

## **Trending Green: Understanding Corporate Renewable Procurement in the Midwest**

Wednesday, October 5, 2016 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM (CDT) University of Minnesota - 200 Oak Street S.E. McNamara Alumni Center, Heritage Gallery, Minneapolis, MN 55455

### **Agenda and Speaker Biographies**

#### **Moderated Interactive Keynote**

**9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

Adam Kramer, EVP Strategy & Member of Sustainability Team, Switch moderated by Ben Gerber, Executive Director, M-RETS

#### **Direct Corporate Procurement – An Interactive Panel**

**10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

As corporations seek to procure a greater percentage of their energy demand from renewables, this panel will take an interactive approach to exploring how corporations can own their own generation, including how to evaluate the cost and benefits of this ownership model. Moderated by Amy Skoczlas Cole, S3 Social Innovation + Sustainability Consulting.

#### **Utility Green Pricing Programs – An Interactive Panel**

**11:30 a.m. – 12:30 a.m.**

Explore how corporations can take advantage of utility green pricing programs from customers who have experience. What do customers look for and how should they evaluate this option against a direct ownership model? Hear from utilities, large and small customers, and people with experience advising customers on their options. Moderated by Dan Bakal, CERES.

#### **Keynote Speaker and Panel Participants:**

**Adam Kramer**, Switch

Adam is the Executive Vice President of Strategy for Switch headquartered in Las Vegas, Nevada. He is on the EVP Strategy & Member of Sustainability Team and manages all aspects of Switch's community and government relations throughout the company's global markets in an effort to create transformative change. Adam and his team are located at Rob Roy's Innevation Center where their support of collaboration, colocation and event coordination is the foundation for moving the state of Nevada forward. Prior to joining Switch, Adam was the Director of Entrepreneurship for the Las Vegas Metro Chamber of Commerce and before that an award-winning journalist in California and Florida. In 2013, he was recognized by Vegas, Inc., as one of the top 40 professionals in Vegas under 40. Adam has a B.A. from Menlo College and M.S. from the University of Cincinnati. Adam is very involved in the community, serving on the boards of the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) and EDawn (Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada).

#### **Direct Procurement Panel:**

**Amy Skoczlas Cole**, S3 Social Innovation + Sustainability Consulting (moderator)

Amy runs her own consulting practice, providing strategic guidance to organizations seeking to re-imagine the role of business in society and harness the power of markets for sustainable development. She chairs the Sustainable Growth Coalition, a group of over 25 global businesses collaborating to make Minnesota an inspiring example of economic growth that helps people and the planet thrive. Previously, she served Pentair's first-ever Vice President of Corporate Social Responsibility. Amy was eBay Inc.'s most senior sustainability leader, where she led all aspects of eBay's environmental and energy programs. Amy started her career at Conservation International, where she was a founding Vice President of CI's Center for Environmental Leadership in Business. Amy is the author of numerous articles on the role of markets in sustainable development, and co-editor of Footprints in the Jungle. Amy holds a BA in public policy from Vanderbilt University and an MBA from George Washington University.

**Martin Morud**, TruNorth Solar, LLC

Marty grew up a farm-kid in North Dakota and Minnesota before attending St. John's University in Collegeville, MN where he received a degree in Biochemistry. After working 5 years for Medtronic in their Corporate Research and Development group, Marty developed a love for clean energy and is now the owner and president of TruNorth Solar. Marty has comprehensive knowledge of the solar industry and the regulatory structure in which it operates. Marty is credited with being a prime mover behind the Minnesota Community Solar Garden law and its implementing regulations and tariffs.

**Shane Stennes**, University of Minnesota

Shane is the Director of Sustainability and works with staff, students, and faculty to advance campus sustainability, particularly as relates to energy, food, construction, transportation, water, and waste management systems. Shane is also responsible for campus sustainability reporting, the campus Climate Action Plan ([z.umn.edu/CAP](http://z.umn.edu/CAP)) and Second Nature Carbon Commitment, engaging the campus community in sustainability initiatives, and program management. Prior to becoming Director of Sustainability in 2015, Shane served in a variety of related roles including Chief Administrative Officer for the University's Facilities Management department, Sustainability Coordinator for University Services, and Human Resource Consultant for University Services. Shane has a BA in Political Science and International Relations from St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict, and a Master of Human Resources degree from the University of South Carolina.

**Andrew P. Moratzka**, Stoel Rives LLP

Andrew is Chair of the Energy Development Practice Group and his practice focuses on litigation of various utility- and energy-related issues. Drew represents iron mines, paper companies, refineries, steel manufacturers and other large industrial customers in electric and gas rate cases and various regulatory matters at the state and federal level. He also represents independent power producers. In these roles, he regularly appears before state public utilities commissions and administrative law judges. He also has experience arguing energy-related and bankruptcy-related issues at the appellate level. Drew also assists clients with utility contract negotiations and consults on various legislative matters. He has extensive involvement in major gas and electric utility rate case and has had numerous appearances before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission on such matters as utility resource

planning, community solar gardens, certificate of need proceedings, the Minnesota solar energy standard, rate design, and renewable energy credits. Drew received a Juris Doctor from Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College and holds a B.A. in Mathematics and Economics from St. Olaf College.

**Kevin Helmich**, Avangrid Renewables

Kevin has 25 years of experience in the power generation and marketing business. Currently Managing Director of Origination for Avangrid Renewables, he is responsible for the commercial performance of 2,000 MW of wind generation in the Northeast and Midwest United States. Kevin has been with Avangrid Renewables, and its predecessors Iberdrola Renewables and PPM Energy for 10 years. Prior to Avangrid, Kevin has worked for other utilities and Independent Power Producers including DTE Energy Trading, Dynegy, and ComEd. Kevin received his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and his MBA from the University of Chicago.

**Utility Green Pricing Program Panel:**

**Dan Bakal**, Ceres (moderator)

Dan Bakal joined Ceres in 2000, and has helped launch and advance two of the organization's signature efforts, The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), which develops sustainability reporting guidelines and the \$14 trillion Investor Network on Climate Risk (INCR), whose members are addressing the risks and opportunities associated with climate change. As Director of the Electric Power Program, Dan oversees Ceres' electric power research, shareholder engagement, and furthers the understanding of environmental risks, with a particular focus on climate risk. He works closely with Ceres coalition members, including environmental, investor, labor and public interest groups, to encourage electric power companies to address climate change and advance clean energy solutions. Since 2002, Dan has helped Ceres publish numerous reports, including ten editions of *Benchmarking Air Emissions of the 100 Largest Electric Generators*; *The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Electric Utility*; *Practicing Risk-Aware Electricity Regulation*; and *Benchmarking Utility Clean Energy Deployment*. Dan holds a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania.

**Steve W. Chriss**, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

As Senior Manager of Energy Regulatory Analysis, Steve is responsible for managing Walmart's interventions in utility rate-related proceedings and for tracking and managing Walmart's regulatory and legislative cost exposure from changes in energy rates. Since 2007, he has managed interventions in over 300 regulatory dockets. Steve also serves as a witness on behalf of Walmart and in his career has testified in over 150 rate and policy dockets in 38 states and on legislative matters in two states. Prior to joining Walmart, Steve was an Economist and later Senior Utility Analyst for the Oregon PUC from 2003 to 2007. From 2001 to 2003, Steve worked as an Analyst on domestic and international energy regulatory projects for Econ One Research, Inc., an energy and economics consulting firm. Steve received a M.S. in Agricultural Economics from Louisiana State University in 2001 and a B.S. in Agricultural Development and a B.S. in Horticulture from Texas A&M University in 1997. He also completed coursework in Agricultural Education and Communication at the University of Florida.

**Kacie Peters**, Alta Energy Inc

Alta Energy specializes in strategic procurement for renewables for corporates and portfolio owners nationwide. As Central Regional Sales Manager, Kacie assists property owners in optimizing renewable energy opportunities by providing complex financial analysis across regions and utilities. Prior to her work at Alta, Kacie was with SunEdison, where she evaluated and purchased projects at various stages of development. In addition to the PPA modeling, Kacie has focused on PACE financing, and has worked to expand districts and develop projects in several states. Her 6 years of national solar experience spans three regions, including extensive policy work in the Midwest. She served on the Illinois Solar Energy Association's board of directors from 2012-2015 where she assisted policy to advance the procurement of renewable energy credits and expand the local industry. Kacie holds a BS in Economics and Political Science from Saint Joseph's University in Philadelphia.

**Aakash H. Chandarana**, Northern States Power Company - Minnesota

Aakash Chandarana is the Regional Vice President of Rates and Regulatory Affairs—Minnesota. He is responsible for Xcel Energy's regulatory filings with the utility commissions in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota, including rate, resource acquisition and service quality filings. Chandarana joined Xcel in 2013 as a Lead Assistant General Counsel. As the Lead AGC, Chandarana was responsible for Xcel Energy's state public utility law and power purchase agreement issues for operations in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin. He represented Xcel in regulatory proceedings before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and handled most issues related to rate cases, renewable energy and long term power purchase projects and supported retail product and programs, including conservation improvement programs. Prior to joining Xcel, Chandarana was a partner at the law firm of Briggs and Morgan. He then spent several years representing utilities in federal and state regulatory matters in Minnesota, North Dakota, Colorado and New Mexico, and the FERC. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in biology and business management as well as his law degree from Washington University in St. Louis.

**Mark Rathbun**, Great River Energy

As the Renewable Energy Lead on Great River Energy's Resource Planning team, Mark identifies and recommends renewable energy resource opportunities that help GRE meet the 25% by 2025 Minnesota Renewable Energy Standard and green pricing obligations. He has been involved in several successful wind and biomass power purchase agreement negotiations. Mark oversees GRE's renewable energy compliance filings and M-RETS administration. He is a graduate of Hibbing Community College and the Red Wing Energy Center where his studies focused on solar energy technologies.