



# CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TRANSITION IN RURAL AND ISLAND COMMUNITIES

TUESDAY, OCT. 19, 2:45 – 3:45 PM ET – SESSION 3, TRACK 1

## MODERATOR

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- Abraham Ellis, Sandia National Laboratories

## PANELISTS

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- Aaron Ng, US-DOE Energy Transition Initiative (ETI)
- Mark Glick, Hawaii Natural Energy Institute, UH-Manoa
- Erin Whitney, Alaska Center for Energy and Power, UA-Fairbanks
- Robert Cox, Coastal Studies Institute, UNC-Charlotte

## SESSION ABSTRACT

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Island and rural communities rely on an energy infrastructure that is isolated from or weakly connected to large interconnected grids. For these reasons, they tend to be more sustain more severe consequences due to equipment failure and increasingly frequent and severe natural disasters. In addition, the cost of fuel such as diesel represent a major economic burden for people and businesses, as well as environmental impacts. These factors are driving rapid adaptation of energy planning, investment and operation strategies in island and remote communities to incorporate resilience and long-term sustainability considerations. In many ways, these developments are charting the way forward for other regions with larger concentration of population and infrastructure. This session will cover lessons learned, challenges, and opportunities associated with energy infrastructure resilience and sustainability in island and rural communities. The panelists represent energy institutes in Hawaii, Alaska, and the Southeast coastal region who are leading energy transition efforts as part of the DOE Energy Transition Initiative Partnership Program (ETIPP).