biomass or renewable electricity into Renewable Natural Gas for injection into the natural gas grid.

During his career in the clean energy field, Matt has built and operated clean energy projects from food waste anaerobic digesters to biodiesel production facilities.

Matt earned a B.S. in Chemistry at The California Institute of Technology and an MBA at the Anderson School of Management at UCLA.



Michael Hamilton

Sales Engineer, EnerNOC

Michael Hamilton is Sales Engineer for EnerNOC Flexibility Services. He is a 10-year veteran of the energy business with a focus on cost-effective solutions for commercial and industrial customers to simultaneously improve the bottom line and green their business portfolio. His previous experience is with utilities and microturbine generator manufacturers including Southern California Edison, Capstone Turbine, and

FlexEnergy. His early research interests were in carbon capture and sequestration and fuel cells. He has degrees from MIT (Technology and Policy Masters) and Georgia Tech (Mechanical Engineering).



Brendan Harney

Director, Business Development, STEM

Brendan Harney, Director of Business Development, oversees new market development and solar+storage at Stem. Prior to joining Stem, Brendan was Director of Business Development at Primus Power, a flow battery manufacturer, leading their product strategy, marketing and business development efforts. Mr. Harney previously managed commercial market development for SolarCity, a solar leasing and installation company. Mr. Harney began his career in finance, eventually serving as a Vice President for Daiwa SMBC, a Japanese investment bank. He later advised on energy and national security issues while at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, DC and the International Energy Forum (IEF) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Brendan holds a Masters from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and an MBA from the University of Cambridge.



Chris Linn

Project Manager, Smarter Grid Solutions

Chris Linn recently transitioned from a Director of Operations role as the owner's representative for private equity investor that is in the renewable market to a project manager role for Distributed Energy Resource Management Systems (DERMS) company.

From 2007-2017 he worked in various roles in the construction of solar and wind resources.

At SPG Solar Chris Linn started off coordinating 2-5kW residential PV systems, in periodic times he oversaw 50 different projects concurrently. He transitioned to managing commercial projects in the 30kW - 1MW scale. Linn was hand-picked by the CEO & CFO to lead an ERP implementation project in a multi-company environment with integration into a 3rd party payroll system at SPG.

While at DynaSolar Linn have acted as both the Director of Operations for solar projects ranging from 20 kW to 27 MW for DynaSolar. He also worked for Armada Wind (DynaSolar's affiliate company) as a project manager for (3) 150 MW wind farms. All three wind farms are now operational. During his tenure with DynaSolar / Armada he oversaw over one billion dollars of asset investment in renewables.



Prof. Ronald Loveridge

Director, Center for Sustainable Suburban Development, UC Riverside

Ronald O. Loveridge has 33 years of public service – as a Riverside Council member beginning in 1979 and as Mayor from 1994 to 2012. He is a highly regarded regional, state and national leader. At the national level, he was very involved on the Executive Committee and Board of the National League of Cities, making policy calls and decisions on behalf of some 19,000 cities and towns across the nation. He also served as President of the National League of Cities in 2010. Mayor Loveridge is a member of the National Academy of Public Policy. His statewide and regional service has included Board roles on the broadest array of important organizations: the California Air Resources Board, California Forward Action Fund, California Competes, South Coast Air Quality Management District, Southern California Association of Governments, Western Riverside Council of Governments, and Inland Empire Economic Partnership.

A Stanford doctoral graduate, Mayor Loveridge teaches an extremely popular political science course at UC Riverside. Loveridge's research investigates urban politics and public policy, particularly environmental policy. He is the author of *City Managers in Legislative Politics* (Bobbs-Merrill, 1971). His research has appeared in *Polity*, *Environment and Behavior*, *California Air Environment*, and *Cry California*, as well as several edited volumes.



Prof. Hamed Mohsenian-Rad

*Associate Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
Associate Director, Winston Chung Global Energy Center*

Dr. Hamed Mohsenian-Rad is an Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, an Associate Director of the Winston Chung Global Energy Center, Director of the UC-National Lab Center for Power Distribution Cyber Security, and Director of the Smart Grid Research Lab at the UC Riverside. His research interests include modeling, data analytics, and optimization of power systems and smart grids. He has received the National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER Award, a Best Paper Award from the IEEE Power and Energy Society (PES) General Meeting, and a Best Paper Award from the IEEE International Conference on Smart Grid Communications. Dr. Mohsenian-Rad's research has been funded by several grants from the U.S. Department of Energy, NSF, and California Energy Commission. Two of his publications are the top two most cited journal articles in the field of Smart Grids. Dr. Mohsenian-Rad received his Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada in 2008. He serves as an Editor of the IEEE Transactions on Smart Grid and an Editor of the IEEE Power Engineering Letters.



Dr. Hamidreza Nazaripouya

*Research Assistant Professor, University of California, Riverside- Winston Chung Global Energy Center
(WCGEC)*

Hamidreza Nazaripouya is a Research Assistant Professor at the University of California, Riverside (UCR). He received the M.S. degree in power electronics from the Sharif University of Technology in 2010, and the M.S. degree in power systems from Louisiana State University in 2013. He obtained his Ph.D. degree from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). His research on integration and control of distributed renewable energy resources and battery storage systems has led to multiple publications and patents in the field. His patented technology won the NSF grant award with him as the entrepreneurial lead to investigate the

commercialization of the technology. Dr. Nazaripouya is an experienced power system engineer with industry background. In particular, he has worked for Entergy Corporation, owner and operator of power plants with approximately 30,000 MW of electric generating capacity. He has conducted several projects for utility companies during his career. His research interests include control and integration of DERs, application of power electronics in power system, microgrid technologies, Electric Vehicles and battery energy storage systems.

Dr. Nazaripouya has received several honors and awards, including IEEE SFV Section Rookie of the Year Award, IEEE IAS and PES Presentation Awards, and the UC Dissertation-Year Fellowship Award.



Ram Ravikumar

Engineer & Scientist, Electric Power Research Institute

Ram Ravikumar is currently serving as an Engineer/Scientist in the Energy Storage and Distributed Energy Resources Program at the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). Ram is involved in the techno-economic value analysis of distributed energy resources, including storage both at front-of-meter and behind-the-meter levels. He is also involved in microgrid feasibility analysis and is one of the technical leads of the Energy Storage Integration Council (ESIC) and StorageVET™ (www.storagevet.com).

Ram graduated with a Master's Degree in Power Engineering from the University of Southern California and a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from Anna University, India.



Tim Sasseen

Principal Advisor, Distributed Generation, Center for Sustainable Energy (CSE)

Tim Sasseen has dedicated his career to bringing energy technologies in hydrogen, electric vehicles, microgrids and wind power from concept to production. Tim's work has brought reliability to residential wind

turbines, public acceptance to fuel cell vehicles and innovation to utility scale wind turbines. World-firsts have rewarded his efforts, such as the highest mileage fuel cell vehicle deployment to date, the best-selling residential wind turbine in the world, and the first true variable speed induction generator wind turbine. Tim energizes teams of highly skilled innovators to achieve exceptional results in reliability, cost effectiveness, serviceability and consumer appeal. At CSE, Tim provides subject matter expertise on a diverse portfolio of Distributed Generation and Energy Advisory Service programs and projects, and develops demonstration projects focused on advanced energy storage, microgrids, behind-the-meter distributed generation, renewable energy grid integration and vehicle-grid integration research and deployment. Tim Sasseen lives in San Diego, CA.



Bambi Tran

Regional Director, Inland Empire at GRID Alternatives

Bambi directs the Inland Empire office of GRID Alternatives, a 501(c)3 community nonprofit organization that makes renewable energy technology and job training accessible to underserved communities. She has over 20 years of experience in green building, education, community development, and non-profit management. Bambi holds a BS in Architecture from the University of Virginia and a Masters in Real Estate Development from the University of Maryland College Park, and is a LEED Accredited Professional. She enjoys spending time with her family, cooking, traveling, teaching, doodling, humming, and building things.



Dr. Sadrul Ula

Research Faculty & Interim Director, Infrastructure and Energy Management, UC Riverside

Sadrul Ula is the Managing Director of Winston Chung Global Energy Center, a new research center at the University of California – Riverside, Bourns College of Engineering. He is also a Research Faculty at the College of Engineering – Center for Environmental Research and Technology (CE-CERT) and part of the Southern California – Research Initiative for Solar Energy (SC-RISE). He is working on research, development

and outreach aspects of electrical energy storage, power transmission and distribution, smart grids, solar photo-voltaic (PV), solar thermal, concentrated PV (CPV) and concentrated solar (CSP), as well as wind energy.

During 2004-05 he served as the Energy Advisor to the Governor of Wyoming, the largest energy producing state in the country. He was the liaison between the Governor's Office and the newly formed Wyoming Infrastructure Authority whose mission is facilitating development of electric power generation and transmission from Wyoming. Over the years he had advised various Electricity and Energy ministers/officials of Bangladesh Government on energy planning and management. Dr. Ula joined the University of Wyoming (UW) in August, 1982 where he served as Professor of Electrical Engineering and founding Director, Wyoming Electric Motor Training and Testing Center. He was made a Professor Emeritus by the UW Board of Trustees in August, 2010. He was awarded the 1987 Outstanding Branch Counselor Award by the Technical Activities Board and the U.S. Activities Board of IEEE. He also served as the Student Activities Chairman for the Region 5 of IEEE. Dr. Ula also served as chairman of the Energy Conversion and Conservation Division of the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE).

With funding from the U.S. Department of Energy and many industry sponsors, Dr. Ula has conducted electric motor efficiency improvement studies at the Naval Petroleum Reserves and at various other industries. As part of this technological transfer initiative, energy efficiency improvement protocols were developed for use nationwide. Dr. Ula also implemented a number of state wide solar, wind and energy conservation projects with funding from California Energy Commission, NSF, US Department of Agriculture, Wyoming Business Council, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and numerous utility companies.

Sadrul Ula received his Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Leeds, United Kingdom. Between 1977 and 1982 he worked at the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, Massachusetts where he was involved with the development of superconducting generators.



Jeff Van Dam

Owner and Operator of Triple Line Solar and That Solar Guy

Jeff is the owner and operator of Triple Line Solar and That Solar Guy. He has been in the solar industry for over a decade and is a solar contractor in southern California focused on installation of solar photovoltaic grid-tied,

battery back-up and off-grid systems in the residential and small commercial markets. He also installs pool thermal systems for residential and commercial.

He is an exporter of super complete custom solar kits for installation in 3rd world countries where he supplies balanced solar power systems for homes that are not easily accessible. Jeff is also a solar educator who develops solar curriculum for online computer based training to help small scale solar installation/adoption globally.

He was a 2015 nominee for the Spirit of the Entrepreneur Award and currently serves as a Commissioner for the City of Murrieta.



V. John White

Executive Director, Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies

V. John White has been a writer, commentator, advocate, and leader of the green energy movement in California for 36 years. He is executive director of the Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies (CEERT) in Sacramento, Legislative Director for Clean Power Campaign (CPC), and principal of the environmental and energy lobbying practice, V. John White Associates, representing public interest environmental and local government organizations, and new energy technology companies.

Between CEERT, CPC, and V. John White Associates, White works closely with the legislature and state regulatory agencies, primarily the Public Utilities Commission, the Air Resources Board, the California Energy Commission, and the Independent System Operator. White regularly develops policy in coordination with the agencies' Commissioners and Board Members in order to ensure that important legislation not conflict with agency goals and objectives.

White's career has been devoted to air quality improvement and clean energy development. As chief consultant to the California Assembly Subcommittee on Air Quality, he became the leading legislative expert on air quality technology and regulation, helping to draft the California Clean Air Act and subsequent clean air and energy statutes. White also served on the board of Governors of the California Independent System Operator from 1998 to 2001.

In 1990 he co-founded CEERT, which has become the premier energy advocacy voice for key environmental public interest groups and clean energy technology companies. He played a central role in the passage of the Pavley Clean Car bill, AB 32, and many of California's renewable energy incentive and regulatory programs.

He serves on a number of nonprofit boards and organizations.

John is a graduate of U.C. Riverside – Political Science

V. John White has been a writer, commentator, advocate, and leader of the green energy movement in California for 35 years. He is the executive director of the Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies (CEERT) in Sacramento, Legislative Director for Clean Power Campaign (CPC), and principal of the environmental and energy lobbying practice, V. John White Associates, representing public interest environmental and local government organizations, and new energy technology companies. Between CEERT, CPC, and V. John White Associates, White works closely with the legislature and state regulatory agencies, primarily the Public Utilities Commission, the Air Resources Board, the California Energy Commission, and the Independent System Operator. White regularly develops policy in coordination with the agencies' Commissioners and Board Members in order to ensure that important legislation does not conflict with agency goals and objectives. White's career has been devoted to air quality improvement and clean energy development. As chief consultant to the California Assembly Subcommittee on Air Quality, he became the leading legislative expert on air quality technology and regulation, helping to draft the California Clean Air Act and subsequent clean air and energy statutes. White also served on the board of Governors of the California Independent System Operator from 1998 to 2001. In 1990 he co-founded CEERT, which has become the premier energy advocacy voice for key environmental public interest groups and clean energy technology companies. He played a central role in the passage of the Pavley Clean Car bill, AB 32, and many of California's renewable energy incentive and regulatory programs. He serves on a number of nonprofit boards and organizations. John is a graduate of U.C. Riverside – Political Science.