

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY MEET & GREET

Cosponsored by Environmental Studies and Career Planning

Carla Dickstein

Coastal Enterprises Inc.

Carla oversees CEI's state policy work and develops new CEI initiatives, with a current focus on the healthcare sector, challenges and opportunities for Maine's growing population of older adults, and improving opportunities for young adults and New Americans. She is on the board of the Environmental Health Strategy Center and the advisory board of the Margaret Chase Smith Center at University of Maine. Prior to coming to CEI, she was on the faculty of West Virginia University's Regional Research Institute and the West Virginia University Extension Service. She holds a B.A. from Smith College; a master's degree in Planning from the University of Minnesota; and a Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania.

Pete Didisheim

Natural Resources Council of Maine

Pete manages the advocacy program for Maine's leading environmental advocacy organization. He assists project staff with the design and implementation of policy campaigns on issues including solar energy, opposing rollbacks of environmental laws, water quality, Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument, promoting sustainable communities, and climate change. Pete serves as NRCM's senior lobbyist and spokesperson with the Legislature, state agencies, and media. He participates in all levels of organizational management at NRCM, and has held this position for 21 years. Prior to working at NRCM, Pete worked for 13 years in Washington, D.C., at the Department of Energy, on Capitol Hill, and for the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Maureen Drouin '96

Maine Conservation Voters

As executive director of Maine Conservation Voters, Drouin and her colleagues have quadrupled the political advocacy group's budget and grown its staff, as well as its partnerships. At Maine Conservation Alliance, an affiliated organization at which she also serves as executive director, Drouin has helped to create the Maine Environmental Priorities Coalition, a partnership of 34 conservation and public health organizations that represent 100,000 collective members. "We are building Maine's environmental movement into a powerful political force," says Drouin, referencing the campaign strategies, policy agenda, and accountability measures that she has helped to implement. In the 1990s and 2000s, Drouin drove across Maine's North Woods from Grand Lake Stream to Greenville as an organizer for the Northern Forest Alliance, identifying the places that were important to local communities and mobilizing community members. She understands that Maine jobs depend on the health of our environment, from fishing and farming to forestry and tourism. At a time when many of the state's natural resources are at risk due to warming waters, ocean acidification, and downwind pollution, Drouin sees her role as empowering communities and individuals against environmental degradation, protecting the local economy, along with Maine principles. "The values of clean air, water, and land unite us as Mainers," she says, "regardless of political party."

Eliza Huber-Weiss '17

St. Mary's Nutrition Center

Eliza is the Garden Education Coordinator at St. Mary's Nutrition Center in Lewiston, Maine. The Nutrition Center aims to alleviate food insecurity in the region through distribution, education, and advocacy. The Center operates a food pantry, cooking and nutrition programs for people of all ages and backgrounds, and community and learning gardens throughout Lewiston and Auburn. Eliza works mostly with high schoolers, operating the Center's larger gardens, gleaned from local farms, maintaining downtown green spaces, and educating little kids about gardens and food, all with a focus on youth empowerment and community development.

Sean Mahoney '86

Conservation Law Foundation

Sean Mahoney serves as the Executive Vice President, Director of Programs and Director of CLF's Maine Advocacy Center. Prior to joining CLF in 2007, Sean practiced environmental law in San Francisco and Portland, ME for 15 years, where he represented a variety of commercial and non-governmental entities in all aspects of state and federal environmental litigation and permitting. At CLF, Mahoney focuses on marine conservation and sustainability, climate change, transportation and energy infrastructure, and restoring and protecting Maine's rivers and coastal watersheds. Mahoney, a resident of Falmouth, received his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law and his undergraduate degree from Bowdoin College. He was a Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable Fred I. Parker, U.S. District Court for the District of Vermont and served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Sri Lanka. Mahoney has been recognized as a leading lawyer in his field by a number of organizations, including the respected legal research and publishing firm, Chamber & Partners. He has served on a number of boards, including GrowSmart Maine (chair), Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Konbit Sante and the Falmouth Land Trust, and currently serves as a Town Councilor in Falmouth.

Elly Pepper '05

Natural Resources Defense Council

As Deputy Director for Wildlife Trade at NRDC, Elly advocates for increased protections for wildlife imperiled by trade at the international level. This means achieving protections for species like pangolins, polar bears, and elephants at international forums like the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and revising other countries' laws to be more protective of wildlife. Most recently, Elly is focused on helping countries (e.g., U.S., China, UK) close their legal domestic ivory markets and effectively enforce their ivory bans. Elly also works on the state and federal levels to pass/enact pro-wildlife legislation and regulations and defend against anti-wildlife legislation and regulations. To read Elly's blog, visit: <https://www.nrdc.org/experts/elly-pepper>.

Conrad Schneider

Clean Air Task Force

Since 1997, Conrad Schneider has worked as Advocacy Director of the Clean Air Task Force, a nonprofit organization dedicated to restoring clean air and healthy environments through scientific research, public education, and legal advocacy. His practice includes work in federal and state legislative and administrative arenas and courts. His recent publications include articles in 'Forum' for Applied Research and Public Policy at the University of Tennessee and EM: The Journal Of Air and Waste Management. Mr. Schneider serves as Adjunct Lecturer in Environmental Law and Policy at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine. He serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Center for Clean Air Policy in Washington, D.C.

Emily Tucker '15

Maine Coast Fishermen's Association

Emily is a policy analyst at the Maine Coast Fishermen's Association in Brunswick. She also works as a sector data analyst with the Maine Coast Community Sector, which is affiliated with the Fishermen's Association. On the policy side, she works to amplify the voices of Maine's community-based fishermen in state, regional, and national policy discussions and to make sure Maine fishermen are staying up-to-date on all the important issues. This includes working with a national coalition of like-minded fisheries advocacy groups, the Fishing Communities Coalition, co-founded by the Fishermen's Association and based in Washington, D.C.

Suzanne Watson '89

American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy

For many years, Suzanne Watson's work has involved developing and supporting policy initiatives and programs related to clean energy and distributed energy systems. She works or has worked at the national, state, regional, and community levels in this effort for over 25 years. At present, she is employed part-time by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) which is based out of Washington, DC. She also owns and runs a small consulting firm, Watson Strategy Group, based out of Maine. For nine plus years, Suzanne directed federal, state, and

community policy for ACEEE that included working with the White House, Congress, and the federal agencies such as EPA and the Department of Energy, as well as state legislatures, governors' offices, and the private sector. ACEEE supports the development of specific legislative initiatives promoting clean energy including renewables, efficiency, and distributed energy technologies and programs. ACEEE is a not-for-profit, independent, research shop that can support its policy recommendations with real numbers related to an improved economy. Watson Strategy Group is a growing for-profit operation that is just getting re-started. Suzanne is working with national companies and major development projects largely in New England. The projects as completed will utilize renewables, efficiency, storage and a smart, distributed grid infrastructure in a holistic energy system construct.

Brooks Winner '10
Island Institute

Brooks is a Community Development Officer at the Island Institute in Rockland, Maine where he works to sustain Maine's island and coastal communities through clean energy and leadership projects. 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. Brooks is a Senior Fellow of the Environmental Leadership Program's New England Regional Network Class of 2014. Prior to working at the Island Institute, Brooks worked as a 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 Co-Founder of Few for Change/Unidos por el Cambio, a nonprofit that improves access to education in indigenous communities in Panama.

Barry Woods '83
ReVision Energy

As Director of Electric Vehicle Innovation at ReVision Energy, Mr. Woods provides sales, marketing and business development expertise to assist companies and consumers in making the right decisions when it comes to charging infrastructure and complementary renewable energy technology (solar, storage, energy management systems). Mr. Woods' passion is to make electricity the next dominant transportation fuel and in the process achieve sustainable energy independence and grid modernization. Mr. Woods is involved in EV policy and advocacy in a variety of capacities, including: Director of Plug In America and co-founder of Drive Electric Maine.