



FEATURED PANELISTS



Zach Dobelbower is a program manager within the Energy & Sustainability Division for the DC Department of General Services. Zach is responsible for managing the resources and commodities used to

operate and maintain the District’s 30 million square feet of public building space, in addition to managing the implementation of solutions that lower costs, reduce risk, conserve resources, and decarbonize the city’s energy supply and consumption.

Before joining DGS, Zach owned and managed Carbon Cross Development, a contracting company that provided energy modeling and efficiency design services. From 2005 to 2009, Zach served as the Urban Sustainability Planner for the DC Office of Planning, managing projects ranging from economic and cultural development to urban design and sustainable neighborhoods. Zach is a LEED accredited professional with an MPA from American University and a BA from the University of Oklahoma. He is also the proud father of two, Henry and Mattie.



Keith Foxx, PE, has designed & managed roadway projects in the District for the past 15+ years. Currently, he is the DDOT Program Manager for the \$1 billion DC Power Line

Undergrounding (DC PLUG) initiative, which is an innovative public –private partnership with the electric company, Pepco.

His experience includes design, project management & construction management, both in the private industry and in the public sector, including a stint as a Project Manager for Fairfax County Transportation Design Branch.

At DDOT, Mr. Foxx helped author the “2013 DDOT Standard Specifications for Highways and Structures” and also contributed to the development of the “2014 DDOT Design Build Manual” and is currently working on the new “DDOT Design and Engineering Manual.”

Mr. Foxx is a certified Project Management Professional and an Associate Design-Build Professional and is the State DOT Value Engineering Coordinator and host for AASHTO’s 2015 Value Engineering National Conference.



Mel Huey is the Director - Pipeline Integrity and Compliance at Washington Gas. He is responsible for Distribution Integrity Management and Pipeline Safety

Compliance. Mel works with his team and others at Washington Gas to provide leadership in pipeline safety and compliance, to execute operating plans, and to improve business processes supporting these important compliance programs.

Previous Washington Gas positions held were in Engineering, Gas Control, Operations Dispatch, Gas Supply Operations, Customer



HORIZONS 2015: Uniting Energy, Technology and Consumers

A Consumer Education Symposium

Service, Transmission Integrity Management, Corrosion Control, Leak Survey, and Damage Prevention. His experience in the natural gas industry includes gas gathering, compression, treating, dehydration, processing, and fractionation.

Currently Mel serves on the American Gas Association OSRAC (Operations Safety Regulatory Action Committee) and is actively involved in leadership development in his community.



Brian Mehler is the Chief Marketing Officer at Pareto Energy, a microgrid development company headquartered in Washington, DC. In his time with Pareto, Brian has worked to build a market for non-

synchronous microgrids in the mid-Atlantic with a particular focus on New York City.

Recently, he participated in the Maryland Energy Administration’s “Resiliency Through Microgrids Task Force,” which aimed to identify the statutory, regulatory, financial and technical barriers to the deployment of microgrids in Maryland. Brian completed his graduate work at Georgetown University and the Graduate Institute of International Trade and Development in Geneva, Switzerland where his research focused on community resource management in sustainable development. He received his undergraduate degree from Villanova University.



Brentin Mock is the Justice Editor for Grist.org where he covers the intersections between civil rights, racism, environmentalism and climate change. He's focused on environmental

justice matters since 2009, upon completing

the Metcalf Institute for Marine and Environmental Reporting Diversity Fellowship. He's covered these issues for a wide spectrum of outlets including The American Prospect, GOOD Magazine, The Nation, Essence, NAACP's The Crisis, Gawker, Colorlines and Next City.



Elizabeth Noll is an energy efficiency advocate based in Washington, D.C., where she works to advance regulation and legislation supporting improved efficiency in buildings and the appliances and electronics

within them. She focuses on federal level policies that will help reduce dangerous power plant emissions and advance a clean energy economy. Prior to joining NRDC in 2014, Elizabeth worked on energy efficiency policy in the private sector with utilities, as well as in the non-profit sector with a regional organization bringing stakeholders together to advance the smarter use of energy. Elizabeth earned a MS in Public Policy, with a concentration in energy and environmental policy, from the Georgia



Joelle Novey is the director of Greater Washington Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA), which works with hundreds of congregations of many traditions across the DC

area and Maryland to save energy, go green, and respond to climate change:

www.gwipl.org.

The organization provides support to local congregations undertaking solar projects, and Joelle speaks widely in the region

The Office of the People’s Counsel for the District Columbia

1133 15th Street, NW, Suite 500 | Washington, DC 20005

Phone: 202.727.3071 | Fax: 202.727.1014 | TTY/TDD: 202.727.2876

Website: www.opc-dc.gov | Email: ccceo@opc-dc.gov | Facebook: /DCPeoplesCounsel | Twitter: @DCOPC



HORIZONS 2015: Uniting Energy, Technology and Consumers

A Consumer Education Symposium

about the role of religious communities in addressing environmental problems.



Professor Patrice Lumumba Simms is currently an Associate Professor of Law at Howard University School of Law. His areas of focus are Environmental Law, Clean

Air and Climate Change, Environmental Justice, Administrative Law, and Energy Law. He also teaches first-year courses in Property and Legal Methods. Professor Simms, a 1998 graduate of Howard University School of Law and former Articles Editor for the Howard Law Journal, has taught environmental law courses since 2008, and joined the full time faculty at Howard Law in 2009. Among other things, he now serves as Faculty Advisor to the Howard Law Journal and to the Howard Energy and Environmental Law Society. His current writing projects address issues of Environmental Justice and matters relating to the life-cycle impacts of coal.

From February 2010 until August 2011, Professor Simms served in a political appointment with the Obama administration as a Deputy Assistance Attorney General in the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. In that position, Professor Simms supervised the Division's Law and Policy Section, Land Acquisition Section, and Environmental Defense Section, in addition to managing a number of special projects within the Division, including the Division's Environmental Justice implementation efforts. Over the course of his career Professor Simms served for more than five years as a staff attorney in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of General Counsel (Air and Radiation Law Office), for nearly two years as a legal counsel to EPA's Environmental Appeals Board, and for four years as a Senior

Attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council. While his professional career has focused largely on issues regarding the implementation and enforcement of the Clean Air Act, it has also included significant litigation and policy work on matters related to clean water, solid waste, natural resources, public health, climate change and Environmental Justice.

Throughout his career, Professor Simms has been involved in cutting-edge environmental litigation and policy development, from international arbitration under NAFTA (regarding MTBE in gasoline), to Clean Water Act litigation regarding Everglades protection and restoration, to implementation of new source review under the federal Clean Air Act. He has, throughout his career, published articles and policy papers on timely legal issues, such the risks of and regulatory options for engineered nanomaterials (with Jennifer Sass and Elliott Negin), health and safety concerns in the wake of hurricane Katrina (with Benfield et al.), Environmental Justice (with Dimple Chaudhary and Albert Huang), coal and climate change (with Lashof, et al.), and Clean Air Act permitting (with John Walke). Professor Simms is a member of the Massachusetts Bar and the District of Columbia Bar, as well as the U.S. Supreme Court Bar and D.C. Circuit. He has served on numerous environmental task forces, panels, and committees, including the steering committee for the D.C. Bar's Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Section. Among other things, he is currently a member of the Commission on Environmental Law for the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and a member of the Board of Trustees for Earthjustice.

The Office of the People's Counsel for the District Columbia

1133 15th Street, NW, Suite 500 | Washington, DC 20005

Phone: 202.727.3071 | Fax: 202.727.1014 | TTY/TDD: 202.727.2876

Website: www.opc-dc.gov | Email: ccceo@opc-dc.gov | Facebook: /DCPeoplesCounsel | Twitter: @DCOPC



HORIZONS 2015: Uniting Energy, Technology and Consumers

A Consumer Education Symposium



Mark Shaver is the Customer Information Systems Director at Washington Gas, a WGL Holdings company. He currently oversees Project VISION, a multi-year business and technology transformation project at

Washington Gas to improve how we see and support our customers.

The project includes the replacement of multiple legacy applications with a comprehensive solution from SAP. Previously, he was the Customer Service Director, overseeing the strategy and planning for the company’s customer service activities, including directing the customer care, billing, key accounts, business offices, and customer self-service departments.

He has been with Washington Gas for seventeen years, and has managed departments in business development, marketing, customer accounting, and customer service, as well as directed numerous customer system and services projects during that time. He has bachelor’s and master’s degrees in business administration from the University of Buffalo, and is a PMI certified Project Management Professional (PMP).



Walter Stefy is the Customer Experience Manager for Pepco Holdings, Inc. Walter joined Pepco Holdings in 1999 and is responsible for the customer experience and customer satisfaction for its

three regulated utilities: Atlantic City Electric, Delmarva Power and Pepco. In this capacity he has lead numerous business improvement projects focused on enhancing customer self-service. Past experience includes managing

the nationwide database and direct mail programs for Bally’s and Hilton Hotel/Casino’s. Walter has a B.A in Business from Stockton College, is an officer of the Energy eBusiness Consortium and a volunteer youth soccer coach.



Pastor Earl Trent

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has appointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he has sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering sight to the blind, to set

at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”

-Luke 4:18-19

This passage is the “life verse” of Reverend Dr. Earl D. Trent Jr., Senior Pastor of the Florida Avenue Baptist Church in Washington, D. C., which is now celebrating its 103rd year. Dr. Trent is the fourth pastor at this historic church. His ministry rests upon five pillars: Stewardship, Education, Evangelism, Missions, and Social Justice.

Well known for social justice advocacy, Dr. Trent was instrumental in the successful Black Farmers lawsuit against the Department of Agriculture. Not only has he advocated on Capitol Hill, but he has been in the trenches leading efforts for fair wages and improved working conditions for hotel workers and nurses in the District of Columbia; and meat packers in Smithfield Packaging’s plants in Virginia and North Carolina. Currently, he is contesting construction companies that refuse to hire African American workers in the District of Columbia and also supporting the “Anti-Wal-Mart - Respect DC campaign ”.

The Office of the People’s Counsel for the District Columbia

1133 15th Street, NW, Suite 500 | Washington, DC 20005

Phone: 202.727.3071 | Fax: 202.727.1014 | TTY/TDD: 202.727.2876

Website: www.opc-dc.gov | Email: ccceo@opc-dc.gov | Facebook: /DCPeoplesCounsel | Twitter: @DCOPC



HORIZONS 2015: Uniting Energy, Technology and Consumers

A Consumer Education Symposium

On May 3, 2011, the Florida Avenue Baptist Church became the first African American congregation in the DC Metro area to install a solar energy power system. The conversion greatly reduced the church's energy costs and has become the cornerstone of the church's Green ministry, helping parishioners reduce energy costs at home. "This solar energy project marks the movement of the black church into the 21st century in a positive proactive manner. This landmark project will not only raise awareness of renewable and alternative energy sources throughout the faith based community, but also highlights the job opportunities and new career paths for young people. "

Active in both the Progressive National Baptist and American Baptist Conventions, Dr. Trent made history recently as the first African American to be elected as Chairman of the Board of Church World Service (CWS), a U.S.-based global relief, sustainable development and refugee assistance agency. CWS represents the 37 mainline denominations including all the African American denominations..

Dr. Trent has traveled extensively in missions throughout Haiti and West Africa. He has served on many boards: The Minority Organ Tissue Transplant and Education Program; National Cathedral School for Girls; President of the Harvest Institute – a think tank for social and economic reform of Black America; and founding chair of the Community Advisory Board of Reynolds and Associates (formerly the Washington Halfway Homes) – a reentry program for women ex-offenders. Dr. Trent has a special commitment to the fight against sickle cell disease.

A native of East Orange, New Jersey, Dr. Trent has several degrees, including a Doctorate of Ministry from United Theological Seminary as a Wright/Kunjufu

Fellow. He is the author of A Challenge to the Black Church as well as many journal articles.

He is married to Dr. Janice Ray Trent, the owner of Hearing Healthcare Services in Bowie, Maryland. They are the proud parents of three adult daughters: Noelle, Andrea, and Jessica Trent.

The Office of the People's Counsel for the District Columbia

1133 15th Street, NW, Suite 500 | Washington, DC 20005

Phone: 202.727.3071 | Fax: 202.727.1014 | TTY/TDD: 202.727.2876

Website: www.opc-dc.gov | Email: ccceo@opc-dc.gov | Facebook: /DCPeoplesCounsel | Twitter: @DCOPC