

Columbia Energy Journalism Initiative 2020

June 15
12:00-13:30 ET

Welcome to EJI 2020!

Presenters:

Jason Bordoff, Founding Director, Center on Global Energy Policy
Heidi Heitkamp, Former U.S. Senator, North Dakota

CGEP Founding Director Jason Bordoff and EJI Director Bill Loveless will welcome 20 journalists from the U.S. and abroad selected for EJI 2020. The guest speaker will be former Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, Democrat-North Dakota, discussing the significance of the 2020 U.S. election for the nation's energy and climate policy. The journalists will have an opportunity to introduce themselves to each other and discuss with Jason and Former Sen. Heitkamp current events in energy and climate change and the outlook for government action.

June 16
12:00-13:30 ET

Oil and Natural Gas: Following the Plunge, What Lies in Store?

Presenters:

Marianne Kah, Adjunct Senior Research Scholar and Advisory Board member, Center on Global Energy Policy
Erin Blanton, Senior Research Scholar, Center on Global Energy Policy

Oil and natural gas prices have undergone an historic plunge as COVID-19 devastates global demand for oil and gas, prompting steps by OPEC, Russia and other producers to substantially shut in oil production. How does this disruption impact producers in the U.S. and abroad, and how will they respond? How will oil and gas markets re-emerge from this setback? And will they return to pre-COVID-19 levels?

June 17
12:00-13:30 ET

Electric Power: Disruptions Reshape the Grid

Presenters:

Anna Shpitsberg, Director, Global Power and Renewables, IHS Markit
Dr. Melissa Lott, Senior Research Scholar, Center on Global Energy Policy

Electric power grids in the U.S. and other countries have changed significantly as their reliance on natural gas, renewable energy and energy efficiency increase, and mandates to reduce carbon emissions stiffen. Now, power systems are undergoing more change as a result of COVID-19. Amid so much shift, how can we identify the factors that may determine the shape and reliability of the grid from now on?

June 18

12:00-13:30 ET

Climate Change: Science, Economics and Public Opinion

Presenters:

Dr. Katherine Marvel, Associate Research Scientist, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies and Columbia Engineering's Department of Applied Physics and Mathematics

Dr. Geoffrey Heal, Donald C. Waite III Professor of Social Enterprise, Columbia Business School

Dr. Abel Gustafson, Post-Doctoral Associate, Yale Program on Climate Change Communication

Though overtaken now by COVID-19 as a public crisis, global warming remains a potentially catastrophic threat. But tracking and making sense of the latest scientific findings on climate change are difficult, not to mention reporting them clearly. Just as important are the economic ramifications of climate change and public opinion on the phenomenon.

June 19

12:00-13:30 ET

U.S. Energy Policy and Geopolitics: New Landscape for Policymakers

Presenters:

Kevin Book, Managing Director, ClearView Energy

Neil Brown, Managing Director, KKR Global Institute and KKR Infrastructure

U.S. energy policy and regulation has evolved since the energy crises of the 1970s, shifting its focus from worries over inadequate supplies of energy to enthusiasm over increasing production of oil, natural gas and renewable energy. But the suitability of today's approach to energy in the U.S. is coming under more scrutiny now as low oil and gas prices threaten the viability of some U.S. exploration and production and concerns over climate change keep interest in a low-carbon future alive. This occurs as the geopolitics of oil and gas undergoes upheaval, with the U.S., as a producer, playing a bigger role.

(All sessions are subject to the Chatham House Rule. Participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speakers, nor that of any participant, may be revealed.)