



**STEVE SWEENEY CENTER  
FOR PUBLIC POLICY**

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Contact: Mark J. Magyar  
856-256-5868 (office)  
908-246-8468 (cell)  
[magyarm@rowan.edu](mailto:magyarm@rowan.edu)

**Expanding NJ's energy capacity and developing the state's energy workforce is  
focus of Rowan's Tuesday, September 16 Energy Conference**

**GLASSBORO** –The Sweeney Center for Public Policy and the Rowan Energy Collaborative (ROWEC) are hosting a full-day conference at Rowan University on Tuesday, September 16, focused on strategies to expand New Jersey's energy capacity and develop the state's energy workforce in the face of soaring demand, rising costs and sweeping shifts in the federal regulatory and funding environment.

Tim Sullivan, CEO of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority, and Michael Martucci, Regional Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 2, are keynote speakers for the conference, which is cosponsored by the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development and by the New Jersey Utilities Association.

**Powering a Resilient Energy Future: Developing New Jersey's Energy Workforce in a Changing Landscape** is being held at Rowan University's Chamberlain Student Center, Eynon Ballroom, 201 Mullica Hill Road, Glassboro, on Tuesday, September 16, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The conference is free. Registration and breakfast open at 8 a.m., and lunch is included. For further information, go to [Events](#). To register, [click here](#).

"Extensive changes in federal energy policy, soaring demand and rising electricity prices have upended long-term planning assumptions about energy supply and associated workforce needs for utility leaders, energy executives, government policymakers and workforce development organizations," said Sweeney Center Director Mark Magyar. "Pragmatic solutions are needed to navigate these changes and power a resilient energy future for New Jersey, and that is the focus of this conference."

Conference panels will address (1) strategies to expand energy supply to meet rising demand that balance cost, reliability and environmental needs; (2) shifts in the pipeline of energy projects and energy source development and impacts on workforce planning, (3) employers' perspectives on workforce needs, trends and challenges and (4) how education and workforce training programs in government, academia, business and unions can adapt and excel at meeting changing job demands

In addition to Sullivan and Martucci, speakers include:

- Bob Brabston, Executive Director, New Jersey Board of Public Utilities;
- Lesley Hirsch, Assistant Commissioner, Research & Information, New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development;
- Ali A. Houshmand, Ph.D., President, Rowan University;

- Steve Sweeney, General Vice President, International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers, and former New Jersey Senate President;
- Asim Z. Haque, Senior Vice President, Policy-Law, PJM Interconnection;
- Peter C. Connolly, CEO, New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program (NJMEP);
- Lyle Rawlings, President & CEO, Advanced Solar Projects;
- Thomas Marcille, Vice President, Holtec International;
- Joseph P. Milo, Outage Manager, Hope Creek Nuclear Generating Station, PSEG;
- Briona Forrester, Global Senior Strategy Consultant, Siemens;
- Andrew J. McNally, Senior Director, Government & Regulatory Affairs, South Jersey Industries;
- Kate Grant, Director of Regulatory Affairs and Policy for the Northeast, Elevate Renewables;
- Nathan Howe, Partner, K&L Gates;
- Charlotte Parker, Director of Community Engagement, Dimension Renewable Energy;
- David Coyner, Vice President for Academic Innovation & Partnerships, Rowan University;
- Ibrahim Branham, CEO, IJB Electrical Contractor LLC, IJB-U;
- Joseph M. Gurrentz, Ph.D., Director of External Affairs, New Jersey Utilities Association;
- Kyle England, Director of Environmental and Utility Operations, Utility and Transportation Contractors Association;
- Stephanie Staub, Director, Workforce Strategy, New Jersey Community College Consortium on Workforce & Economic Development.

“The dynamic energy landscape continues to shape the trajectory of both technology and the talent that powers it. As an engine of innovation and a catalyst for the future workforce, Rowan University is proud to collaborate with policy and industry leaders to advance a more secure and resilient energy future,” said Yolanda Mack, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Industry Partnerships and Workforce Development at Rowan University’s Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering.

Mack and Magyar are serving as moderators, along with Robert Gordon, Vice President, Stevens & Lee Public Affairs, and former NJ Board of Public Utilities commissioner, and Marie Casanova, Coordinator of the Rowan Energy Collaborative (ROWEC) and Assistant Director of the Green Jobs Academy at Rowan University.

Rowan University Chancellor Anthony Lowman, Ph.D., New Jersey Utilities Association President Richard Henning, and Nawal Ammar, Ph.D., Dean of the Ric Edelman College of Communications, Humanities and Social Sciences, are delivering introductory remarks.

The Rowan Energy Collaborative (ROWEC) was established in 2024 to connect Rowan University’s cross-disciplinary faculty, researchers, and workforce development professionals with key energy industry stakeholders, businesses, nonprofits, government, and academic institutions in an effort to accelerate the adoption of comprehensive energy solutions to address the growing energy demand and energy system challenges in New Jersey.

“ROWEC’s mission is to serve as a connector, collaborator, and resource for identifying and implementing energy solutions that meet the complex needs and opportunities of today and tomorrow,” said Casanova.

The September 16 event is the fifth energy conference sponsored by the Sweeney Center for Public Policy, which was established at Rowan in 2022 to fill the need for an independent bipartisan public policy center to develop pragmatic solutions to complex policy issues based on data-driven analysis, academic research, and convening experts through conferences and working groups.

For further information, see the Sweeney Center's Events page at [Events](#) or contact Mark Magyar at [magyarm@rowan.edu](mailto:magyarm@rowan.edu).