2017 ISLAND ENERGY CONFERENCE
CHARTING TRANSITIONS
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About the cover:
The 2017 Island Energy Conference: Charting Transitions will feature a trip to Monhegan Island to visit the island’s power station and learn about the community’s diverse energy projects. Pictured is the iconic Monhegan Island Light and its solar array.
Change is hard. Change is scary. Change is also necessary. In recent years, many island communities in Maine and across the world have changed and adapted out of necessity. These special places, facing critical choices about how to power their communities, are charting transitions, choosing clean, affordable, innovative energy solutions and shedding the old, inefficient systems of the past. Islands, so often microcosms for the rest of the world, are modeling the shift that most places are only just starting to consider.

As we gather for the Seventh Annual Island Energy Conference, we will celebrate and explore the transitions already underway in many island communities and chart a course toward a new energy horizon. This year, we are highlighting our emerging partnerships with communities and experts from Alaska, Hawaii, Japan, Denmark, and beyond who are eager to learn from the islands of New England and share what’s working elsewhere.

Tetsunari Iida, Director of Japan’s Institute for Sustainable Energy Policy and a new partner of the Island Institute, will join us as our keynote speaker to offer his thoughts on the important role islands will play in shaping the global energy future and how communities can lead the way when others won’t.

Change may be difficult, but transitions are always easier when you know you’re not alone. Here’s to embracing change and charting transitions together.

Sincerely,
Suzanne, Brooks, Harry, and Ben
The Island Institute Community Energy Team

Keynote Speaker: Tetsunari Iida

Tetsunari Iida is a leading authority on renewable energy, and a “Social Innovator” who has introduced ecological initiatives as Executive Director of the Institute for Sustainable Energy Policies (ISEP), a non-profit and independent research institute. He has proposed nuclear-free energy policies, as well as community-based renewable energy projects in Japan as Secretary-General of the Japan Community Power Association.

He played a central role as co-chair of the executive committee for the “1st World Community Power Conference” which was held in Fukushima city on November 3-4, 2016. The conference was the product of the joint efforts of ISEP, the Japan Community Power Association and the World Wind Energy Association. At the conference, Iida received the World Wind Energy Honorary Award 2016 for extraordinary personal achievements in his promotion of community power.

The ISEP and Island Institute are working with the Energy Academy in Samsø, Denmark and others from around the world to share practical solutions to island energy challenges.
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>7:30-8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Registration &amp; Breakfast</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:45-9:30</td>
<td>Welcome: Rob Snyder and Suzanne MacDonald</td>
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<td>Remarks from Sen. Susan Collins</td>
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<td>Presentation of Awards - <strong>Great Room 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>30 min</td>
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<td>10:00-11:30</td>
<td>Breakout Session — <strong>Choose One</strong></td>
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<td>11:30-12:15</td>
<td>LUNCH - <strong>Great Room 1</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>12:15-1:00</td>
<td>Keynote Address: Tetsunari Iida</td>
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<td><strong>Great Room 2</strong></td>
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<td>15 min</td>
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<td>Charting the Course Forward</td>
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<td><strong>Great Room 2</strong></td>
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<td>6:30 - 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>No-host dinner at Rí Rá Irish Pub,</td>
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<td>72 Commercial Street in Portland</td>
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BREAKOUT SESSION OPTIONS

— 10:00-11:30 —

Great Room 1
NEW ENERGY: EMPOWERING COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Great Room 2
OFFSHORE WIND: EMERGING FROM THE DEEP

— 1:15-2:15 —

Great Room 1
THE SOLAR PANEL: COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACHES TO SOLAR

Great Room 2
ENERGY TRANSITIONS: TAKING A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO ENERGY CHALLENGES

— 2:30-3:30 —

Great Room 1
BRIDGING THE RURAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY GAP: INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO EFFICIENCY PROJECTS IN REMOTE PLACES

Great Room 2
MICROGRIDS & ENERGY STORAGE: BATTLE STORIES FROM THE FRONT LINES OF THE ENERGY REVOLUTION
When is a metal roof more than just a metal roof?
Standing seam metal roofing panels with ICC-SRCC OG-100 certified integrated thermal collection: For water heating, space heating and cooling, radiant flooring and more.

www.INroof.solar or 978.378.0015 for information
RECORDED REMARKS FROM SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS

First elected in 1996, Senator Collins has earned a national reputation as an effective legislator who works across party lines to seek consensus on our nation’s most important issues. Senator Collins ranks fifteenth in Senate seniority and is the most senior Republican woman. She chairs the Senate Select Committee on Aging and the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations Subcommittee, and also serves on the Intelligence Committee as well as the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. Known for her Maine work ethic, Senator Collins has never missed a vote in her twenty years in office – more than 6,000 votes in a row.

2017 AWARDS:

ISLAND ENERGY INNOVATION AWARD

Monhegan Plantation Power District

The Island Institute presents the 2017 Island Energy Innovation Award to Monhegan Plantation Power District for its persistent, inclusive approach to building a new energy future for the Monhegan community.

COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD

Board and Staff of the Swan’s Island Electric Cooperative

The Island Institute presents the Community Champion Award to the Board and Staff of the Swan’s Island Electric Cooperative for their dedication to including the residents of Swan’s Island and Frenchboro in the pursuit of safe, reliable and affordable electricity service.

Past Island Energy Innovation Awardees:

2015 - Block Island and Deepwater Wind
2014 - Star Island Corporation
2013 - Peaks Environmental Action Team
2012 - Vinalhaven Energy Club
Breakout Session #1 | 10:00 - 11:30

GREAT ROOM 1

NEW ENERGY: EMPOWERING COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

Sometimes community energy initiatives need a spark, a new voice with a unique perspective. This session will feature island and remote communities that are infusing new energy into their local projects by building leadership capacity and engaging youth.

Presenters: Shaina Kilcoyne, Renewable Energy Alaska Project; Ryan Martin, Islesboro Central School; Emillia Noordhoek, Sust-īna-ble Molokai

Moderator: Harry Podolsky, Island Institute

GREAT ROOM 2

OFFSHORE WIND: EMERGING FROM THE DEEP

With the Block Island Wind Farm up and running, the U.S. offshore wind industry is picking up speed. From New England to Hawaii, islands will continue to be at the forefront of American offshore wind development. This session will feature updates and reflections on effective community engagement strategies from Monhegan, Block Island, Martha’s Vineyard, and Hawaii.

Presenters: Marian Chioffi, Monhegan Energy Task Force; Richard Andre, Vineyard Power; Bill Penn, Block Island Power Company; Jake Ward, Maine Aqua Ventus; Mark Glick, Hawaii Natural Energy Institute

Moderator: Tyler Studds, Massachusetts Clean Energy Center
Breakout Session #2  |  1:15 - 2:15

GREAT ROOM 1

THE SOLAR PANEL: COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACHES TO SOLAR

While many states are debating the future of solar policy, communities are finding ways to move ahead with solar projects. In this panel, islanders and solar experts will share their outlook on the future of solar for island communities.

Presenters: Chris Loder, Chebeague Island; Gary Friedmann, A Climate to Thrive (Mount Desert Island); Sharon Klein, University of Maine

Moderator: Brooks Winner, Island Institute

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GREAT ROOM 2

ENERGY TRANSITIONS: TAKING A PROACTIVE APPROACH TO ENERGY CHALLENGES

Island communities often find themselves reacting to energy issues as they arise. When a generator breaks down or cable fails, a solution must be found or the lights don’t stay on. Preparing for these issues before they occur takes foresight and planning. This session will feature islanders who are taking a proactive approach to their community’s energy issues.

Presenters: Jim Wilson, Isle au Haut Power Company; Jim Balano, Monhegan Energy Planning Committee; Erik Peckar, Vineyard Power

Moderator: Stephen Walls, U.S. Department of Energy
Breakout Session #3  |  2:30 - 3:30

GREAT ROOM 1

BRIDGING THE RURAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY GAP: INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO EFFICIENCY PROJECTS IN REMOTE PLACES

Over the past four years, nearly 20% of the year-round island homes in Maine have been weatherized through collective purchasing programs spearheaded by community energy leaders. Collective purchasing and other strategies are helping break down the barriers to energy efficiency and connecting rural communities with financing for energy upgrades. Learn from islanders who are tackling energy challenges in their communities, and the mainland professionals who run the programs that are helping communities scale up participation in energy efficiency.

Presenters: Paddy Trainor, Vinalhaven Energy Club; Lauren Sinatra, Nantucket Energy Office; Katie Conway, Alaska Energy Authority

Moderator: Dana Fischer, Efficiency Maine Trust

GREAT ROOM 2

MICROGRIDS & ENERGY STORAGE: BATTLE STORIES FROM THE FRONT LINES OF THE ENERGY REVOLUTION

At the last Island Energy Conference, Senator Angus King observed that “we are in the midst of an energy revolution, and the islands are Bunker Hill.” New England’s off-grid islands are installing innovative projects and they have the battle scars to prove it. This session will feature the projects that are leading the charge in the transition to clean energy from Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire and Alaska.

Presenters: Paul Elias, Naushon Trust; Chris Smith, Monhegan Plantation Power District; Dick Case, Star Island Corporation

Moderator: Chris Rose, Renewable Energy Alaska Project
Monhegan Island Visit: Saturday, April 29

The 2017 Island Energy Conference will feature a trip to Monhegan Island. This small island community, located 12 miles off the coast of Maine, is famous for its striking scenery, world-class birding, and singular character. Monhegan’s remote location creates a unique set of energy challenges, and residents have adopted innovative strategies to meet those challenges. Attendees will learn about recent upgrades to the island’s power station including its solar diesel hybrid system, as well as locally-driven energy efficiency and community planning efforts.

We will depart from Port Clyde, Maine on the Monhegan Boat Line’s Elizabeth Ann at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 29, and return the same day around 5:30 p.m. Attendees will be responsible for their own transportation to and from Port Clyde.

Once on the island, our main mode of transportation will be walking, so make sure to wear comfortable shoes and dress appropriately for the weather. Lunch will be provided.

Left: Monhegan Plantation Power District’s new 10 kW solar array
Right: MPPD Operations Manager Chris Smith brings a microturbine up Lighthouse Hill to the Monhegan Power Station
PRESENTER BIOS

New Energy: Empowering Community Leadership

**Harry Podolsky**

Harry Podolsky is a Community Energy Associate at the Island Institute who assists the Gulf of Maine's year-round islands in implementing numerous programs focused on efficiency upgrades, education, and community-owned renewable energy. Harry holds a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies with Minors in Natural Resources and Science of Earth Systems from Cornell University. Prior to joining the Institute he was conducting field research on land restoration and native tree propagation on the island of Hawai‘i. He grew up in Rockport, and is an avid sailor in Penobscot Bay.

**Shaina Kilcoyne**

As the Energy Efficiency Director for the Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP), Shaina Kilcoyne leads education and outreach efforts around energy efficiency programs and initiatives in the state. Shaina works with energy service providers, state and federal organizations, businesses, schools, and other organizations to promote and expand energy efficiency and conservation efforts. Her goal is to cultivate Alaska as a leader in the energy sector with smart, business-based policies and programs.

**Ryan Martin**

Ryan Martin holds a Master’s degree in Sustainable Food Systems from Green Mountain College and currently teaches horticultural science and sustainability at Islesboro Central School. Recently selected by the Portland Press Herald as a recipient of The Maine Source Award for Sustainability; the school’s robust efforts include everything from a vibrant on-campus farm and student-driven energy conservation/research projects to a 2-kilowatt solar/wind array scheduled for completion in September 2017.

**Emillia Noordhoek**

Emillia Noordhoek is the Co-Executive Director/founder and Director of Renewable Resources of Sust-‘āina-ble Molokai. Emillia is an environmental consultant focusing on sustainable, affordable housing with over 20 years’ experience in sustainable building practices, environmental compliance and project management. She was the LEED AP for the first Bamboo off grid house for Habitat for Humanity International. She has been responsible for devising and delivering all of Sust-‘āina-ble Molokai’s HUI UP energy initiatives, including curriculum development to create jobs in energy audits and efficiency. She champions community development of renewable energy projects for Molokai and the entire Hawaii islands. She holds a Bachelor’s in Fine Arts (University of Oregon) and a Master’s in Real Estate Development (Portland State University) and is an Accredited Professional in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED).
Offshore Wind: Emerging From the Deep

Tyler Studds

Tyler Studds is Senior Manager of Renewable Energy Strategy at the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center. As a member of MassCEC’s Offshore Wind team, Tyler is responsible for managing a range of sector development efforts that include transmission planning, supply chain analysis, marine resource characterization, metocean data and workforce development. Created in 2009, MassCEC is dedicated to accelerating the success of clean energy technologies, companies and projects while creating high-quality jobs and long-term economic growth for the people of Massachusetts.

Richard Andre

As President of Vineyard Power, Richard has responsibility for the cooperative’s start-up and management. Prior to his appointment, Richard was a founding director of Vineyard Power, a CEO of an international company, based in the Netherlands, and consultant to several leading private equity firms. He also brings professional experience in sales, supply chain management, project finance and strategic development to his work with Vineyard Power. Richard received a BSc degree in Chemical Engineering from Penn State University and a Corporate Finance degree from the London Business School. He lives in West Tisbury on Martha’s Vineyard with his wife Ina and son Nicolas.

Marian Chioffi

Since 2005, Marian has served as the bookkeeper/clerk for the Monhegan Plantation Power District (MPPD), a quasi-municipal company that generates and distributes power on Monhegan Island. In 2013, Marian revised MPPD’s business plan to increase the company’s economic viability through reducing Monhegan’s dependency on diesel fuel, then began serving as the co-chair of the Monhegan Energy Task Force, the organization representing her community in discussions with the developers of the Maine Aqua Ventus offshore wind project. Marian is the co-owner of the Trailing Yew hotel, sits on several community organization boards, and was a participant in the Collaborative for Island Energy Research and Action.

Mark Glick

Mark Glick is a member of the faculty and a specialist at the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute, overseeing energy policy and innovation and coordinating State and University of Hawaii assets towards fulfillment of Hawaii’s ambitious energy transformation and supporting similar objectives in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. Mark served five years as Administrator of the Hawaii State Energy Office where he led Hawaii’s internationally regarded clean energy transformation efforts. He also served as Vice Chair of the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO). Mark has a Master of Science, Public Management & Policy from Carnegie-Mellon University and a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from Lamar University.
Bill Penn

Bill Penn is Treasure of the Transition Board of Directors of the Block Island Power Company. The Board is transitioning the company from an investor owned utility to a rate payer, nonprofit Utility District. Bill is also President of the Block Island Residents Association, which played a major role in community outreach and support of the offshore wind farm. Professionally, Bill provides finance advisory services to Brownfields redevelopment projects.

Jake Ward

Jake Ward is the Vice President for Innovation and Economic Development at the University of Maine. His office supports economic development by acting as a liaison for business and industry, facilitating technology transfer, and handling patenting, licensing and commercialization activities for the University of Maine. The office also supports federal and state government relations for the university’s Innovation and Economic Development mission. Jake has been the Assistant Vice President for Research, Economic Development and Government Relations since 2006. He serves on the boards of many state organizations including the Maine Technology Institute and the Maine Center for Entrepreneurial Development. Originally from Saco, Maine, he holds a B.S. in mechanical engineering and an M.S. in ocean engineering from the University of New Hampshire.

The Solar Panel: Community-Based Approaches to Solar

Brooks Winner

Brooks Winner is a Community Energy Manager at the Island Institute in Rockland, Maine, and works closely with island communities to assist with programming in energy efficiency, community-owned renewable energy, offshore wind and energy education. Brooks holds a B.A. in Environmental Studies and Spanish from Bowdoin College where he received multiple awards for his work on community energy projects throughout the state of Maine. Prior to working at the Island Institute, Brooks worked as canvasser and community organizer for Opportunity Maine educating homeowners about energy efficiency and for La Capra Associates, an energy consulting firm in Portland. Brooks is also a descendant of the Starlings, one of the original three families on Monhegan Island.
Gary Freidman

As Vice Chair of the Bar Harbor Town Council, Gary Freidman has led local efforts to power Town operations with solar energy and to make solar electrical power available to Bar Harbor residents through the development of the region’s first community solar farm. Gary chairs the board of A Climate to Thrive (ACTT), a grassroots organization dedicated to making Mount Desert Island energy independent by 2030. ACTT is currently running Solarize/Weatherize MDI, spearheading a collaboration of nine towns and Acadia National Park for energy benchmarking of 40 public buildings and schools, developing electric vehicle charging stations, promoting LED street and home lighting, initiating composting efforts and developing a second community solar farm. A partner in Bar Harbor Community Farm and President of Maine Citizens for Clean Elections, Gary consults on nonprofit development throughout the state.

Sharon Klein

Sharon Klein is an Assistant Professor in the School of Economics at the University of Maine, with a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and a Ph.D. in Engineering and Public Policy from Carnegie Mellon University. Sharon was a middle school science teacher in San Diego; a high school environmental systems teacher in Quito, Ecuador; and an Americorps National Civilian Community Corps volunteer in the southeastern U.S. Sharon researches and teaches about sustainable energy from an interdisciplinary perspective (technical, economic, environmental and social tradeoffs) and focuses on integrating research, teaching, and service by engaging UMaine students in local community energy projects (including community solar and community energy efficiency initiatives). She has been a local coordinator for 2 community window insert builds in Bangor in the last two years and has recently developed a new website to share information about community renewable energy projects across the nation.

Chris Loder

Christopher Loder, of Chebeague Island, is working within his community to create a municipal solar project to address the town’s energy needs. A former town Selectman, he is committed to financial and environmental sustainability. Having lived in Germany where solar is prevalent, he has seen the positive impact of solar.
Energy Transitions: Taking a Proactive Approach to Energy Challenges

Stephen Walls

Stephen Walls works towards transitioning islands away from a dependence on imported fuels through a focus on local and renewable energy resources. Stephen helped create the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) Energy Transition Initiative, and was the lead content developer for its Islands Playbook, which was published in early 2015 (www.energy.gov/islandsplaybook). He is currently supporting the implementation of the Islands Playbook in Puerto Rico, Hawaii, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, and coordinates closely with partners who are implementing the Playbook elsewhere in the Caribbean and the Pacific. Before his consulting work with DOE, Stephen worked in global government relations and capital markets for a Fortune 50 company. He earned a J.D. with honors from The George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C., and undergraduate degrees in Economics and International Relations from the University of Delaware.

Jim Wilson

Jim Wilson is a retired University of Maine professor of marine science and economics. As a resident of Isle au Haut, he is working with the island’s power company to shape a vision for the future of energy generation and use on the island.

James Balano

James Balano is a member of the Monhegan Energy Planning Committee, where he works to assess opportunities for Monhegan Island’s energy future. He is also a member of the Monhegan Energy Task Force, which represents Monhegan in communications with the University of Maine in regards to their proposed floating offshore wind project. He is a homeowner, former lobsterman and seasonal resident of Monhegan.

Erik Peckar

Erik Peckar is the General Manager of Vineyard Power and has been with the company since 2010. He is primarily responsible for day-to-day operations, including outreach and helping to permit MA’s first offshore wind farm, Vineyard Wind. During his time with Vineyard Power he has worked extensively on Community Empowerment, a new proposed legislation in Massachusetts that would empower communities, through a democratic process, to meet local renewable energy targets. Erik graduated from Penn State University and holds a BSc degree in Science, with a focus on renewable energy. Prior to his work with Vineyard Power, Erik spent time traveling all seven continents. He lives in Tisbury and works at Offshore Ale Company, a local brew pub on Martha’s Vineyard.
Bridging the Rural Energy Efficiency Gap: Innovative Approaches to Efficiency Projects in Remote Places

Dana Fischer

With Efficiency Maine since 2010, Dana manages the Home Energy Savings Program (HESP) providing rebates and financing for residential weatherization and home heating upgrades including ductless heat pumps. With a market-based network of 740 contractor firms, 34,000 homes have completed energy upgrade projects under the rebate program in the past four years, and the loan program has provided $20 million in financing on more than 2,000 homes in the past 6 years. Dana holds an MBA from USM in Portland, and a BA in Philosophy from the University of Chicago.

Katie Conway

Katie Conway is the Government Relations, Outreach and Efficiency Manager for Alaska Energy Authority. In her seven years with AEA’s energy efficiency program Katie has been working to improve statewide awareness of energy efficiency as a cost reduction strategy and investment opportunity. Her work includes facilitating the Alaska Energy Efficiency Partnership, an ad hoc working group of over 50 statewide public, private and non-profit organizations that share the vision for Alaska to someday be the most energy efficient state in the nation. Prior to joining AEA Katie worked on energy efficiency policy as a legislative aide in the Alaska State House. She has a Masters in Applied Anthropology with a focus on the critical relationship between communities and the natural resources on which they rely.

Lauren Sinatra

Prior to her work with the Nantucket Energy Office, Lauren served as Special Assistant to Yale Environmental Law & Policy expert Dan Esty—who is currently Connecticut’s Commissioner for the Department of Energy & Environmental Protection—and led the logistics, corporate communication and client management efforts for his corporate environmental strategy consulting firm, Esty Environmental Partners. Lauren also worked several years at o.s.Earth, Inc. a start-up firm based upon the philosophies of R. Buckminster Fuller, for which she traveled extensively to facilitate sustainable resource management exercises for schools, universities and corporations. Lauren is also a co-founder of Nantucket Solar LLC, established in 2007, where she spearheads the company’s renewable energy policy research, and manages the “Nantucket Solar EXPRESS: Mobile Solar Generator” solar powered events. Lauren graduated Magna Cum Laude from Tufts University and has called Nantucket home since 2005.
Patrick (Paddy) Trainor

Paddy works part time as a Math tutor and teacher at the Vinalhaven School. He is on a number of Vinalhaven boards, including the Vinalhaven Water District, the Vinalhaven Municipal Sewer, the Vinalhaven Elder Care Services, and the Fox Islands Electrical Cooperative. His educational background includes an Associate’s degree from Wentworth Institute in Electronics, a B.S. from UMass Lowell in Mathematics, and a Master from UMass Lowell in Education. His hobbies are designing and building sun dials and crystal radios, programming with MS Visual Basic, and Vinalhaven geology and history. Paddy was a participant in the Collaborative for Island Energy Research and Action.

Microgrids and Energy Storage: Battle Stories from the Front Lines of the Energy Revolution

Chris Rose

Chris Rose is the founder and Executive Director of the Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP). He earned a B.A. in Political Science and a Certificate in Global Studies from the University of Iowa, and a law degree from the University of Oregon, with a Certificate in Environmental and Natural Resources Law. For over 10 years his private practice in Alaska included representation of Native Alaskans from Northwest Arctic villages and the mediation of a variety of disputes around the state. He has been very active in local community affairs, and has served on various statewide boards, including the state’s Renewable Energy Grant Fund Advisory Committee, which he currently chairs. Since 2004, REAP has been a leading force in Alaska promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy, resulting in state clean energy investments of more than $900 million over the last decade.

Richard Case

Richard Case is a retired electrical engineer interested in off-grid systems. He manages the Star Island solar electric microgrid and worked on the design of the system doing performance and fault analysis. He is chair of Star Island’s committee for Strategic Facility Planning.

Paul Elias

Paul Elias has had a lifelong involvement with the Elizabeth Islands in Massachusetts. In 2011 he led the creation of a 125 kW solar array on Naushon island with an integrated 300 kWh lead-acid power storage system. The new system largely replaced the old diesel powerhouse supplying a forty house island microgrid. He then led an effort this past year to install a similar system to support a village of 200 buildings on nearby Cuttyhunk Island. The new system has just come on line with 350 kW of solar and 1000 kWh of daily lithium ion battery power storage.
Chris Smith

Chris Smith is Operations Manager for the Monhegan Plantation Power District, a small quasi-municipal electric utility that serves customers on Monhegan Island, Maine. He is a lobsterman, caretaker, and year-round resident of Monhegan. Chris recently installed four diesel-fired microturbines and coordinated the installation of a 10 kW solar array at the island's power station to replace its fleet of diesel generators.

ISLAND INSTITUTE

Suzanne MacDonald, Community Energy Director

Suzanne has led the Community Energy program since 2009. She directs award-winning initiatives on community-based energy efficiency, locally-owned renewable energy, and energy education and has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Energy for her leadership. Suzanne has a passion for supporting islanders who are rethinking the ways their communities generate and use energy and a keen interest in sharing their stories to help the rest of the nation build a more sustainable energy future. Suzanne holds an M.A. in urban and environmental policy and planning from Tufts University and a B.A. in political science and international development from McGill University.

Rob Snyder, President

Rob works with island and remote coastal leaders to identify innovative approaches to community sustainability. In addition, he works with the Institute's energy, marine, education, community development, media, and economic development staff to structure responses to emerging challenges faced by these communities along the coast. Rob's background is in cultural anthropology, and his research focuses on informal science education, science technology and society, and the cultural politics of natural resource management.
PROJECT PARTNERS

Islanded Grid Resource Center

The Islanded Grid Resource Center, a collaborative project of the Island Institute, the Renewable Energy Alaska Project, and WINDEExchange, seeks to create a self-sustaining knowledge center and resource for remote islanded grids using or considering wind power. The Islanded Grid Resource Center hosts annual and semi-annual events, and operates www.islandedgrid.org, a resource to connect grid operators in remote communities.

PARTNERS:

WINDEExchange is the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Wind Program’s hub of stakeholder engagement and outreach activities. The purpose of WINDEExchange is to help communities weigh the benefits and costs of wind energy, understand the deployment process, and make wind development decisions supported by the best available science and other fact-based information.

REAP Renewable Energy Alaska Project

Renewable Energy Alaska Project (REAP) is a coalition of large and small Alaska utilities, businesses, conservation and consumer groups, educational entities, Alaska Native organizations, and municipal, state and federal agencies with an interest in developing Alaska’s vast renewable energy resources.

Bridging the Rural Efficiency Gap

Bridging the Rural Efficiency Gap is a project led by the Maine Governor’s Energy Office and the Island Institute with support from the U.S. Department of Energy State Energy Program that seeks to expand access to and participation in clean energy finance programs in rural communities throughout Maine and the U.S.

PARTNERS:

U.S. Department of Energy State Energy Program

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) State Energy Program (SEP) provides funding and technical assistance to state and territory energy offices to help them advance their clean energy economy while contributing to national energy goals. The Bridging the Rural Efficiency Gap project is supported by an SEP Competitive Award.

Maine Governor’s Energy Office

The Maine Governor’s Energy Office mission is to create effective public and private partnerships that advance Maine’s energy security and economic development in an environmentally responsible manner. The Island Institute is partnering with the Governor’s Energy Office to implement Bridging the Rural Efficiency Gap to address the barriers that are preventing rural communities in oil-dependent states like Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Alaska from making energy efficiency upgrades and accessing financing resources.
The Island Institute’s Community Energy Program helps Maine island and coastal communities better understand their unique energy challenges and transition to clean energy systems. For the last eight years, we have worked to reduce the high economic and environmental costs of energy use for homeowners, businesses, and municipalities through community-based, nationally-relevant models that increase energy efficiency and renewable energy options. We invest in local leaders, building capacity through energy education programs and leadership trainings. We invest in projects by connecting community leaders to technical and financial resources. Learn more about our work at www.islandinstitute.org/program/energy.

**The Spark! Fund**

Flexible support for community energy projects

The Spark! Fund offers small grants between $250 and $2,000 to catalyze community-based projects that reduce energy use and educate community members. It is available to organizations operating in Maine’s year-round island and remote coastal communities. Spark! Funds can support:

- Purchasing energy-saving equipment and services
- Assessing opportunities for renewable energy projects
- Sharing solutions with other communities
- Attending conferences and visiting other projects

[www.islandinstitute.org/SparkFund](http://www.islandinstitute.org/SparkFund)
Next deadline: June 1, 2017
Contact: Harry Podolsky, hpodolsky@islandinstitute.org

Brooks Winner, Harry Podolsky, Suzanne MacDonald, and Ben Algeo on Monhegan Island
2017 ISLAND ENERGY CONFERENCE

CHARTING TRANSITIONS

Become a Member

Our work is made possible through the support of our members.

All members receive home delivery of the monthly Working Waterfront newspaper, a 10% discount at our gift store, Archipelago, in Rockland and at www.thearchipelago.net, and invitations to Island Institute events.

Members at $100 and above also receive the annual Island Journal, our signature print publication featuring stories, photography, art, and poetry celebrating the islands and coast in Maine and around the world.

www.islandinstitute.org/membership
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The trip to Monhegan Island is co-hosted by the Monhegan Plantation Power District

With support from:
Constructed in 2009, Fox Islands Wind is a 4.5 MW community-owned wind project powering the Maine islands of Vinalhaven and North Haven. Photo: Peter Ralston