REWI
Renewable Energy Wildlife Institute

Agrivoltaics Webinar

Industry Caucus

Monday, March 24, 2025, 1:00 PM ET



Jordan Macknick
National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)

Jordan Macknick is a global leader in energy-water-food nexus research and has led agrivoltaics research at NREL since 2013. Jordan's research focus spans addressing the water and land impacts of the energy sector broadly, assessing opportunities to reduce the energy intensity of water infrastructure, and identifying synergies across energy, agriculture, and water sectors through agrivoltaics.

Jordan leads the multi-disciplinary InSPIRE research team in its diverse set of approaches to studying agrivoltaics, including: fieldwork, techno-economic modeling, geospatial analyses, optimization modeling, social sciences, technical assistance, outreach and education, and global thought leadership. In the international arena, Jordan co-leads the Agrivoltaics Action Group as part of the International Energy Agency's Photovoltaic Power Systems Programme (PVPS), which coordinates agrivoltaic research across continents.



James MacDonald
ENGIE

Since 2021, James has been coordinating global Agrivoltaics innovation and projects for the ENGIE group via their innovation center Laborelec in Belgium. Interacting with project developers, farmers, engineers, equipment manufacturers, public authorities, civil associations, researchers, and other stakeholders in multiple languages, James assists ENGIE's various teams develop national and regional strategies while steering agri-PV projects from early development to operations + analysis + validation.

James has worked in the PV and agri industries on 3 continents since 2005. In 2023, he completed a PhD on agrivoltaics & ecovoltaics at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, building on prior postgrad studies in renewables grid integration, controlled environment agriculture, as well as a graduate diploma in linguistics.



Grace Fletcher
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources

Grace Fletcher is a Program Manager at the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources who helps implement the Commonwealth's primary solar incentive program, SMART.

One of the focus areas of her work is land use and siting policies for solar, including incentives for dual-use agrivoltaics systems on farms. She works collaboratively with farmers, conservation organizations, solar developers, and other state agencies to help ensure a balanced approach to renewable energy development.

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Marcus Krembs
Enel North America

Marcus Krembs is the Head of External Relations and Sustainability, USA and Canada, at Enel North America. A recognized expert in the clean energy industry, Marcus leads Enel's integrated communications, institutional affairs and sustainability activities. Marcus has worked for more than 20 years in progressive roles in environmental markets, carbon management, corporate sustainability and public affairs with leading companies across the energy value chain.

Since joining Enel in 2015, Marcus established the company's sustainability department and managed community relations activities across USA and Canada operations. These activities played a key role in growing the company's portfolio to more than 10 GW of utility-scale renewable capacity and 1 GW of utility-scale energy storage, equivalent to electricity to power 2 million homes and avoid 16 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually.

Marcus is an Emeritus Board Member of the American Council of Renewable Energy (ACORE) and is currently a member of the inaugural Strategic Sustainability Leadership Committee with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI). Marcus received his bachelor's degree in journalism and environmental economics from Colorado State University.



Lexie Hain
Lightsource bp, Americas

Lexie Hain is Director of Agrivoltaics and Land Management at Lightsource bp, Americas. Lexie holds a MSc from University of Edinburgh (UK) in Environmental Sustainability (2001) and a B.S. from Cornell University, Agriculture and Life Sciences (1999). A farm owner since 2003, she owned and operated a horticultural plant nursery (2005-2015). Lexie has raised sheep for solar grazing since 2017, contracting the flocks for vegetation maintenance at in the Northeastern United States.

She co-founded and directed the American Solar Grazing Association (ASGA), from 2018-2022, and currently serves on the board of directors. At Lightsource bp she has built the grazing program over the last 3 years, and as of December 2024 17 solar grazing contracts, 3 solar honey contracts over 20 agrivoltaic sites and 2.6 GW or 13,600 acres of grazing. This year Lightsource bp will launch solar grazing at our Arche Solar project in Ohio, which is the first project to be approved and grazed through the Ohio Power Siting Board. The grazing program plans continued expansion.

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Nick de Vries
Silicon Ranch

Nick de Vries is the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) of Silicon Ranch, one of the nation's largest developers, owners, and operators of solar power plants. As CTO he is responsible for both the technological and ecological vision for the company. He is the Principal Investigator of U.S. DOE-funded research on an Integrated PV System Design and Management Platform for the Co-Optimization of Regenerative Cattle Grazing and PV Solar Generation.

His work in renewable energy spans module and cell manufacturing, photovoltaic project design and operation. He is the inventor of 5 patents in photovoltaics and is a member of DuraMAT's Industry Advisory Board, as well as a commissioner on the Alameda Public Utility Board



Paul Mwebaze
University of Illinois

Paul Mwebaze is a Research Economist at the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment (iSEE) at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. His research sits at the intersection of economics, sustainability, and innovation, focusing on optimizing land use for both food and renewable energy production.

As the lead coordinator of the SCAPES (Sustainably Co-locating Agricultural and Photovoltaic Electricity Systems) project—funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (USDA NIFA)—he explores groundbreaking strategies to integrate solar energy with agriculture, enhancing sustainability and economic viability. Through his interdisciplinary work, Paul aims to drive forward solutions that balance energy security, environmental conservation, and agricultural productivity.