

# Dentons Global Smart Cities & Connected Communities Think Tank and Keystone Policy Center

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## Cleantech Investment Outlook 2023

June 13, 2023

11:30 am - 1:00 pm ET



**Welcome:** **Clint Vince**, Chair of the US Energy practice, Co-chair of the Global Energy sector for the US Region, and Co-chair of the Global Smart Cities & Connected Communities Think Tank, Dentons.



**Opening remarks:** **Paula Gold-Williams**, Chair of the Board, Keystone Policy Center



**Bob Powell**  
Founder & CEO,  
Brightmark  
*Panelist*

My dreams and vision about how we can leave the world a better place are being realized at Brightmark, the company I founded to change the way the world sees and manages its waste. As founder & CEO, I look beyond what we are doing now to create the path for what we will realize many years in the future. I am passionate about solving the world's most complex environmental problems with innovation and optimism.

Prior to founding Brightmark in 2016, I spent the majority of my career working in the energy industry.

When I'm not working on how to fix the planet's waste problem, I spend my time outside hiking and playing golf (though not as much as I'd like!). I call the San Francisco Bay area home.



**Stephen D. Comello**  
Senior Vice President,  
Strategic Initiatives, EFI  
Foundation  
*Panelist*

At the EFI Foundation, Stephen Comello is Senior Vice President, Strategic Initiatives and Deputy Director of the Energy Futures Finance Forum, positions he assumed in May 2022. Comello helps steer the overall direction of the organization including program development, fundraising, and research leadership. Concurrently, he serves as a committee member on the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Committee on Carbon Utilization Infrastructure, Markets, Research and Development. Most recently, he spent close to a decade as the founding research director of the Energy Business Innovations focus area and as a lecturer in management at the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

His career has focused on the policy and business model innovations necessary to scale emerging energy and environmental technologies to successful commercialization. He has more than 20 years of experience directing research initiatives focused on low-carbon energy solution development, including technologies such as solar, wind, carbon capture, battery storage, building energy efficiency and advanced nuclear fission. He has also spent significant time examining innovation management within the energy transition, with a particular focus on start-up/incumbent collaborations.

Stephen holds bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical and industrial engineering from the University of Toronto and a PhD in civil and environmental engineering from Stanford



**Jeff Weiss**  
Co-Founder and  
Executive Chairman,  
Distributed Sun LLC  
*Panelist*

University. Originally from Canada, he currently resides in Washington, DC.

Jeff Weiss co-founded Distributed Sun in 2009 and is Executive Chairman. Distributed Sun established truCurrent to lead its mobility and microgrid business. Distributed Sun helps enterprises deploy renewables and is a leading US developer of community, C&I and utility scale projects. An early digital media and commerce entrepreneur and investor, Jeff led companies in media licensing, renewable energy, cyber and physical security, intelligence and corporate fraud mitigation, mission preparedness and training, software development, and transformational management.

In addition to Distributed Sun, companies include Picture Network International (sold to Kodak in 1997), CDx (Certificate of Deposit Exchange), Geoffrey’s Malibu, Vista (\$100MM network services firm), TSG (\$10MM strategic intelligence firm), Verisign, ASAP Ventures (strategy, advisory & angel investing), AVM Financial Group (investment banking) and Strategic Planning Associates. Jeff has served on the Board of software and software services companies.

Jeff’s expertise includes guiding enterprises in the transition from conventional to renewable power, integrating supply chains to focus on environmental attributes, adopting and investing with environmental, social and governance (ESG) impact, integrating cyber and digital security to organizational structures, and building teams for social impact.

Jeff graduated from Cornell University and the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. Jeff serves on the Trustee Council of Cornell, the Boards of the Cornell Program in Infrastructure Policy and Washington Hebrew Congregation, The American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE) Leadership Council, and has held leadership positions with the Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future, Business Executives for National Security (BENS), SEFAC Council for the Solar Energy Industry Association, the Aspen Institute’s Socrates Society, The Cornell Center for Technology, Enterprise and Commercialization, Shenandoah National Park Trust, and Washington National Opera.



**Claudia M. Meer**  
Senior Strategic Advisor,  
DIF Energy Transition,  
DIF Capital Partners  
*Panelist*

Claudia utilizes her industry leading expertise to serve on corporate boards, where she helps support the future growth of these businesses. She also serves as an energy sector investment advisor, identifying and helping to assess M&A opportunities in North America associated with the energy transition. She is focused on joining organizations to support their future growth strategy development.

Claudia is a member of the Board of Directors at Bernard, the largest privately-owned, Energy-as-a-Service (EaaS) company in the US. She also serves on the Board of Directors at iSun Energy and Newpark Resources and as a member of the Executive Advisory Council at New Mountain Capital and on the Advisory Board of HyAxiom, Inc, a hydrogen fuel cell and electrolyzer company.

She formerly served as Chief Investment Officer and CFO, of AlphaStruxure, an EaaS joint venture between The Carlyle Group and Schneider Electric and as the CEO of Dalkia US, a division of EDF focused on building scale energy efficiency and on site power services. Claudia also ran the public-private partnership and clean energy development and investment groups at Clark Construction.

Claudia holds a Masters in International Finance and Management from Harvard University and a Bachelors in International Economics and Diplomatic History from the University of Pennsylvania. She actively volunteers in advisory capacities as a member of The Penn Fund Executive Board, Maryland Clean Energy Center, and for Boost Innovation Company.