

John Parker Convenes Conference on Meeting the Challenge of New York's Energy Future

The energy sources powering Long Island and New York metro area homes and businesses are in the process of a transformation on a scale not seen in over a century. The changes are driven by the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, a state law, which sets a goal of a carbon neutral economy, and that mandates, among other things, a 40% reduction of greenhouse gases by 2030. This mandate, and others, equates to a commitment to a future set of clean energy sources. The industries supporting this transformation are expanding throughout our area, and in addition to bringing in thousands of new jobs and commercial activity to our region, they will provide revenue to various localities as these industries take root. The path to sustainable energy will pass through many communities and its systems and sources will require environmental review and permits and land use approvals so that they can be constructed and become operational. Meeting the State's overall energy supply needs requires development, construction, and implementation of a combination of clean energy technologies including wind power, solar power, battery energy storage systems, and supporting infrastructure.

We are pleased to announce that on April 26, 2023, John Parker, who leads our Environmental, Energy and Resources practice will convene an event entitled *Meeting the Challenges of New York's Energy Future, A Discussion with Key Sectors of the New Energy Economy*, as Chair of the Annual Legislative Forum of the Environmental and Energy Law Section of the New York State Bar Association. The Earth Week Forum will bring together Government leaders, Legislative leaders, and industry experts to discuss progress on meeting the State's clean energy commitments, the practical challenges of an energy system in transformation, and will look at energy and environmental law issues facing our communities as the transition moves forward.

The Keynote Address will be delivered by Rory Christian, Chair and CEO of the New York State Public Service Commission. This critical state agency is playing a significant role in developing and implementing clean energy solutions on a statewide basis.

New York State Legislative Priorities will be addressed by Deborah Glick, Assemblymember, 66th District and Chair of the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee, and by Peter Harckham, Senator, 40th District and Chair of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee.

The Panel of Experts joining the Forum to discuss issues facing key clean energy sectors include, for the battery energy storage systems, Phil Denara,

Senior Manager of Development, Key Capture Energy, for wind power, Josh Verleun, Director of Permitting and Environmental Affairs, Equinor Wind US, and for solar power, Kate Daniel, Northeast Regional Director, Coalition for Community Solar Access

If you are interested in attending the event on April 26, 2023, it is a hybrid (zoom) event and will also be in person at the New York State Bar Association Headquarters at 1 Elk Street, Albany, New York. It is free and open to the public, but registration is required. Please contact Amy Jasiewicz at ajasiewicz@nysba.org to register.

John Parker leads the firms Environmental, Energy and Resources Practice. He also serves on the Environmental and Energy Law Section of the New York State Bar Association where he is a member of the Executive Committee and is the Chair of Legislation Committee that sponsors the Annual Legislative Forum. He also serves as Vice-Chair of the Environmental Law Committee of the Nassau County Bar Association.