



The State of Offshore Wind in New England & Beyond

Tuesday, October 1, 2024

Speakers

Bob Grace (Moderator)

Bob founded Sustainable Energy Advantage (SEA) 25 years ago to support the ever-growing clean energy sector by providing clients with rigorous and objective market, policy, financial and strategic analysis. He has advised hundreds of governments, companies and other stakeholders - throughout the Northeast and beyond - conceiving, advancing, implementing and evolving electricity sector markets, policies, projects, and businesses, in initiatives driving thousands of MW of sustainable energy. Bob is a frequent author, committee participant and speaker on topics shaping the renewable energy landscape.

Pertinent to the current topic, Bob leads SEA's offshore wind consulting practice, having worked on offshore wind predating the Block Island Wind Farm. In that practice he has supported private and public center entities on topics such as offshore wind procurement and bidding, pricing, market modeling, analysis of alternative procurement and bid approaches, costs and benefits, and wholesale market issues. He is also a regular guest lecturer at UMASS Amherst's OSW graduate certificate program on OSW economics, policy and procurement topics

Prior to founding SEA, he served on the team pioneering electric industry restructuring at New England Power Company, and launched the first renewable energy-based retail electric offering in the eastern U.S. competitive electricity era. Bob's background spans power supply planning, analysis and transactional roles, regulatory economics and rate analysis. He holds a M.S. in Energy and Resources (U.C, Berkeley) and a B.S. in Energy Studies (Brown University).

Moira Cyphers

Moira brings a decade and a half of lobbying, policy, and advocacy expertise to American Clean Power. For the past 8 years, Moira was a lobbyist in the Mid-Atlantic known for leading grassroots and multi-organizational coalition policy issues, including legislation to require 50% of Maryland's energy from renewable sources, and working to pass the 100% renewable standard in Washington, DC. Moira has worked on renewable energy projects at the most local levels – changing zoning text amendments to get projects built – all the way up to working with

ACP (and prior to that, AWEA) to build a national engagement strategy to educate state-level legislators through conferences and national policy committee work.

Prior to lobbying, Moira served as staff in the Maryland General Assembly for six years, where her portfolio included health care, energy, and environmental policy. In the interim, Moira worked on statewide ballot initiatives, led the operations and policy for a 2014 gubernatorial race, and worked on local races in the Mid-Atlantic.

In 2015, Moira was honored by The Daily Record as a recipient of the “20 in their Twenties” award, and in 2021, was named by the same publication as a “Leading Woman” for her professional career successes and her commitment to community service. She grew up on the New Hampshire seacoast and has lived in the Mid-Atlantic since 2004, beginning with her undergraduate studies at American University.

Ben D’Antonio

Ben D’Antonio is Manager of Transmission Strategy and Economic Analysis at Eversource. Ben is responsible for early-stage transmission project conceptualization, economic modeling of the power sector, representation at NEPOOL technical committees, and supporting Eversource’s efforts to reduce its greenhouse gas footprint. Previously, Ben worked at NESCOE and specialized in the interactions between public policies and wholesale electricity market rules and resource and infrastructure planning. Ben has a Juris Doctor and Masters of Environmental Law from Vermont Law School and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the University of Vermont.

Ken Kimmell

Ken Kimmell is the Chief Development Officer for Offshore Wind at Avangrid Renewables. He leads a team to develop new offshore wind business opportunities, obtain federal, state and local approvals for Avangrid’s offshore wind projects, secure infrastructure and economic development partnerships, and ensure implementation of workforce and other commitments made by the projects. Prior to his position at Avangrid, Ken served as President of the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), a leading science-based nonprofit which works at the federal and state level to promote renewable energy policies. Prior to joining UCS in May 2014, Kimmell was the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). He has also served as General Counsel at the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs in Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick’s administration, and in that capacity worked on state regulatory and siting policy to advance offshore and onshore wind projects. Ken also practiced law for 17 years as the director and senior attorney at a Boston-based law firm specializing in environmental, energy, and land-use issues. He earned his

bachelor's degree at Wesleyan University and his law degree at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Mary McMahon

Mary joined SEA in September 2021. Mary researches, writes, and conducts analysis on offshore wind and other large-scale renewables topics for SEA's Eyes and Ears Services. Prior to working at SEA, Mary served as an analyst covering global energy markets and climate change for the Central Intelligence Agency.

Mary holds a Master's in Public Policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, and a B.A. in Chemistry with a minor in Classics from Northwestern University.