EBC New England Climate Change Resilience & Adaptation Summit
Part One – Senator Whitehouse & New England State Climate Leaders

Friday, July 31, 2020

This EBC New England Climate Change Summit made possible in part with the support from:

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AGENDA

9:00 a.m.  Welcome: Daniel Moon, President & Executive Director
            Environmental Business Council of New England

            Summit Introduction, Overview and What You Will Learn
            • Daniel Moon, Summit Chair & Moderator

9:20 a.m.  Keynote Presentation

            “A View from the U.S. Senate”
            The Shortcomings/Glimmers of Progress in the Effort to Address Climate Change

            The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
            U.S. Senator from the State of Rhode Island

10:00 a.m. Networking Opportunity

10:15 a.m. New Hampshire State Climate Program
            • Christopher Skoglund, Climate Change Mitigation Climate and Energy Program Manager
              Air Resources Division, Department of Environmental Services
              State of New Hampshire
            • Sherry Godlewski, Resilience and Adaptation Manager
              Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience Department of Environmental Services
              State of New Hampshire
10:45 a.m. Vermont State Climate Program
   - Peter Walke, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Conservation
     State of Vermont

11:10 a.m. Rhode Island State Climate Program
   - Shaun O'Rourke, Chief Resiliency Officer, State of Rhode Island

11:35 a.m. Maine State Climate Program
   - Hannah Pingree, Director
     Governor's Office of Policy Innovation & the Future, State of Maine

12:00 p.m. Networking Opportunity

12:15 p.m. Break

12:30 p.m. Connecticut State Climate Program
   - Rebecca French, Office of Climate Change Planning
     Department of Energy & Environmental Protection, State of Connecticut

12:55 p.m. Massachusetts State Climate Program
   - Mia Mansfield, Director, Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience
     Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs
     Commonwealth of Massachusetts

1:20 p.m. State Leadership Panel Discussion
   Panel Moderator: Thomas Burack, Shareholder, Sheehan Phinney Bass & Green

2:15 p.m. Closing Remarks – Daniel K. Moon

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Sheldon Whitehouse, United States Senator for Rhode Island
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U.S. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse is fighting to reduce carbon pollution and position America as a leader in the clean energy economy.

Whitehouse is a senior member of the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee. He co-founded the Senate Climate Action Task Force, to help build support for action on climate change. He sits on Senate Democrats’ Special Committee on the Climate Crisis. And every week, Whitehouse takes to the floor of the Senate to urge Congress to wake up to the threat of climate change.
Whitehouse has introduced legislation to put a fee on carbon, establishing a market incentive to reduce emissions while generating substantial revenue to be returned to the American people. He led the bipartisan FUTURE Act, signed into law in 2018 to help develop technologies that remove carbon pollution from the atmosphere. He also helped to secure infrastructure upgrades to support the deployment of America’s first offshore wind farm off of Rhode Island’s coast.

On the EPW Committee, Whitehouse has worked to extend renewable energy tax incentives that support hundreds of thousands of American jobs, like the tax credit to help strengthen the growing American offshore wind industry.

Whitehouse helped to pass into law bipartisan advanced nuclear legislation. His measures will promote research and development and licensing for a next generation of nuclear reactors – technology that holds tremendous promise for generating carbon-free energy and re-using spent nuclear waste.

In addition to EPW, he is a member of the Budget, the Judiciary, and the Finance Committees.

A graduate of Yale University and the University of Virginia School of Law, Whitehouse served as Rhode Island’s U.S. Attorney and state Attorney General before being elected to the United States Senate in 2006.

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**PANEL MODERATOR**

**Thomas S. Burack**, Shareholder
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As Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) from 2006-2016, Tom led the Granite State’s efforts to address climate change. Tom helped orchestrate New Hampshire’s entry into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), was a founding member of the Board of Directors of RGGI, Inc., and chaired a 29-member Governor’s commission that developed the New Hampshire Climate Action Plan (2009), which serves as the blueprint for New Hampshire’s environmental, energy and economic development future by aiming to achieve the greatest feasible greenhouse gas reductions while also providing the greatest long-term economic benefits to the state’s citizens. Tom also envisioned and led NHDES’s efforts to incorporate climate change considerations into all of its programs and activities, and he played a central role in focusing all of the state’s agencies on the challenges of climate change, including extreme weather events and implementing climate-related mitigation, adaptation and resiliency strategies.

At the start of 2017, Tom returned to Sheehan Phinney where he practices environmental and energy law, consults on a range of environmental issues, and facilitates the development of scenario-based living strategic plans for governmental and nonprofit organizations. A Fellow of the American College of Environmental Lawyers, Tom co-chairs ACOEL’s Disaster Planning and Response Task Force, and at a national conference in April 2019 spoke on state efforts to include climate resiliency considerations in their disaster preparedness, response and recovery efforts. Tom serves as an executive advisor and consultant to the Environmental Council of States (ECOS), the nonprofit, non-partisan association of state and territorial environmental agency leaders, on E-Enterprise for the Environment, a shared governance approach among the US Environmental Protection Agency, states and tribal governments to modernize and streamline the business of environmental protection and regulation in the United States. Tom is a Harry S. Truman Scholar, and served as Law Clerk to the Honorable David H. Souter on the Supreme Court of New Hampshire, and as Legislative Assistant for Environmental Matters to U.S. Senator Gordon J. Humphrey (R-NH) in Washington, DC.
Rebecca French, Office of Climate Change Planning  
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As the first director of the new Office of Climate Planning at the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Dr. French advises the Commissioner on mitigation, adaptation and resilience plans across all divisions of the agency. Her first charge in the position is to administer the Governor's Council on Climate Change.

Previously, Dr. French served as the Director of Resilience for the CT Department of Housing, overseeing the $64.3M grant awarded to the State of Connecticut through the US HUD National Disaster Resilience Competition as well as the Rebuild by Design pilot project in Bridgeport, CT. Dr. French served as the Director of Community Engagement for the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) from 2014-2018. She was a AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellow with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the Office of Research and Development on the staff of the Chief Innovation Officer.

Dr. French also spent a year in Congress as a Congressional Science Fellow, sponsored by the American Geophysical Union, in the Office of US Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT). She served as a policy advisor to the Senator in the areas of energy, environment, and agriculture.

Dr. French holds a Ph.D. in geosciences from Virginia Tech, a masters in soil science from Cornell University and has an undergraduate degree in chemistry and environmental studies from Oberlin College. She was born and raised in northeast Connecticut and now lives in West Hartford, within biking distance of her job, with her husband and son.

Sherry Godlewski, Resilience and Adaptation Manager  
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Sherry Godlewski has worked for NH Department of Environmental Services for 20+ years, and has experience in the water, air, waste, and environmental health programs. Currently she serves as the Resilience and Adaptation Manager. Sherry is co-chair of both the NH Coastal Adaptation Workgroup and the Upper Valley Adaptation Workgroup. Sherry represented NHDES on the NH Coastal Risk and Hazards Commission. She also served as the Adaptation Workgroup facilitator for the Governor's Climate Change Policy Task Force and assisted with the development of the New Hampshire Climate Action Plan. She has an M.S. in Environmental Communication and Administration from Antioch University.

Mia Mansfield, Director of Climate Adaptation & Resiliency  
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
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Mia is the Director of Climate Adaptation and Resilience at the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. In this role, she co-leads the implementation of the State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan, and the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program. She most recently managed the Climate Ready Boston initiative for the City of Boston, where she led implementation of the Climate Ready Boston Plan and Resilient Boston Harbor Vision. She has a Master's in City Planning from MIT and a BA from Brandeis University.

Shaun O'Rourke, Chief Resilience Officer
Director, Stormwater and Resiliency
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Shaun O'Rourke is the Chief Resilience Officer for the State of Rhode Island and the Director of Stormwater and Resiliency at Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank. As the chief resilience officer, Shaun led the development of the state’s climate resilience action strategy, Resilient Rhody, and is now responsible for directing the strategy’s implementation. He works in close collaboration with the Governor’s Office and agency directors to advance priority climate resilience initiatives.

As Director of the Stormwater and Resiliency at the RI Infrastructure Bank (RIIB), Shaun has developed and oversees multiple loan programs focused on accelerating investment in statewide stormwater projects and the integration of climate resilience into all bank operations.

Prior to joining RIIB, Shaun served as the National Green Infrastructure Director at The Trust for Public Land and was Director of Sustainable Design at the Boston Architectural College, where he continues to serve as a member of the faculty. He has also worked at AECOM in New York City as an Ecological Designer and focused on public sector infrastructure projects.

Shaun holds a Master of Landscape Architecture degree from SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry and a B.S from University of Vermont.

Hannah Pingree, Director
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Hannah Pingree was appointed to lead Governor Mill’s Office of Policy Innovation and the Future in January 2019. Hannah previously served as Speaker of the Maine House of Representatives from 2008 to 2010. She also served as the Maine House Majority Leader, Chair of the Committee on Health and Human Services, and as a member of the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs during her terms in Maine Legislature from 2002 - 2010. Hannah spearheaded successful legislation on energy, broadband, housing, environmental health, and health care during her time in office. Hannah has worked for a technology start-up in New York City; managed several family small businesses; led the development of rural housing, energy efficiency, and eldercare projects for a coalition of community non-profits; chaired her local school board; and served on numerous state and community non-profit boards.
**Christopher Skoglund**, Climate and Energy Program Manager  
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Chris Skoglund is the Climate & Energy Program Manager with the NH Department of Environmental Services. For more than a decade, he has led climate and energy-planning initiatives at the state and local level, as well as working with the New England states and Eastern Canadian provinces. His focus has been on fostering conversations that enable diverse parties to collectively identify the opportunities and challenges to decarbonize the economy, and then agreeing on the best approaches to address them. Chris holds a Bachelor's degree from Johns Hopkins University and a Master's from the University of New Hampshire. His most valuable education occurred prior to graduate school, when he learned to manage multi-stakeholder deliberations and build trust among opposing factions by teaching students in 5th-8th grade in public and private schools, and at outdoor schools across the country. In his free time, he can be found playing dress-up with his two daughters or replacing his traditional landscaping with vegetable gardens and a diverse perennial polyculture.

**Peter Walke**, Commissioner  
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Peter Walke is the Commissioner of the Department of Environmental Conservation in the Agency of Natural Resources. Appointed to the position in 2020 by Governor Phil Scott after serving as the Deputy Secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources since 2017.

Walke has been selected to co-chair the Vermont Climate Action Commission and to represent Vermont on the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, the first mandatory market-based program in the US to cap greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector. Walke coordinates efforts to provide clean drinking water for Vermont residents effected by PFOA contamination, an industrial, chemical legacy, and he sits on ANR's Leadership and Management Committee which provides a rigorous, high-quality avenue for Agency staff to advance their leadership skills.

Raised in Vermont, Walke pursued higher education first in Massachusetts, receiving a Bachelor of Arts (cum laude) from Williams College, and later a Master of Arts in Applied Geography from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Following receipt of his undergraduate degree, Walke joined the Navy, serving for nine years as an intelligence officer. During his time in the armed services he was stationed in Florida, Virginia, England, and Colorado and was deployed twice in support of counterterrorism operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

After resigning his commission, Walke was selected to join a leadership development fellowship serving the Governor of the State of New York. He quickly became one of the Governor's primary environmental advisors and was named to the post of Chief of Staff of the New York Department of Environmental Conservation. After more than two decades living in other states and abroad, Walke was
excited to return to his hometown of Montpelier, Vermont to continue his pursuit of excellence in environmental leadership at the Agency of Natural Resources.

Peter Walke lives in Montpelier with his two children. In his spare time, he enjoys running, coaching softball, skiing, and reading.

UPCOMING EBC PROGRAMS

AUGUST 2020
August 6: EBC Unplugged – networking opportunity hosted by the EBC Ascending Professionals
August 7: Climate Change Leadership Webinar Series – Langone Park
August 13: Virtual Rhode Island Summer Gathering
August 19: Dam Management Webinar – Operations & Maintenance Manuals
August 20: Virtual Connecticut Summer Gathering
August 21: Climate Change Leadership Webinar Series – Suffolk Downs
August 26: Second Annual New England Climate Change Summit: Part Two

SEPTEMBER 2020
September 9: Solid Waste Management Webinar – Update on COVID-19 – Part Two
September 10: Rhode Island Offshore Wind Virtual Conference
September 10: 4th Annual End-of-Summer-Trivia – Ascending Professionals
September 11: Climate Change Leadership Webinar Series – BU Climate Plan
September 15: Connecticut Brownfields Update
September 16: Infrastructure Leadership Webinar – MassDOT Program Priorities
September 17: EBC 27th Annual EBEE Awards Celebration
September 18: New Hampshire PFAS Update
September 22: Connecticut Offshore Wind Virtual Conference
September 22: Ascending Professionals Webinar – Guide to Virtual Presentations
September 23: Annual Ocean & Coastal Construction Conference