

Renewable Energy Tax Credits: Unpacking the Latest Federal Updates

FACULTY BIOGRAPHIES

Thomas Lutken, Science Fellow, Climate Judiciary Project, Environmental Law Institute –

Thomas Lutken is a Science Fellow whose work has focused on clean energy and decarbonization. At ELI, Tom supports the Climate Judiciary Project and programming on the energy transition. Prior to ELI, Tom spent over four years at the National Bureau of Asian Research on the Energy and Environmental Affairs team, convening experts from academia, government, and the private sector to address critical issues on climate and energy topics in Washington D.C. and across South and Southeast Asia. His career also included work at the Center for Strategic and International Studies on their India desk, and at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Sedimentation Laboratory as a hydrologic technician.

Tom received a Master of Environmental Management from Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment and a Bachelor of Sciences in Environmental Science from Brown University. His master's project focused on energy access and electricity reliability in northern India, particularly rural households in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Justin Schott, Director, Energy Equity Project – Justin Schott is Director of Energy Equity Project, an organization dedicated to ending energy shutoffs, ensuring universal energy affordability and reliability, and working with frontline communities to secure a fair share of clean energy benefits.

Schott led EEP's work to develop the first national energy equity framework, an atlas of 150 energy equity measures and best practices. Over 15 months, he convened 10 listening sessions and coordinated an interdisciplinary team of 40 researchers, community advocates, and regulators to assess metrics and develop implementation guidance.

Schott is a thought leader on energy equity and has been quoted by more than a dozen public media sources, published opinion pieces, given more than 40 public presentations, and published work on energy equity in academic journals. He has served as an expert witness in eight utility rate cases and integrated resource plan proceedings.

Prior to joining EEP, Schott served as executive director of the Detroit non-profit EcoWorks (2015-20), contributed to the City of Detroit's Sustainability Action Agenda and climate plans, and was founding director of the Youth Energy Squad (2008-2015). Schott holds a Masters from University of Michigan's School for Environment and Sustainability, where he is now an adjunct lecturer for energy and environmental justice.

Curt Stokes, Senior Attorney, Beyond Gas, Environmental Defense Fund – Curt represents EDF before state utility commissions, where he seeks to align public utility plans, programs, and investments with climate and equity goals, accelerate the transition to clean energy, and collaborate with disproportionately burdened communities to elevate their voices and advocate for energy justice. Prior to joining EDF, Curt worked as a Litigation Attorney and Chief Deputy Counsel for the Missouri Public Service Commission, where he worked on a variety of issues such as certification of high-voltage, direct-current transmission lines and securitization of winter storm costs and coal plant retirements.

Jolette Westbrook, Director and Senior Attorney, Regulatory Solutions, Environmental Defense Fund – As a Director and Senior Attorney in EDF’s Energy program, Jolette leads our efforts to improve and reform wholesale markets and also works to advance EDF’s objectives before state public utility commissions. Jolette has significant energy regulatory experience as both a former Commissioner at the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities and Director of the Massachusetts Energy Facility Siting Board.

Mary Wumbai, Director of Asset Management, Resident Affairs, and Energy for the Planning Office for Urban Affairs of the Archdiocese of Boston – Mary Wumbai is the Director of Asset Management, Residents and Energy for the Planning Office for Urban Affairs (POUA), a non-profit social justice ministry of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Boston. She is also a Senior Greg Torres Fellow at MassINC. In addition to these roles, she serves as a Councilor on the Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (EEAC), representing residential energy consumers, and co-chairs the EEAC's Energy Equity Working Group.

Mary is a member of the Grid Modernization Advisory Council's Equity Working Group and sits on the boards of the Massachusetts Energy Transformation Advisory Board, Green Energy Consumers Alliance, Climate Exchange, and the Coalition for a Better Acre in Lowell. Mary is widely recognized as a leader and advocate for housing, climate, and energy justice in the region. In her free time, she enjoys singing, songwriting, mentoring youth, and volunteering at community events. Originally from Nairobi, Kenya, she lives by the motto, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”