

SIXTH ANNUAL  
COMMUNITY CHOICE  
ENERGY FORUM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2021

VIP RECEPTION 9:00 AM

NETWORKING 9:30 AM

PROGRAM 10:00 AM



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# AGENDA

- 09:00 - 09:30**      **VIP RECEPTION: CALPINE ENERGY SOLUTIONS ROOM (MAIN ROOM)**  
Guest speaker: Chair Nathan Fletcher, County of San Diego, District 4
- 09:30 - 10:00**      **NETWORKING BREAK: CALPINE ENERGY SOLUTIONS ROOM**
- 10:00 - 10:25**      **WELCOME: CALPINE ENERGY SOLUTIONS ROOM**  
Welcome: Nicole Capretz, Executive Director, Climate Action Campaign  
                 Councilmember Joe Mosca, City of Encinitas  
Keynote address: Chair David Hochschild, California Energy Commission
- 10:25 - 11:00**      **PANEL 1 - CALIFORNIA'S ENERGY TRANSITION—WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON?: CALPINE ENERGY SOLUTIONS ROOM**
- 11:00 - 11:15**      **NETWORKING BREAK: CALPINE ENERGY SOLUTIONS ROOM**
- 11:15 - 11:45**      **PANEL 2 - ELECTRIFICATION AND RESILIENCY—HOW CAN CCES HELP?: CALPINE ENERGY SOLUTIONS ROOM**
- 11:45 - 12:00**      **NETWORKING BREAK: CALPINE ENERGY SOLUTIONS ROOM**
- 12:00 - 12:30**      **PANEL 3 - ENERGY EQUITY—HOW DO WE ENSURE AN EQUITABLE TRANSITION?: CALPINE ENERGY SOLUTIONS ROOM**  
**PANEL 4 - BUILDING OUT TO 100—ARE WE ON TRACK?: CLIMATE ROOM**
- 12:30 - 12:40**      **CLOSING REMARKS: CALPINE ENERGY SOLUTIONS ROOM**  
Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, County of San Diego District 3
- 12:40 - 1:00**      **NETWORKING BREAK: CALPINE ENERGY SOLUTIONS ROOM**

# PANELS

## **PANEL 1: CALIFORNIA'S ENERGY TRANSITION—WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON?**

An update and conversation from the state's leading energy experts on how California is and isn't transitioning to a 100% clean energy future. What are the current challenges, lessons learned, and opportunities? What are policymakers hopeful and worried about as the state grapples with dueling climate and energy crises?

**MODERATOR: MATTHEW VASILAKIS, CO-DIRECTOR OF POLICY, CLIMATE ACTION CAMPAIGN**  
**ANGELINA GALITEVA, CHAIR, CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR**  
**CODY HOOVEN, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER, SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY POWER**  
**BETH VAUGHAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY CHOICE ASSOCIATION**

## **PANEL 2: ELECTRIFICATION AND CLIMATE RESILIENCY—HOW WILL CCE HELP?**

Three CCE programs have launched in Southern California just in time to help transition our communities to a 100% all-electric future. How can CCE help support other climate initiatives such as building electrification, electric vehicles infrastructure, and resilient clean energy systems? What are CCE's doing or could be doing to help their member cities meet their clean energy and climate goals?

**MODERATOR : AYN CRACIUN, OC POLICY ADVOCATE CLIMATE ACTION CAMPAIGN**  
**JULIE BENABENTE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CITY OF SAN JOSE**  
**PRIYA BHAT-PATEL, COUNCILMEMBER, CITY OF CARLSBAD**  
**FRED JUNG, COUNCILMEMBER, CITY OF FULLERTON**

## **PANEL 3: ENERGY EQUITY—HOW DO WE ENSURE AN EQUITABLE TRANSITION FOR ALL?**

Consequential decisions, plans, programs, and projects are in the pipeline that will impact California's ability to equitably transition all communities to 100% clean energy. What will happen to Net Energy Metering? How will CCEs drive procurement? How can we ensure an equitable transition for vulnerable communities that benefits them?

**MODERATOR: NELSON LOMELI, PROGRAM MANAGER, SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY POWER**  
**KARINNA GONZALEZ, ADVOCATE, HAMMOND CLIMATE SOLUTIONS**  
**FABI LAO, SENIOR EQUITY POLICY MANAGER, CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE ENERGY**  
**SILVIA PAZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ALIANZA**

# PANELS

## PANEL 4: BUILDING OUT TO 100—ARE WE ON TRACK?

What's happening to meet our 100 goal? Is California accelerating, stalling or backsliding on its clean energy transition? The state has bold renewable energy goals, but is also purchasing fossil fuel energy to make up for summer peak demand. What emerging technologies, and regulatory and legislative changes will bring us to a 100 percent clean energy future that benefits everyone, including communities of concern and workers?

**MODERATOR: JARED QUIENT, VICE PRESIDENT, BAYWA R.E.**

**MURTAZA BAXAMUSA, PROGRAM MANAGER FOR REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY, COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO**

**LAURA FERNANDEZ, DIRECTOR OF REGULATORY AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS, SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY POWER**

**EDDIE PRICE, PROGRAM MANAGER, GRID ALTERNATIVES, SAN DIEGO**



# VIP REMARKS



**Nathan Fletcher, Chair, San Diego County Board of Supervisors**, was elected in 2019 and generated almost 100 substantive policy changes in just two years. His policies to build a better behavioral health services system, fight for environmental justice, make racial justice and equity a County priority; and improve the circumstances for children, working families and immigrants has taken the County in a new direction. Fighting climate change, enacting policies to improve air quality and working to ensure the County of San Diego has a legal, community supported; climate action plan with reliable data and modeling is one of his highest priorities. Chair Fletcher is also leveraging his positions as the Governor's appointee on the California Air Resources Board, his service on the Governing Board for the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District and his responsibilities as Chair of the Metropolitan Transit System's Board of Directors, to fight for environmental justice.

# WELCOME REMARKS



**Nicole Capretz, Founder and Executive Director, Climate Action Campaign**, is an environmental attorney with 20 years of experience as an energy, equity, and climate policy advisor. She authored the City of San Diego's groundbreaking, legally-binding 100% clean energy Climate Action Plan, and has since been pivotal in replicating 100% clean energy and advocating for Community Choice Energy in other cities. Nicole received a Bachelor of Arts in Law and Society from the University of California, Santa Barbara, a Master of Arts in Environmental Law, and a Juris Doctorate from Vermont Law School. She was appointed to the California Strategic Growth Council in 2018 and was named a New York Times Top 10 Californian of 2016. Previously, Nicole served as the Associate Director for Green Energy/Green Jobs at Environmental Health Coalition. She also worked as an environmental and energy policy advisor for the San Diego City Council. Nicole currently works as Founder and Executive Director of CAC, and oversees all strategic and operational responsibilities of the organization and its mission.



**Joe Mosca, Councilmember, City of Encinitas**, began his public service on the Encinitas City Council in January of 2017. On the City Council, he has been a champion of environmental sustainability and improving the quality of life enjoyed by all in Encinitas. In addition to serving as Chair of the Board of Directors of San Diego Community Power, Councilmember Mosca also serves on the Board of Directors for San Diego County Water Authority, Encina Wastewater Authority, LOSSAN Rail Corridor Agency, Metrolink, and on the Transportation Committee of San Diego Association of Governments. Professionally, Council Member Mosca is an attorney and is an active member of the California Bar Association. He also has extensive knowledge of the energy sector gained from his years of work with California utilities.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**David Hochschild, Chair ,California Energy Commission**, was appointed chair of the California Energy Commission by Governor Gavin Newsom in 2019. Chair Hochschild's career has spanned public service, environmental advocacy, and the private sector. As a special assistant to Mayor Willie Brown, Chair Hochschild launched a citywide \$100 million initiative to put solar panels on public buildings. He also cofounded the Vote Solar Initiative, a 60,000-member advocacy organization promoting solar policies at the local, state, and federal levels. He co-founded the Vote Solar Initiative, a 60,000 member advocacy organization promoting solar policies. He's also held positions of executive director of a national consortium of solar manufacturers, and a commissioner at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. Chair Hochschild has been awarded the Sierra Club's Trailblazer Award, the American Lung Association's Clean Air Hero Award, and the U.S. Department of Energy's Million Solar Roof True Champion Award. Chair Hochschild holds a bachelor of arts from Swarthmore College and a master of public policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

# CLOSING REMARKS



**Supervisor Terra Lawson-Remer, San Diego County Board of Supervisors**, is an economist, attorney, and public policy expert who has dedicated her life to working for social, environmental and economic justice. Terra has served as a Senior Advisor in the Obama Administration, written award-winning research books, taught graduate students as a professor of public policy, and worked with the United Nations, World Bank, Amnesty International, and governments worldwide to advance sustainable development and economic inclusion. Growing up in San Diego, Terra's first job in public service was nearly 25 years ago, as a San Diego City Council staffer. After graduating from Yale and earning her law degree and PhD on a full scholarship to NYU, she worked around the world as an economist to create jobs, restart businesses, and generate economic activity after a crisis. A passionate environmentalist, Terra helped the World Bank create its Climate Finance program, which funds billions of dollars of clean energy projects around the world, and worked to develop policies to cut pollution from oil drilling and mining as a Senior Advisor in the US Treasury Department under the Obama Administration.

# MEET OUR SPEAKERS



**Murtaza Baxamusa, Program Manager for Regional Sustainability and Climate Action, County of San Diego**, leads San Diego's efforts with community stakeholders and municipalities in moving towards a zero-carbon future through a Regional Decarbonization Plan. Murtaza is a thinker, writer, and planner. He has two decades of experience in professional practice and advocacy of affordable housing and economic development for workers. He is a nationally recognized expert on community benefit agreements and civic empowerment. He previously worked for the San Diego Building Trades Family Housing Corporation, the Center on Policy Initiatives, and the USC Center for Economic Development. Murtaza has a doctoral degree in Planning from the University of Southern California, and taught courses in urban planning and social policy. He earned a bachelor's degree with honors from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur. He is the author of the book "A New Model for Housing Finance: Public and Private Sectors Working Together to Build Affordability." As a father of two remarkable daughters, Murtaza is passionate about a sustainable future for our planet.



**Julie Benabente, Deputy Director, City of San Jose**, has been working on environmental programs for local governments for nearly 20 years, with a focus on energy and climate initiatives for over ten years. She is currently a Deputy Director with the City of San José's Environmental Services Department facilitating the City's climate efforts. Julie played a lead role in forming San Jose's community choice energy program, developing the City's climate action plan, developing San Jose's building reach code and natural gas infrastructure prohibition, and the recent passage of the City's carbon neutral by 2030 goal. Julie has a B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley and an M.B.A. with a focus on sustainability, from Presidio Graduate School.



**Dr. Priya Bhat-Patel, Councilmember, City of Carlsbad**, has lived in Carlsbad most of her life. A daughter of Indian immigrants, Priya is the first Indian American to be elected to City Council in the County of San Diego, and the youngest person ever to be elected to the Council in the City of Carlsbad. Councilmember Bhat-Patel serves on many committees, including the Clean Energy Alliance, League of California Cities, North County Transit District, and Economic Revitalization Committee. Along with Council, Priya works for a non-profit as the Director of the California Family Justice Center Network. Family Justice Centers help provide wraparound services to victims and survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and elder and child abuse. Priya lives with her husband, baby boy, and dog, and they all love enjoying time outdoors!



**Ayn Craciun, OC Policy Advocate, Climate Action Campaign**, is a passionate climate advocate focused on facilitating adoption of Zero Carbon Climate Action & Adaptation plans, growing city participation in Orange County's first ever Community Choice Energy program, and advancing equity and justice in the region. Ayn became an environmental advocate in 2015, after learning that three children in her Irvine neighborhood had been diagnosed with brain tumors. Prior to becoming an advocate, Ayn had a successful career in corporate communications and PR, obtaining skills that helped her successfully advocate for Irvine's landscaping policy that brought an end to the use of fossil-fuel based pesticides. She continued to advocate for organic landscaping policies, and in 2018 she turned her focus to the climate crisis and helped build a coalition of support to create the Orange County Power Authority, which launched in 2020.

# MEET OUR SPEAKERS



**Laura Fernandez, Director of Regulatory and Legislative Affairs, San Diego Community Power (SDCP).** Prior to her role with SDCP, Laura worked for Braun Blasing Smith Wynne, P.C. (BBSW) where she provided regulatory services to Community Choice Aggregation programs. Laura served as regulatory counsel to the CA Community Choice Association (CalCCA), LEAN Energy US, the CA Municipal Utilities Association and to a coalition of California's smallest publicly owned electric utilities. Laura interned with the CA Air Resources Board, CA Department of Justice, and the Office of the Attorney General. Laura received her bachelor's degree in Political Science with an emphasis in Public Policy from the University of California, San Diego in 2011. In 2016, she got her juris doctor degree and environmental law certificate from the University of California, Davis School of Law in 2016, and was admitted to the California State Bar. While in law school, Laura served as Chair of the Environmental Law Society and a Senior Articles Editor for *Environs the Environmental Law and Policy Journal*.



**Angelina M. Galiteva, Founder and Board Chair, Renewables 100 Policy Institute,** was appointed to the California Independent Systems Operator Board (CAISO) in 2011 and is serving her second term. In 2020 she became the first Female Chair of the CAISO Board of Governors. Angelina serves as Chairperson of the World Council for Renewable Energy (WCRE) and is a Founding Board Member of the Global Clean Energy Desalination Alliance. She is an expert in strategic issues related to renewable energy, technology development and implementation, and optimizing power system efficiency. She works with sustainability and environmental policy programs for public and private entities, and acts as a US State Department representative expert on renewable energy and power grid issues. She is founder and principal of NEOptions, Inc., a renewable energy product and project development firm. Previously, she was the Executive Director of Strategic Planning for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). Ms. Galiteva is a globally recognized expert in designing the transition to a reliable carbon free future, and is an attorney with a JD Degree and Master's in International and Energy Law.



**Karinna Gonzalez, Climate Justice Policy Advisor, Hammond Climate Solutions,** was born and raised in Chula Vista and received her BA in Sustainability from San Diego State University. After exploring which direction she wanted to take her career, interning for Zero Waste San Diego and a presidential campaign, Karinna found her passion in the climate justice and clean energy space. In 2018, she began her career as a Project Associate at the Center for Sustainable Energy where she worked on a number of programs to help expand renewable energy access to communities of concern across the state and helped launch the statewide Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing Program, which provides incentives for multifamily affordable housing to go solar. Currently, she is the Climate Justice Policy Advisor with Hammond Climate Solutions. She works to track important energy and climate justice legislation and policies, advocating for good policies that help create a more just and livable future.



**Cody Hooven, Chief Operating Officer, San Diego Community Power,** the second largest community choice agency in California. She was a driving force in seeing SD Community Power come to fruition and launch. The push towards 100% renewable energy for families and businesses while responding to community demands for equity and innovation is her daily goal. She uses her talent, skills, experience, and relationships to successfully navigate the complexities of operations in a challenging market.

# MEET OUR SPEAKERS



**Fred Jung, Councilmember, City of Fullerton**, was elected to serve a four-year term representing Council District 1 on the Fullerton City Council in November 2020. Council Member Jung is the first Asian-American Fullerton City Council Member in over 20 years. Born in Seoul, South Korea, Jung came to the United States at the age of 5. Council Member Jung has owned many successful small businesses. He also went on to found one of North Orange County's largest youth sports nonprofit organizations. He started the jazz magazines All About Jazz Los Angeles, All About Jazz Chicago, All About Jazz San Francisco, and Jazz Weekly. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Jazz Journalists Association. Council Member Jung serves as the Vice Chair to the Orange County Power Authority. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the Board of Directors of the Orange County Housing Finance Trust.



**Fabiola Lao, Senior Equity Policy Manager, Center for Sustainable Energy**, is CSE's lead expert and advisor on climate equity principles and strategies in legislative and regulatory policies related to clean energy and electric vehicles. Fabi partners with various stakeholders, including elected officials, nonprofit and community-based organizations, and equity advocates. She is a member of the City of San Diego's Climate Action Plan Equity Stakeholder Working Group, and sits in the City of Chula Vista's Climate Change and Building Decarbonization Working Groups. At the state level, she is part of the California Energy Efficiency Coordinating Committee's (CAEECC) Equity Metrics Working Group. Fabi was CSE's Senior Transportation Policy Manager, where she led the organization's statewide public policy efforts in electric vehicle adoption and infrastructure. She has over 14 years of environmental justice and equity experience across a variety of issues, including community engagement, air quality and access to green spaces. Fabi was Deputy Policy Director at the Coalition for Clean Air, where she was responsible for climate justice and equity work. Fabi earned a Master of Public Administration from the University of Southern California and a B.A. in Interdisciplinary Studies and Spanish from UC Berkeley.



**Nelson Lomeli, Program Manager, San Diego Community Power**, is responsible for the development and implementation of carbon reduction, electrification, and efficiency programs and strategy for SDCP customers. Nelson has over eight years of experience in the Community Choice Energy industry, having spent seven years with the second-choice energy provider in the State, Sonoma Clean Power, where he provided support and management of program design, implementation, and outreach for programs. Nelson holds a B.A. degree in Environmental Studies & Planning with an emphasis in Energy Management & Design from Sonoma State University, an Agile Project Management Certificate from Sonoma State University, and is fluent in Spanish.



**Silvia Paz, Executive Director, Alianza** led Alianza out of the Building Healthy Communities initiative into a long-term sustainable organization. Notable accomplishments during her directorship include changing Coachella Valley Water District from at-large voting to district voting, ensuring fairer electoral representation; the placement of a County Medically Indigent Services Program enrollment counselor in the rural community of Mecca, reducing barriers to medical services for the uninsured population; and the implementation of restorative justice at East Coachella Valley schools. Silvia previously worked for the California State Legislature specializing in housing, infrastructure, economic development, renewable energy, and the Salton Sea. In 2013, she was elected to represent Division One of the Desert Recreation District and has since worked with her board colleagues to increase equitable access to parks and recreational opportunities. She holds a BA in English from the University of San Diego and a Masters in Public Policy from the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government.

# MEET OUR SPEAKERS



**Eddie Price, Community and Workforce Development Coordinator, GRID Alternatives San Diego, founding Chairperson of San Diego Community Powers Community Advisory Board and President & CEO of The San Diego Urban Sustainability Coalition.** Eddie was raised in the soil of social change and community activism in the culturally diverse East Bay area of Northern California. makes sure that communities of concern are involved, educated, represented, and compensated in the advance of Equality and Equity in the battles and opportunities of a changing climate.



**Jared Quient, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, BayWa r.e.,** is an attorney and businessman with experience in complex business transactions, solar development, and project finance. Jared manages legal affairs for the company and provides strategic advice. Previously, Jared was Vice President of Development and Legal Affairs with AMSOLAR, a local solar development and finance company that specialized in delivering solar projects nationwide. Previously, he was a litigator in Kirkland & Ellis, LLP's New York office. In 2008, he joined "Obama for America" as the statewide Deputy Voter Protection Director in Florida, managing a full-time staff of 20 lawyers, overseeing the largest Voter Protection program in the country, and deploying over 4,000 lawyers statewide. Jared began his career working for Congresswoman Susan Davis of San Diego. He served as a fundraiser for the Presidential campaign of Senator Joe Lieberman, and is now a member of the SD Board of the League of Conservation Voters and CLEANTech San Diego. Jared is a graduate of San Diego State University and graduated cum laude from the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. While in law school, he was awarded the Alexander Fellowship in 2006 and served as a full-time extern for U.S. District Court Judge Stephen C. Robinson in the Southern District of New York. He is admitted to practice law in New York and California.



**Matthew Vasilakis, Co-Director of Policy, Climate Action Campaign,** is dedicated to ensuring all communities are uplifted by inclusive and meaningful policies that address the climate crisis. At Climate Action Campaign, Mat works with an exceptional team of advocates fighting for an equitable and sustainable future to advance environmental, racial and social justice. Matthew sits on the boards of the San Diego Urban Sustainability Coalition and Lambda Archives San Diego—an LGBTQ+ historical society. Mat also sits on the local Sierra Club chapter political committee, and is a co-founder of the YIMBY Democrats of San Diego County. He is an alumnus of the San Diego Leadership Alliance Institute, 2018 cohort, and the San Diego and Imperial County Community College Association, 2014 cohort. Matthew earned both his B.A. and M.A. in history at San Diego State University, after earning his associates degree at MiraCosta Community College.



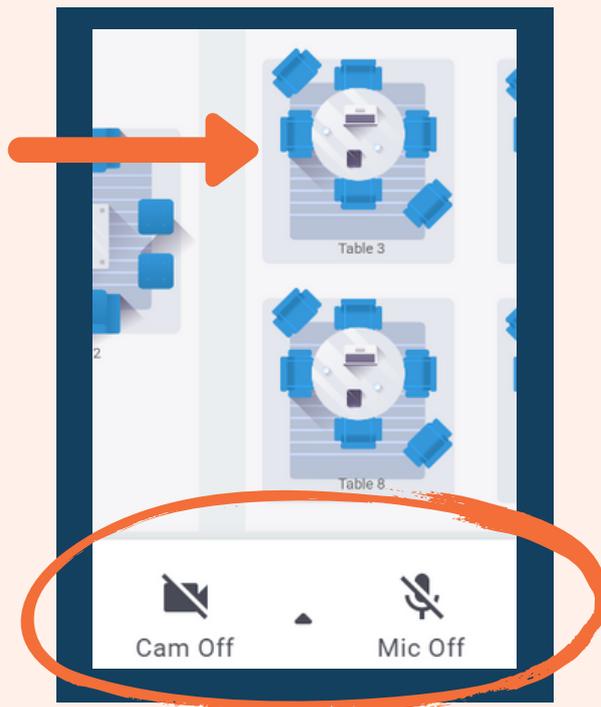
**Beth Vaughan, Executive Director, CalCCA,** oversees the association's advocacy, policy and communications efforts; coordinating a diverse and growing membership of community choice energy providers serving customers across California. She frequently presents CalCCA's positions on various policy issues at the California Legislature and California Public Utilities Commission, and is a regular speaker at energy industry events. Prior to joining CalCCA, Beth served as executive director of the California Cogeneration Council where she advocated for companies operating combined heat and power facilities. She has worked extensively in both the public and private energy sectors, consulting with government agencies, non-profits, and private sector interests on energy, climate, and environmental public policy issues. Beth served five years as senior advisor to environment and conservation cabinet ministers in the New Zealand parliament. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Queen's University in Canada, and Master of Science from Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand.

# NETWORKING BREAKS

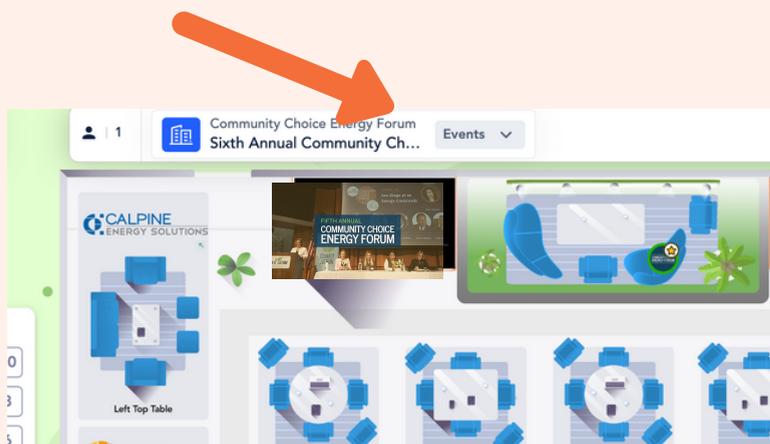
We will have a few networking sessions throughout the program

Join a table by double clicking on an empty seat at any table

Then turn your camera and audio on to start networking



# VIEWING PANELS



**\*\*CLICK THE EVENT DIRECTORY TO SWITCH BETWEEN ROOMS**

**The Calpine Energy Solutions Room:**

VIP, Welcome Remarks, Panels 1, 2 & 3, Closing Remarks

**The Climate Room:**

Panel 4



# SIXTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY CHOICE ENERGY FORUM

# THANK YOU!