Doctoral Student Participatory Workshop on Climate and Energy Decision Making

Carnegie Mellon University
Bosch Spark Conference Room, Scott Hall 5201
May 13 - 14, 2026

May 13 (Day 1)

Time	Activity / Presenter	Title
8:00 - 8:45	Breakfast	
8:45 - 9:00	Welcome and Introduction	
Electric Transportation		
9:00 - 9:25	~~**João Cortes**~~ ~~Carnegie Mellon University~~ ~~Instituto Superior Técnico~~	~~Investigating Costs Of Access To Healthcare In Catalonia: A Socioeconomic Geospatial Analysis~~ *5/12/26 — working on replacement*
9:25 - 9:50	**Ritvik Shukla** Arizona State University	Decision-Making Under Uncertainty: The Evolution of EV Charging Infrastructure Governance in Arizona
9:50 - 10:15	**Hoachi Wu** Stanford University	Electric Vehicle Battery Advances Mitigate Lifetime Reductions Driven By Climate Change
	Faculty Enrichment Session	
10:15 - 11:05	**Wändi Bruine de Bruin** University of Southern California	Science Communication
Power System Technology and Operations		
11:05 - 11:30	**Yasser Alabaishi** Duke University	Characterizing Weather Forecast Errors and Renewable Generation Uncertainty in PJM

11:30 - 11:55	**Calvin Spanbauer** Princeton University	Who Has the Power? Organizational Participation in California's Demand Flexibility Rulemaking
11:55-12:20	**Paul Serna Torre** University of California, San Diego	Impact of Residential Propensity of Adoption of Distributed Energy Resources on the Climate Resilient Expansion of Low-Carbon Grids
12:20 - 12:45	**Guilherme Larangeira** Stony Brook University	Repowering Natural Gas Peakers With Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) In A Grid With Increasing Share Of Renewables
12:45	Get Lunch	
	Lunch & Faculty Enrichment	
1:00-1:45	**Jay Apt** Carnegie Mellon University	Secrets to Giving Good Scientific Talks
Power System Technology and Operations (cont)		
1:45 – 2:10	**Alex Newkirk** Carnegie Mellon University	Technoeconomic Analysis of Microgrids for AI Data Centers in the Continental United States
Air Quality & Emissions Control		
2:10 – 2:35	**Razieh Analouei** Clarkson University	Toward Sustainable Dairy Production: Economic and Environmental Evaluation of Microalgae-based Feed Additive Production Systems
2:35 – 3:00	**Albert Chen** Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Air quality and health impacts of Data Center electricity demand in the United States
3:00 - 3:55	Break & Networking Session with Posters on Energy Systems	Scott Hall 6142
Resilience and Equity for Residential Customers		
4:00 – 4:25	**Brissa Acevedo** Carnegie Mellon University Faculty of Engineering of	Energy Justice and the Infrastructure of Demand: Community Preferences for Equitable Solar Farm and AI Data Center

	University of Porto	Development
4:25 – 4:50	**Tamar Moss** Carnegie Mellon University	Residential Electrification and Electricity Distribution Systems: Grid Challenges and Household Bill Impacts
4:50 – 5:15	**Mohammad Pourmatin** Stony Brook University	Assessing Service Systems Vulnerability in U.S. Counties: A Non- Compensatory Framework Integrating Energy, Health, Built Environment, and Socio-Demographic Factors
5:15 - 5:35	**Mallika Kothari** University of Michigan	Power struggles: Household and community coping strategies and energy needs during long-duration power outages
5:35	Dinner	

May 14 (Day 2)

Time	Activity	Title
8:00 - 9:00	Breakfast	
Other Critical Environmental Issues		
9:00 - 9:25	**Trinity White** University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Modeling the North Carolina Carbon Plan Using GLIMPSE
9:25 - 9:50	**Abigail Bowering** Massachusetts Institute of Technology	A system analysis of the oil sands in Alberta, Canada using the Human-technical-environmental framework
9:50 - 10:15	**Maeen Md Khairul Akter** Stony Brook University	A Multivariate Approach to Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Characterization for Improved Policy Decision Making
10:15 - 10:40	**Serkan Sargin** University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	Natural gas price volatility and climate-induced drought reveal need for power sector resilience in Myanmar
	Faculty Enrichment Session	
10:40 - 11:25	**Paulina Jaramillo** Carnegie Mellon University	Adventures in Congress: Lessons learned from a Congressional Fellowship
11:25 - 11:30	Break	
11:30 – 12:25	Break & Networking Session with Posters on Residential & Municipal Issues	Scott Hall 6142
12:25	Get Lunch	
	Lunch and Faculty Enrichment	
12:30-1:10	**David Victor** University of California, San Diego	Dealing With The Media When Conducting Research on Hot Topics
Direct Air Capture		

1:15 - 1:40	**Amanda Molder** University of Southern California	From Vacuums to Trees: How Metaphors Shape Emotional and Cognitive Responses to Direct Air Capture Technology
Labor and Workforce Issues		
1:40 – 2:05	**Michelle Wang** Carnegie Mellon University	Workforce Bottlenecks for Data Center and Grid Expansion
2:05 – 2:30	**Chloe Tanaka** Harvard University	Powering the Workforce: The Role of Community Colleges in Energy Transformations
2:30 - 3:00	Debrief, questions, final comments	