

Reducing Energy Hardship Conference

EVENT PROGRAMME

24 - 25 May 2023 | The Devon Hotel, New Plymouth



Programme

WEDNESDAY, 24 MAY - DAY ONE - 10AM - 9PM

10am – 10.45am	Registrations Morning tea, Tea and coffee available (9.30am) Welcome Ngāti Te Whiti Introduction Will Edwards - Director, Ara Ake Ministerial address Glen Bennett - MP for New Plymouth Housekeeping/overview for the Conference MC - Vic Crockford
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Session 1 – What is Energy Hardship and what does Energy Hardship look like?

10.45am – 12.30pm	Energy Hardship Expert Panel Keri Brown - Chair, Energy Hardship Expert Panel Panel Session: What does Energy Hardship Look Like? Bronwyn Petrie - Manager, Healthy Home Initiatives, Te Whatu Ora Dr Kimberley O'Sullivan - Senior Research Fellow, Otago University Keri Brown - Chair, Energy Hardship Expert Panel Hinerangi Pere - Energy Navigator, Tainui Christina Scott - Director, Taranaki Public Service Leaders Forum, Ministry of Social Development Community based responses to Energy Hardship Paul Scouller - General Manager, WISE Charitable Trust Cliff Colquhoun - CEO, Community Business & Environment Centre; Managing Director - Healthy Homes Tai Tokerau
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Lunch - 12.30am - 1.30pm

Session 2 – Community perspective

1.30pm – 2.10pm	Māori Perspective Sumaria Beaton - Chief Executive, Awarua Synergy Anaru Marshall - Chief Executive, Ngāti Maru Alana Ruakere - Chief Executive, Tui Ora Leapagatele Matuamaivanu Helen Tua - Head of Payment Solutions, Mercury
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Session 3 – Energy Hardship Initiatives

2.10pm – 3.15pm	Response from Government Gaylene Leabourn - Portfolio Manager, Te Whatu Ora Hard to Reach/Engage Dr Sea Rotmann - CEO, Sustainable Energy Advice (SEA) Evaluation and monitoring Nina Campbell - Convenor of the Energy Wellbeing Evaluation Consortium Education Nik Gregg - Co-Founder / Director, Sustainability Options Kaupapa Māori Education Sumaria Beaton, Chief Executive, Awarua Synergy
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Afternoon tea - 3.15pm - 3.45pm

3.45pm – 4.55pm	Panel Session: Energy Hardship Initiatives Alan Platt - Relationships Manager, Warmer Kiwi Homes, EECA Moana Andrew - Kaihautū, FinCap Maria Ramsay - Chief Executive, Toi Foundation Anaru Marshall - Chief Executive, Ngāti Maru Scott Willis - Project Manager, Aukaha Launch of Curtain Call Petition Leana Hunt - Operations Manager, Habitat for Humanity Northern Region
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Session 4 – Launch of the Community Energy Guide

4.55pm – 5.10pm	Launch of the Community Energy Guide Jonathan Young - Head of Policy, Research & Insights, Ara Ake
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Day 1 – Wrap up and close

5.10pm	Wrap up and close Vic Crockford - MC
5.15pm – 9pm	Networking drinks: 5:15pm - 6:20pm Dinner: 6:20pm - 9pm Dinner speakers: Phil Squire - Fair Energy Manager, Toast Electric Ezra Hirawani - CEO & Co-Founder, Nau Mai Rā

THURSDAY, 25 MAY - DAY TWO - 9AM - 4.30PM

9am – 9.15am	Registrations Tea and coffee available (8.30am) Introduction Gareth Cartwright - Executive Officer, Community Energy Network; Paul Scouller - General Manager - WISE Charitable Trust Housekeeping MC - Vic Crockford
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Session 5 – Community Energy; International Perspective

9.10am – 10.10am	International Perspective Dr Julie MacArthur - Associate Professor / Canada Research Chair in Reimagining Capitalism, Royal Roads University, Canada William Heaps - Founding Director, Energy For Good (Australia) Tiffany Huynh - Director of External Affairs, Elemental Excelsior (United States)
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Morning Tea - 10.10am - 10.40am

Session 6 – Community Energy in Aotearoa New Zealand; what's happening now (New Zealand case studies)

Tech Innovation

10.40am – 12pm	Activating Community Energy in Aotearoa Jamie Silk - Managing Director, Silk Advisory and Innovation Daniel Gnoth - Energy Futures Manager, Powerco Ellie Hills - Market Development & Customer Accounts Lead, Powerco Jon Postlethwaite - Sustainability Analyst, Powerco Sam Elder - General Manager Energy Futures, Orion David Riley - Community & Partnerships Manager, Todd Energy John Campbell - Chief Executive, Our Energy
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Lunch - 12pm - 1pm

Session 7 – Community Energy in Aotearoa New Zealand; what's happening now (New Zealand case studies)

Social Innovation

1pm – 2.30pm	Nau Mai Rā Ezra Hirawani - CEO & Co-Founder, Nau Mai Rā MTR Jenny Van der Merwe - Renewable Energy Lead, Kāinga Ora Empower Energy Brian Stephens - Co-Founder & Chief Platform Energiser, Empower Energy Charitable Trust Community perspective Gareth Cartwright - Community Energy Whaingaroa Phil Squire - Fair Energy Manager, Toast Electric
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Session 8 – Next steps

2.30pm – 4pm	Community Energy Fund workshop Daniel Brown - Manager, Energy Use, MBIE
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Conference - Wrap up and Close

4pm – 4.30pm	Wrap up and close Vic Crockford - MC
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Speakers



Victoria Crockford

MC

Victoria has a diverse professional background, working across the housing, energy, social enterprise, and screen sectors for not-for-profits, large corporates, and start-ups in communications, government relations and regulatory affairs, executive leadership, and governance. Her most recent full-time role was advocating for the right to a decent home for all as CEO of Community Housing Aotearoa-Ngā Wharerau o Aotearoa, a national peak body for the community housing sector. She is currently consulting in the Māori housing, electricity, and public health sectors. She hails from Heretaunga/Hastings and lives in Tāhuna/Queenstown with her young family where she has recently been appointed to the Queenstown Lakes District Council's Climate Reference Group.



Will Edwards

Director, Ara Ake

Will has extensive and diverse governance experience in the iwi and education sectors, as well as skills in research, analytics and data. His rural upbringing is complemented by broad academic training in public health, Māori development, Māori language and horticulture. Now living in South Taranaki, as a past Chair of Te Korowai o Ngāruahine, Will brings strategic Māori community and well-grounded perspective to the Board, as well as proven leadership experience in the application of the Treaty of Waitangi to contemporary New Zealand.

Will affiliates to the Taranaki, Ngāruahine, Tāngahoe, Pakakohi and Ngāti Ruanui iwi of Taranaki. He holds Bachelor degrees in Horticulture and Arts, a Masters of Philosophy in Māori Studies, a Doctorate in Public Health and is a recognised senior social science researcher.



Glen Bennett

MP for New Plymouth

Glen Bennett was elected Member of Parliament in 2020, and since then has been a strong advocate for the people of New Plymouth in Wellington.

In Parliament Glen has been deputy chair of the Economic Development, Science and Innovation, and Social Services and Community committees, and a member of the Finance and Expenditure committee.

An accessible and visible MP, Glen has continued to build relationships throughout the New Plymouth community, working with many people to help them reach their aspirations, and championing this region and its needs in Wellington.

With experience in business enterprise, restorative justice, community development and youth support, Glen understands the pressures on people and businesses from across the community.

He believes Labour's focus on people, and its commitment to secure housing, fair incomes, quality education, decent healthcare, and action on climate change, will give New Plymouth the best opportunity to meet its full potential.



Gareth Cartwright

Executive Officer - Community Energy Network

Gareth has been the Executive Officer for the Community Energy Network for the last 7 years. Over that time Gareth has grown his understanding on what makes community enterprises tick and how valuable they are to the energy wellbeing sector. A fair chunk of his time is taken up working with Government agencies, researchers and sector partners to provide a community sector voice in policy development and funding decisions. The latest significant engagement has been as a member of the Energy Hardship Reference Group that has supported the EH Expert Panel in their deliberations over the last 18 months. Gareth also represents CEN on the Board of the Home Performance Advisor Training programme as well as working alongside the Zero Waste Network, Environment Hubs Aotearoa and Pare Kore on developing a collaborative community leadership response to climate change.



Keri Brown

Chair, Energy Hardship Expert Panel

Keri Brown (Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Whātua, Ngāti Mahana) is a dedicated community leader and public servant, currently serving as a councillor at Hutt City Council. She is a strong advocate for social housing and has taken a leading role in developing strategies to address homelessness in her community. In her current role, she is also responsible for improving child outcomes, ensuring that all children in her area have the opportunity to thrive.

As a Director of Urban Plus Ltd, a council-controlled development company, Keri works closely with Community Housing Providers and mana whenua to build high-quality social housing that meets the needs of her community. With her extensive background in public service, including her previous role as a senior national adviser for the Family Start programme, Keri brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to her work.

Keri is deeply committed to improving the health and wellbeing of whānau and communities. As a former Hutt Valley DHB board member, she has first-hand experience of the challenges faced by many. Through her work at Hutt City Council and beyond, Keri is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of those she serves.



Bronwyn Petrie

Manager Healthy Home Initiatives, Te Whatu Ora

Bronwyn Petrie is the Manager of the Healthy Communities Team at Te Whatu Ora. She is based in Ōtautahi/Christchurch, with her family. She has experience working in public health in the public sector both in New Zealand and the United Kingdom. She has worked on a range of public health issues such as screening and child obesity, and more recently healthy housing and rheumatic fever. She is interested and passionate about prevention, determinants of health and equity, as well as collaboration/partnership and commissioning/implementation.



Dr Kimberley O'Sullivan

Senior Research Fellow, Otago University

Kim is a Senior Research Fellow with He Kāinga Oranga - Housing and Health Research Programme, where she has undertaken energy poverty and health research since 2008. Kim's research explores the relationships between energy poverty (fuel poverty), energy use behaviours, energy efficiency of housing and buildings, and the important interactions of these with health and wellbeing. She leads research exploring the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on home energy use in New Zealand and health outcomes of the government's Winter Energy Payment, and is a collaborator on an international project exploring energy poverty in Canada. She holds a Marsden Fast Start research grant: Heating Up, Cooling Off: Household management of summer heat flows. She has experience in energy poverty and health research, consumer experiences and impacts of prepay electricity, involving young people in the research process, and exploring energy use among people who work from home. Kim has expertise in the design and use of qualitative methods, surveys, mixed methods, and participatory research methods; linking and integrating diverse datasets to produce robust evidence on the extent and health impacts of energy poverty, and pioneering digital research methods for public health and energy research.



Christina Scott

**Director, Taranaki Public Service Leaders Forum,
Ministry of Social Development**

After a long career in Financial Services across a range of organisations throughout New Zealand, Christina moved to MSD and the Public Service in 2019. Holding a Masters in Business Administration from Otago University, Christina has found her business acumen with a focus towards outcomes is of benefit to the Public Service. Initially providing research, analysis and recommendations in addressing social need, Christina became heavily involved in supporting the community welfare provision through the COVID 19 pandemic. This was something of a steep learning curve as the range of need uncovered for whanau self-isolating was wider than food and medical support. With COVID-19 having become something we are learning to live with, Christina has moved to supporting our Public Service Commissioner for Taranaki, Gloria Campbell who leads the Taranaki Public Service Forum. Christina provides liaison across agencies and organisations helping them support each other to join up and ensure the delivery of national and regional initiatives and projects to address significant issues for our region. The Taranaki Public Service Forum is made up of iwi, local government, Toi Foundation and public service leaders.



Paul Scouller

General Manager, WISE Charitable Trust

Paul Scouller General Manager of Wise Charitable Trust, Paul was on the Board of Wise before taking on the General Managers role at the Trust. Paul is a Board Member of Community Energy Network, and a Board Member of the Taranaki Air Ambulance Trust, Paul is also Certified Home Performance Advisor. Paul was a business owner for 20 years in New Plymouth.



Cliff Colquhoun

CEO, Community Business & Environment Centre; Managing Director - Healthy Homes Tai Tokerau

Founder and CEO of Community Business & Environment Centre (CBEC) and Managing Director of Healthy Homes Tai Tokerau (HHTT).

CBEC is a Community Enterprise that has operated in the Te Tai Tokerau region for over 30 years, providing operational management for a broad range of environmental and social services.

HHTT is a community joint venture between CBEC and He Iwi Kotahi Tatou Trust of 15 years managing an EECA's Warmer Kiwi Homes - home insulation and heat pump contract throughout the Northland Region.

CBEC / HHTT has become one of Tai Tokerau's larger employers providing essential services to our community.



Sumaria Beaton

Te Pūtahitanga o Te Waipounamu - Southland

As CEO, Sumaria Beaton is the main leader and driver of Invercargill-based Awarua Synergy. The Southland business grew from its roots 18 years ago as a Marae hapu-based social enterprise, based at Te Rau Aroha Marae in Bluff. Awarua Synergy has now insulated more than 10,000 Southland homes, businesses and farms, and has expanded into the home heating market as part of its mission of 'warming and eco-powering our Deep South'. Sumaria is passionate about education within this sector, delivering Kaupapa Māori Energy Efficient Healthy Homes education throughout New Zealand, including the Chatham Islands, called Hauora Homes HEMI training. This training covers the vital importance of insulation and energy efficiency in homes.



Anaru Marshall

Chief Executive, Ngāti Maru

Anaru has been employed by the Trust since the beginning of 2019 as Lead Negotiator and Transition Manager for Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Maru.

Prior to this role he was the Chief Executive and then Relationship and Development Manager for WISE Better Homes for more than 10 years.

While working at WISE Anaru was very busy as the lead negotiator for Ngāti Maru.

Anaru has extensive experience across financial services, running his own business as well as working for commercial and not-for-profit charitable trusts. He is also a Trustee of East Taranaki Environment Trust (ETET).



Alana Ruakere

(Taranaki, Te Atiawa) - Pou Tu Kurae, Tui Ora

Alana Ruakere was appointed Pou Tu Kurae/Chief Executive at Tui Ora in January 2023. Tui Ora is the largest kaupapa Māori hauora and social services provider in Taranaki, employing 185 kaimahi and offering 40 whānau-centred services to the Taranaki community. Alana has had a long and distinguished career in the public service, particularly in the health sector. Prior to joining Tui Ora Alana was the Director of the Crown Response Unit managing the Government's response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care. She has also held senior policy and managerial roles with the Ministry of Health, Te Puni Kōkiri and the Ministry of Social Development. Alana is from Taranaki and was educated at Ōpunake High School and New Plymouth Girl's High School. Alana and her whānau whakapapa to Te Atiawa and Taranaki iwi.



Gaylene Leabourn

Healthy Homes Initiative National Lead, Te Whatu Ora

Gaylene Leabourn is the Healthy Homes Initiative national lead for Te Whatu Ora. Currently based in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland. She was born in Te Tai Tokerau/Northland and hopes to move back there soon. She has worked in health her whole career, beginning as a nurse and working in the community. Gaylene has been involved in healthy housing and rheumatic fever prevention for the last 10 years. Partnerships and collaboration to support better outcomes for whānau is what drives her.



Dr. Sea Rotmann

CEO & Founder, Sustainable Energy Advice Ltd (SEA)

Dr. Sea Rotmann, CEO and founder of SEA - Sustainable Energy Advice Ltd is a Golden Bay-based behaviour change and energy justice researcher. She was the Principal Scientist at EECA from 2007-11 but has focused on running international research collaborations on behaviour change and hard-to-reach energy users for the International Energy Agency's Users Technology Collaboration Programme since then. This mahi has led her to look at the systemic and structural causes for energy and environmental injustice. She's also building an eco community on her land in Farewell Spit to decarbonise her own life.



Nina Campbell

Convenor of the Energy Wellbeing Evaluation Consortium

Nina is a social scientist specialising in energy sector decarbonisation. For over 15 years, she has focused on the role of clean energy in supporting social and economic development, and promoting energy equity. Currently, Nina is seconded to the Ministry for Energy and Resources, supporting the work of the Energy Hardship Expert Panel. Privately, she is also on the Board of the Energy Evaluation Asia Pacific network, and convenes the Energy Wellbeing Evaluation Consortium. Previously Nina was based in Europe, primarily at the IEA, where she led innovative work into the benefits of energy efficiency for alleviating energy poverty. She is passionate about the power of collaboration to enable us to do more of what works, and less of what doesn't.



Nik Gregg

Co-Founder / Director, Sustainability Options

Nik is currently a co-founder and Director of Sustainability Options, an altruistic business dedicated to improving housing conditions for all New Zealanders. Nik has been involved in the sustainable impacts of housing for over 15 years, and during this time has personally visited thousands of homes around the Bay of Plenty, and has had the privilege of being part of various teams impacting tens of thousands of homes. Alongside continuing to visit homes and finding ways to improve housing conditions, Nik has been a national HPA trainer for the past 8 years, part of Te Whatu Ora's Healthy Homes initiative Roopu leadership group and the Healthy Homes Initiative national training and coaching support. Nik and the team he works with are passionate about a recipe of: conversations, journey, education and intentional capacity building to change the housing culture in New Zealand from one of accepting poor conditions to aspiring and achieving excellent conditions.



Alan Platt

Relationships Manager, Warmer Kiwi Homes, EECA

Alan is the Relationships Manager for the Warmer Kiwi Homes programme at EECA. The role has Alan engaging with stakeholders, funders and referral agencies that have an interest in the work being done. He has spent most of his career managing technical sales in the construction industry. This has included residential and industrial coatings, window joinery and associated products, focussing on performance and specification. Until recently he managed the delivery of the Warmer Kiwi Homes programme through a provider in Wellington.



Moana Andrew

Kaihautū, FinCap

*“He motuna whenua, he motuna nākau“
(Man’s heart away from nature becomes hard)*

Moana is currently the Kaihautū for FinCap (Financial Capability) based in Wellington, an NGO which supports 200 free financial mentoring services across the country. Advocating for change in the building financial capability sector to reduce poverty and hardship in Aotearoa. Specializing in hardship from a Māori and Pasifika community perspective.

Moana is of Ngai Tūhoe and Cook Island descent, born and bred in the Eastern Bay of Plenty, from Ruatoki. Her role as the Business Analyst for her iwi-Ngai Tūhoe supported the achievement of the most unique tribal settlement nationally and internationally. Te Urewera Act 2014, that recognises in law Ngāi Tūhoe homelands, an identity of it’s own as a legal person in it’s own right, grounded in the principles of: Land – Justice – Livelihood – Energy. Her passion and values are grounded in her Tūhoetanga and the revitalization of language, culture, and self-determination.



Maria Ramsay

Chief Executive, Toi Foundation & Foundation Holdings Ltd

Maria is the Chief Executive for Toi Foundation and Toi Foundation Holdings Ltd. Toi Foundation is a philanthropic funder based in Taranaki that distributes circa \$23million annually to the Taranaki Community. Toi Foundations purpose is to build a thriving, inclusive and equitable Taranaki.

As part of her role, Maria oversees the focus and direction of the Foundation, its purpose and strategies and is also a Director on Toi Foundation Investments Ltd.



Scott Willis

Project Manager, Aukaha

Scott works at Aukaha Ltd, a Kaupapa Māori organization where he runs the Otago Home Upgrade Programme. He is also a director at Climate Navigator and runs his own business providing assistance on decarbonization projects with a particular expertise in community energy. He sits on an Advisory Group at the Electricity Authority and has a passion for climate change adaptation, housing, rural development and the energy sector. Previous roles he has held include General Manager of Blueskin Energy Ltd and Director at the Otago Chamber of Commerce.



Leana Hunt

Operations Manager, Habitat for Humanity Northern Region

Leana has over 20 years experience working across social enterprise, corporates and the charitable sectors.

She has worked in a diverse range of roles utilising her skills in stakeholder relationships, programme management, marketing and communications.

At Habitat for Humanity Northern Leana manages the Housing Adequacy programmes including major and minor repair programmes and a Curtain Bank.

She currently has five programme managers that report to her with a total of 22 staff within her team.

She is passionate about making a positive change in Kiwis lives and is involved in the Energy Hardship Reference group, and Energy Wellbeing Evaluation Consortium nationally.



Jonathan Young

Head of Policy, Research & Insights, Ara Ake

Jonathan Young is Head of Policy, Research and Insights at Ara Ake, New Zealand's future energy centre. Through his previous Parliamentary role as Energy & Resources Spokesperson, Jonathan gained a depth of knowledge and understanding of New Zealand's integrated energy system and energy systems further abroad. He is passionate about communities working well together and is committed to a low emissions energy future, with a strong focus on innovation and insights, and building connections to respond to the challenges of the transition.



Phil Squire

Fair Energy Manager, Toast Electric

Phil is Fair Energy Manager at Wellington-based Sustainability Trust. He has been designing and delivering energy hardship alleviation and healthy homes projects at the Trust for the last 20 years. Among other things, he heads up Toast Electric, Sust Trust's social electricity retailer, is Chair of Community Energy Network, and has four teenage daughters. Phil hopes he will see a day when community enterprises have all the money they need and Banks have to hold a cake stall to pay their shareholders.



Ezra Hirawani

CEO & Co-Founder, Nau Mai Rā

Ezra Hirawani, a visionary entrepreneur and social advocate dedicated to eliminating power poverty. As the founder of Nau Mai Rā, a groundbreaking power company, he has revolutionized the energy sector by using the profits of those who can afford to pay for power to empower and support those in need.

Ezra's exceptional leadership and impact have earned him prestigious accolades, including the Impact Award at the 2021 Aotearoa Impact Awards and the title of Young New Zealander of the Year in 2022.

With no prior experience in the industry, Ezra fearlessly rallied power experts and inspired them to join his cause. Together, they have embarked on a transformative journey, symbolized by a metaphorical waka, to eliminate power poverty not just in New Zealand, but also on a global scale.

"No matter who you are, we have a seat on the waka for you - get in or get out of the way." This rallying cry invites individuals with the ability to contribute to actively participate in this noble endeavor.



Dr Julie MacArthur

Associate Professor / Canada Research Chair in Reimagining Capitalism, Royal Roads University, Canada

Dr Julie MacArthur is an associate professor and the Canada Research Chair in Reimagining Capitalism at Royal Roads University in Victoria, Canada. Her work investigates the political economy of low carbon transitions, with a particular focus on how grassroots and community-led initiatives can scale up to make radical and transformative impacts to both adaptation and mitigation. She has published widely on community energy initiatives in Canada and New Zealand, on participatory policy design, Green New Deal politics, and the gendered employment trends across energy sub-sectors. She is the author of *Empowering Electricity: Co-operatives, Sustainability and Power Sector Reform in Canada* (UBC 2016) and co-editor (with Maria Bargh) of *Environmental Politics and Policy in Aotearoa New Zealand* (University of Auckland 2022).



William Heaps

Founding Director, Energy For Good

Across five decades in the energy industry Bill has focused on the delivery of affordable, reliable and efficient energy services that meet customer needs. He is an electrical engineer, business executive and company director with experience in major infrastructure and energy supply businesses. He has held senior executive and governance positions in electricity generation, transmission, distribution, and retail businesses, he was Managing Director of Strata Energy Consulting for eighteen years. In 2021, Bill made the decision to specifically apply his skills and experience to make a difference to the lives of others through Energy for Good Limited. Bill is also an Independent Director of the Community Energy Network (CEN).



Tiffany Huynh

Director of External Affairs, Elemental Excelerator

"Partnerships are the key to success. Although change can be slow, I believe in Hawaii's potential to bring innovation to market and to become leaders in sustainability precisely because of our size."

Tiffany works to weave together a network of mission aligned partners who share our vision of a clean, vibrant, equitable Hawaii. Helping to guide and develop the next phase of collaborations in Hawaii and beyond with the corporate, education and start-up communities.

Prior to Elemental Excelerator, Tiffany led the marketing at REHAB Hospital of the Pacific & Foundation in Honolulu and for the Financial Services Institute of Australasia (FINSIA) in Sydney, Australia. Prior to Elemental, she worked closely with clients across all major sectors in Hawaii at Anthology Marketing Group, from sustainability to political to retail.

Tiffany is an active member of several educational boards, including chairing the Hoala School and Hoala Foundation for Education boards. Is a board director for HawaiiKidsCAN and WAI (Wastewater Alternatives and Innovations). She holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree with a concentration in operations and technology management from Boston University in Massachusetts. She is the recipient of *Pacific Business News 40 Under 40*.

Tiffany also enjoys travel and eating out at new places... and watching surfing and college football.



Jamie Silk

Managing Director, Silk Advisory and Innovation

Jamie is a low carbon transitions advisor helping businesses and organisations develop and deliver on bold low carbon roadmaps, and accelerate opportunities through commercial innovation, intelligently integrating renewables and sector coupling.

Low carbon energy work includes community and commercial scale energy retail, behaviour change, peer to peer, micro-grid and platforms design/ deployment; consumer flex and transactive grid products design/ delivery; Māori community energy assessments, energy engagement, solar/ battery and inter-generational roadmaps; energy behaviour change and energy equity; utility scale solar (commercials); EV integration; electricity distributor future energy roadmaps and business cases; and participation on multiple industry work groups/ fora.



Daniel Gnoth

Powerco

Dan's work focuses on understanding the impacts and opportunities facing the energy distribution sector as New Zealand decarbonises. He has a passion to facilitate a just energy transition that enables a more equitable way of life. He heads the Energy Futures team at Powerco which is responsible for research and innovation.



Ellie Hills

Market Development & Customer Accounts Lead, Powerco

Ellie works as Market Development & Customer Accounts Lead in Powerco's business development unit. She is engaged with developing alternative energy systems such as distributed solar generation and community micro-grids. Her interest in energy hardship comes from a desire to see an equitable transition.



Jon Postlethwaite

Sustainability Analyst, Powerco

Jon is Powerco's Sustainability Analyst and has a background in social science and programme research and evaluation. He has a keen interest in promoting business engagement with social issues including energy hardship and te ao Māori integration.



Sam Elder

General Manager Energy Futures, Orion

Sam is Orion Group's General Manager Energy Futures, collaborating to create an equitable energy future for mid-Canterbury and beyond. She is also co-Chair of the Electricity Networks Aotearoa (ENA) Future Network Forum; Founder and Director of Climate Navigator; a member of the Energy Wellbeing Evaluation Consortium; and a Director at the Gas Industry Company.

Sam started out as a Spacecraft Thermal Systems Engineer in the UK, before moving to Aotearoa NZ with her kiwi husband and young sons in 2006. Since then she has held a range of leadership roles including Retail Insight Manager with Meridian Energy; South Island Director with the Ākina Foundation (supporting the growth of social enterprise); and Senior Strategy Manager with Environment Canterbury (responsible for Council portfolios on Hazards, Risk & Resilience; Transport & Urban Development; and Air Quality).

In 2013 Sam completed an MSc in Advanced Energy & Environmental Studies, including a thesis exploring the 'potential for smart heating to move Aotearoa New Zealand's high-risk households out of fuel poverty'. In 2020 she qualified as a Sustainability & Climate Risk (SCR) certified professional with the Global Association of Risk Professionals.

[linkedin.com/in/samelder](https://www.linkedin.com/in/samelder)



David Riley

Community and Partnerships Manager, Todd Energy

David Riley is a Taranaki local with an environmental science and planning background, which provides a solid foundation for David's role as Community and Partnerships Manager at Todd Energy. David is passionate about engagement and contributing positively to local communities, iwi, hapū and tangata whenua – listening, building trust, and generating positive outcomes reached together. David has a keen interest in energy, the future of the energy market, and the impact of energy generation on climate change and future communities.



John Campbell

CEO / Founder, Our Energy

John Campbell leads Our Energy, creator and designer of an online local energy market platform. Our Energy's software and service matches small-scale generators of clean energy with customers in their local communities in real time, providing an easy way to buy, sell and gift clean, local energy.

Our Energy stands for a better, fairer, cleaner and more local energy future and his team are passionate about creating a world where community-driven energy is affordable, reliable and sustainable for all. John is a committed advocate for more open, flexible and equal access electricity markets as a key part of New Zealand's transition to a low emissions economy.

In 2015, a summertime run, a roadside box of butternut pumpkins, and a lifestyle block kitted out with solar panels and a small wind turbine led John to ask: if a farmer's pumpkins can be sold to the local community, why can't energy?



Jenny van der Merwe

Renewable Energy Lead, Kāinga Ora – Homes and Communities

Jenny is a public housing professional with extensive experience supporting change and innovation initiatives. A background in Industrial Engineering, Public Management and a passion for the environment have shaped Jenny's approach to the development of the renewable energy programme at Kāinga Ora.

Jenny Van der Merwe | LinkedIn



Brian Stephens

Co-Found & Chief Platform Energiser, Empower Energy Charitable Trust

Brian is an engineer and scientist who has been working in the manufacturing and energy sectors for 15 years, solving complex problems with practical, innovative, holistic solutions have been his focus.

Brian is passionate about renewable energy, energy efficiency, and social justice.



Daniel Brown

Manager, Energy Use, MBIE

Daniel Brown manages the Energy Use Policy team at the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, with responsibility for industrial decarbonisation and energy hardship work. Daniel has over 20 years' experience working in central government in both NZ and the UK with experience in a wide range of policy work, legislation, Crown Entity monitoring, appointments and fund management. He has previously worked at MBIE on Resource Management Act reform and renewable energy funds, and has a background in environmental law and planning.

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