

Societal Transformation Pathways

Session Organizer: Clark A. Miller

Director, Center for Energy & Society
Sustainability Director, Quantum Energy and Sustainable Solar Technologies (QESST)
Photovoltaics Engineering Research Center

The challenges and opportunities of deep decarbonization are as much societal as technical.

- ✦ As they did with the automobile and coal-fired electricity, **societies will recreate themselves in new ways** around decarbonized technologies
- ✦ Pathways to successful decarbonization will require changes to **social practices, values, behaviors, relationships, and institutions**
- ✦ Deep decarbonization will have profound **social and economic implications for diverse groups and communities**
- ✦ Deep decarbonization offers **extensive opportunities for improving the human condition**, if we can find ways to take full advantage of them while decarbonizing

The trajectories of societal transformation will be shaped by, and can inform, the design choices we make in pursuing deep decarbonization.

This session is organized around three key questions:

- ✦ How can we effectively manage **the human complexities** of deep decarbonization pathways, e.g., in cities, where decarbonization intersects with diverse critical infrastructure systems and social and economic practices and organizations?
- ✦ How can we effectively anticipate, assess, and govern **the human and environmental impacts** of deep decarbonization, especially across complex and diverse landscapes and supply chains that link urban and rural areas across the nation and the globe?
- ✦ How can we leverage **the human opportunities** of deep decarbonization to achieve more than just decarbonization, especially for addressing problems of poverty and inequality?

Nancy Sutley, LA
Department of Water
and Power

Julia Haggerty,
Montana State University

Emily Schapira,
Philadelphia Energy
Authority