

# Dentons Global Smart Cities & Connected Communities Think Tank

Grow | Protect | Operate | Finance

## Emerging Issues In Transactive Energy

November 14, 2023

11:30 am - 1:00 pm ET



**Welcome: Christine Scanlan**, President and CEO, Keystone Policy Center



**Opening remarks: Andrew P. Mina**, Senior Managing Associate, Energy, Dentons



**Moderator: 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.



**Morgan O'Brien**  
Executive Chairman of the Board at Anterix

*Panelist*

Morgan O'Brien has served as our Executive Chairman of the Board since July 2020 and has been a member of our Board since April 2012. From May 2014 to April 2018, he served as Vice Chairman; and from April 2018 to June 2020, he led Anterix as our Chief Executive Officer.

Since 2009, Mr. O'Brien has served as an independent consultant to several wireless start-ups. As a co-founder and chairman of Nextel, Mr. O'Brien led the creation of the first all-digital nationwide wireless network (the Nextel National Network) and brought push-to-talk ("PTT") communication to the mass business and consumer markets. After the merger of Nextel with Sprint Corporation in 2004, he was a co-founder of Cyren Call Communications Corporation, where he served until January 2009.

In 2016, Mr. O'Brien was awarded the Armstrong Medal, the highest award of the Radio Club of America, for demonstrated excellence and lasting contributions to radio arts and sciences. He was recognized in 1987 as New Jersey Entrepreneur of the Year and was voted the RCR Person of the Year in 1993 and again in 2006. In 2005, he was inducted into the Washington, DC, Business Hall of Fame. In 2007, he was named a Fellow of the Radio Club of America and was named "one of the top US wireless innovators of all time," by *Fierce Wireless*.

He has served on a number of boards of other public companies, including Sprint, Williams Telecommunications and GTT Communications, Inc. He also serves on the board of several private companies and charitable organizations. Mr. O'Brien is a graduate of Georgetown University and earned his law degree from Northwestern University.



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

*Panelist*

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 (US\$100MM network services firm), TSG (US\$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.




**Larisa Dobriansky**  
Chief Business &  
Regulatory Innovations  
Officer, General  
MicroGrids

*Panelist*

At General MicroGrids, Larisa Dobriansky focuses on regulatory, institutional and financial changes that can leverage the capabilities of advanced microgrids to deliver integrated energy solutions to electric power systems and communities. Drawing upon over 20 years of experience in the Energy, Environmental and Financial regulatory fields, she helps shape new financing mechanisms, market designs, and utility and energy regulatory reforms to support a sustainable, efficient, reliable and resilient transformation of Grid and Community energy infrastructure to meet 21st century demands. Larisa is helping to achieve reforms that can capture the value that an intelligent, dynamic microgrid system can provide to the Grid, Market and Communities. Her efforts are aimed at incentivizing investment in Advanced Microgrids that optimize distributed resources, expand "energy-sharing" parameters, and foster transactive energy markets.

Larisa has served in senior management positions within the private sector and US Government (including, Senior Counsel at Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld law firm; at the US Securities & Exchange Commission; and at the US Congressional Subcommittee on National Economic Growth, Natural Resources & Regulatory Affairs). She served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for National Energy Policy at the US Department of Energy. In that capacity, she secured US Congressional authorization for the Department's first loan guarantee program for clean energy technologies to address the "Valley of Death" and move technologies out of demonstration and into the marketplace. Dobriansky is currently working with microgrid developers, utilities, Federal and State governmental agencies, regulators and legislators, local communities, consumer advocates, NGOs and other stakeholders to develop a "market-based, regulatory eco-system" that supports the commercialization of Advanced Microgrids and Integrated Local Energy Networks.

	<p>Larisa graduated from Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service and Law School. She is an active member of GRID2.0 and serves as Vice Chair of the Microgrid Working Group within the Smart Electric Power Alliance (“SEPA”). Larisa also is leading a “Transactive Energy Regulatory Foundations” Project at SEPA.</p>
 <p><b>Brian F. Keane</b>  President at SmartPower Inc. and Co-Founder &amp; CEO at WeeGreen</p> <p>Panelist</p>	<p>Brian F. Keane is an executive leader, acclaimed author and engaging public speaker with extensive experience in grassroots and digital organizing. He is an unrivaled expert in clean energy and energy efficiency marketing, a visionary leader and motivator who has managed all facets of business development and leadership.</p> <p>Since 2002 he has served as the founder and President of SmartPower, a Washington, DC-based non-profit renewable energy and energy efficiency outreach and marketing company. Keane has been credited with driving the adoption of over \$100 million in rooftop residential solar in just three years -- creating tens of thousands of solar energy &amp; energy efficiency customers.</p> <p>Keane also serves as Co-Founder &amp; CEO of WeeGreen, a software as a service (SaaS) company mobilizing businesses, communities, universities and NGO's to achieve their grassroots outreach goals. Most significantly, WeeGreen contributes to driving down the customer acquisition costs for residential solar from 30 cents/watt to an astounding 11 cents/watt.</p> <p>In 2017, The John Merck Fund, one of the leading environmental foundations in the US, awarded Keane the "Frank Hatch Award for Enlightened Public Service".</p> <p>Keane is the author of the highly acclaimed book, Green Is Good: Save Money, Make Money, and Help Your Community Profit From Clean Energy (Lyons Press, 2012).</p> <p>Keane is a past-president of the American University Alumni Association and is Chair of the Board of Directors of the Vermont-based Clean Energy Group. He is a recognized Business Leader Partner at the Yale Center for Business and the Environment.</p>