
Event Program

Grafton Solar Celebration

Monday, September 12, 2022 | 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

4:30 PM | Welcome & Keynote Speech

Mike Farrell (Event MC)

NY/NE Director of Development, AES

| Premiere of Grafton Agrivoltaics Video

Featuring interviews with:

Iain Ward

Founder & CEO, SolAg

Paul Knowlton

Farmer & Landowner, Knowlton Farms

Julie Fine

Climate & Agriculture Specialist, AFT

Sam Glaze-Corcoran

Sustainable Food Researcher, UMass

4:45 PM | Brief Remarks

Evan Brassard

Town Administrator, Town of Grafton

Josh Farkes

Vice President of Sales, Borrego

Ethan Winter

Northeast Solar Specialist, American Farmland Trust (AFT)

Trevor Hardy

Co-Founder & CEO, BlueWave

5:00 PM | Panel Discussion: *Collaborative innovation: Connecting agriculture and PV Solar*

Panelists

Paul Knowlton

Farmer & Landowner, Knowlton Farms

Dwayne Breger

Director, UMass Clean Energy Extension

Gerry Palano

Alternative Energy Specialist, MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)

Jeff Palmer

Development Manager, AES

Moderator

Brendan Mooney

Sustainability & Impact Lead, AES

5:40 PM | Tours of Grafton Solar

Grafton North (Veggie Array) Tour Facilitators:

Iain Ward

CEO & Founder, SolAg

Julie Fine

Soil Health Specialist, AFT

Grafton South (Cattle Array) Tour Facilitators:

Ben Raymond

Project Manager, Borrego

Paul Knowlton

Farmer & Landowner, Knowlton Farms

6:30 PM | Event End

Speaker Bios

Mike Farrell

NY/NE Director of Development, AES

As a Senior Director, Development for AES Clean Energy, Mike Farrell leads development of a 3+ GW renewable energy and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) portfolio for the New York and New England region. He is also a Board member for the Alliance for Clean Energy New York (ACE NY) and has over thirteen years of experience in renewable energy, with prior finance and development experience at EverPower, GE Energy Financial Services, and as a consultant to the NY Green Bank.

Prior to working in renewable energy, Mike worked for KPMG in the U.S., Switzerland, and London on advisory, audit, and transaction-related accounting projects. Mike holds a BS in Accounting from the University of Connecticut and a MBA from Carnegie Mellon University.

Learn More: www.aes.com

Evan Brassard

Town Administrator, Town of Grafton

Evan has a long career in the Massachusetts community. Evan attended UMASS Amherst where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Political Science. After completing his degree, he enrolled at Anna Maria College where he earned a Master's in Public Administration. Evan spent some time after graduation as an adjunct professor at Anna Maria College, teaching leadership. He is also a graduate of the Harvard Program on Negotiation.

Prior to becoming Town Administrator of the Town of Grafton in 2019, Evan worked in municipal government for Town of Monson, Massachusetts. Evan became the Emergency Management Director for the Town of Monson in 2011, and in 2014 stepped into the role of Town Administrator. Evan looked at the similarities between the two positions and realized the Administrator role would allow him to continue helping residents in times of extreme need, just on a larger scale.

Evan is a seasoned public servant and has made strides in fostering a culture of collaboration in the Grafton town office. When Evan is not at work, he is an avid woodworker and outdoorsman. He lives in Monson with his wife and two daughters and raises chickens at home!

Learn More: <https://www.grafton-ma.gov/>

Josh Farkes

Vice President of Sales, Borrego

Mr. Josh Farkes is the Vice President of Sales for Borrego and works from the company's regional headquarters in Lowell, MA. Josh's primary focus is to lead Borrego's Account Management team while also working closely with our IPP partners. Josh brings a wealth of knowledge contracting and closing out diligence and development items that will drive projects to financial close, operations handoff, and an eventual Notice to Proceed. Providing high quality service and communication to

Borrego's partners is a primary focus of Josh's role at Borrego. Josh's expertise is derived from his Account Management, Sales, and Development experience particularly in the core solar markets on the east coast (MA, NY, ME) and his goal is to deliver the greatest possible return on investment for all project stakeholders.

Prior to his Vice President role, Josh was a Project Developer and Account Manager on over 350 MW of successfully contracted / financed / constructed solar projects and strives to create efficiency with Borrego partners in all facets of the project. Prior to joining the Borrego team, Josh worked in business development within the commercial and industrial space developing rooftop solar projects for private businesses in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Josh would advise business owners how to best go solar in an effort to offset their energy expenses and fully leverage both federal and state incentives while becoming leaders within their communities by committing to renewable energy.

Learn More: <https://www.borregoenergy.com/>

Ethan Winter
Northeast Solar Specialist, American Farmland Trust (AFT)

Ethan serves at AFT's Northeast Solar Specialist where he helps set and implement AFT's strategy for solar energy generation and farmland conservation. Prior to joining AFT, Ethan Winter worked as Project Developer and Senior Community Engagement Manager for Cypress Creek Renewables, an integrated solar and storage company with a 1.6 GW solar fleet spanning 14 states. In this role, Winter led community outreach strategy and helped to secure zoning approvals for a \$100 million+ portfolio of community distributed generation (2-5 MWac) solar projects in New York and Massachusetts. Winter also brings a background in program development, natural climate solutions, and conservation practices, having led the Land Trust Alliance's flagship New York Program for 13 years prior to his shift to the solar sector. Ethan earned a Master of Forestry at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and attended Bowdoin College.

Originally from Illinois, Ethan lives in Saratoga Springs, NY with his wife Anne and three tween-age children. Ethan serves on the City of Saratoga Springs Climate Smart Task Force and on the board of the Adirondack Council. He is an avid gardener and loves to paddle, mountain bike and cross-country ski whenever the conditions are right (sometimes at night).

Learn More: Click on the link below to read the Executive Summary and Smart Solar Test Case section of AFT's recent report, [Farms Under Threat 2040: Choosing an Abundant Future](https://farmland.org/).

<https://farmland.org/>

Trevor Hardy
CEO, BlueWave

Trevor is the co-founder and CEO of BlueWave, a pioneering solar and battery storage developer, owner, and operator with a mission to protect the planet by transforming access to renewable energy. A certified B Corp, BlueWave has received both national and international recognition for its work to revolutionize the energy markets and Trevor himself was recognized as an Earth Advocate and top Environmental Leader by RealLeaders Awards in 2021.

Trevor leads all aspects of BlueWave's operations and expansion activity within the United States. He also sits on the board of two companies which were successfully spun out of BlueWave: Beam Financing Technology, a home solar loan provider, and Perch Energy, a community solar servicing provider.

Born and raised in South Africa, Trevor was awarded a Fulbright scholarship to study at MIT, where he completed dual Master of Science degrees in Design Technology and Real Estate Development and was the recipient of a Skye Foundation Fellowship. He also holds a Bachelor of Building Arts and a Bachelor of Architecture from the University of Port Elizabeth (South Africa). Trevor was recognized as an Earth Advocate and top Environmental Leader by RealLeaders Awards in 2021.

Learn More: <https://bluewave.energy/>

Panelist Bios

Paul Knowlton
Farmer & Landowner, Knowlton Farms

Paul is a 5th generation farmer and the landowner for the Grafton Solar project. The Knowlton family has been managing a variety of crops at their farm in Grafton for over 150 years. Ensuring the viability of the farmland for the next generation is their priority, and Paul Knowlton, the current operator of Knowlton Farms, works with consistent dedication to ensure the farm remains true to family tradition.

Thanks to the Grafton Solar project, the Knowltons look forward to the potential of re-entering full-time farming after a decades-long hiatus. The potential of the regenerative farming practices enacted at the site, combined with the financial benefits of solar, will pay future dividends for the farm, both improving land quality and allowing for more crop output.

The Knowltons continue to expand on their investment in the land and plan to construct a commercial-scale greenhouse next to the vegetable array to enable year-round production. Knowlton Farms is fully committed to seeing through the potential of regenerative farming and solar, ensuring the Knowlton farming legacy will continue to thrive for the next generation and beyond.

Dwayne Breger

Director, UMass Clean Energy Extension

Dwayne was hired as the Director of the UMass Clean Energy Extension in 2015. Dwayne comes to UMass after 13 years as the Director of the Renewable Energy Division at the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER). At DOER, he was responsible for the state Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), the development of the RPS solar carve-out and solar loan program, the advance of biomass energy policy, and served on the staff working group that designed the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. Prior to DOER, he was an Assistant Professor in engineering at Lafayette College. Dwayne returns to the UMass campus where he received his Ph.D. in Resource Economics and served as a Senior Research Associate in Mechanical Engineering between 1988 and 1994. Dwayne received his B.S. degree in engineering from Swarthmore College, and an M.S. in technology and policy from MIT. At UMass, Dwayne also holds an Extension Professor position in the Department of Environmental Conservation.

Learn More: <https://ag.umass.edu/clean-energy>

Gerry Palano

Alternative Energy Specialist, Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency Programs, MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR)

Gerry began working for MDAR in May 2007 as an Alternative Energy Specialist and a Renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency Programs Coordinator. He created MDAR's first energy program to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy implementation on farms through education and technical assistance, as well as helping farmers understand and incorporate the various clean energy financial incentives for their projects. He created MDAR's annual Ag Energy Grant Program and in collaboration with USDA and Berkshire-Pioneer/ Patriot Resource Conservation Development helped create the MA Farm Energy Program (MFEP), a one-stop shopping center of technical and financial assistance for farms across the state to implement energy efficiency and clean energy projects. MFEP continues today with the Center for EcoTechnology (CET) as MDAR's current partner.

Gerry has devoted his career to the energy efficiency/clean energy sector, with over 40 years of experience as an engineering consultant, energy project developer and technical assistance provider in the commercial, health care, institutional and agricultural industries. Gerry currently spends a significant amount of his time reviewing dual use solar projects with farms and developers along with the MA Department of Energy Resources (DOER) and the UMass Clean Energy Extension (CEE) through potential applications in the MA Solar MA Renewable Target (SMART) Program.

Gerry holds a B.S. in Mathematics, an A.S. in HVAC/Solar Energy Option, and is a licensed Professional Engineer in MA and NY.

Contact info – Gerry Palano, Renewable Energy Coordinator, MA Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), 617-626-1706, Gerald.Palano@mass.gov

Learn More: For energy information Gerry has assembled working @ MDAR, please refer to his website @: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/mdar-energy-programs>

Jeff Palmer
Development Manager, AES

As Development Manager at AES, Jeff has over a decade of experience in the development and acquisition of renewable energy projects, including as the AES lead on the Grafton project. Jeff also currently oversees the acquisition and management of customers on AES's portfolio of community solar projects.

Jeff holds a B.S. from Trinity College in Hartford, CT and an MBA from University of Colorado.

Learn More: www.aes.com/grafton-solar

Brendan Mooney (Moderator)
Sustainability & Impact Lead, AES

Brendan Mooney is a Sr. Analyst in Sustainability and Impact at AES Clean Energy with the purpose of implementing new solutions for a more sustainable energy future. He works with renewable energy professionals across the US, impactful non-profit organizations, and research institutions to better understand how we can accelerate the carbon-free future in a way that supports our communities and environment.

Learn More: <https://www.aes.com/sustainability>

Tour Facilitator Bios

Iain Ward
CEO & Founder, SolAg

Iain Ward is an experienced leader in keeping farmers farming and farmland farmable. He is a 1997 graduate of the University of New Hampshire with a BS degree in Environmental Science. After working on several ranches in Montana, Iain returned to his hometown of Middleboro, Massachusetts, and began applying his love of the environment with his love of agriculture as a USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service conservation farm planner and part-time cranberry grower.

In 2007, Iain and his young family purchased their own farm which combined commercial cranberry production with a small-scale livestock operation. Iain currently serves his fellow Massachusetts cranberry growers in his second term on Ocean Spray's grower council. Also in 2007, Iain formed New England Consulting Services which specializes in being the farmers' advocate and liaison for generational succession planning and on-farm income diversification strategies including value-added production, agri-tourism, renewable energy generation, and regenerative carbon credit generation.

Well-versed in federal farm bill programs and state agricultural initiatives, Iain and his associates also assist farmers with progressive conservation farm planning, identification and pursuit of potential grant and financing opportunities, and implementation of practices that increase the farm's bottom line while

improving overall farm sustainability.

Combining his agricultural and policy experience, Iain founded Solar Agricultural Services, Inc. (SOLAG) in 2019 to act as a liaison between farmers, policymakers, solar developers, and solar investors towards effectuating long-term viability of agricultural production beneath dual-use agrivoltaic solar arrays.

Learn More: <https://www.solaragservices.com/>

Julie Fine

Soil Health Specialist, AFT

Julie Fine is the climate and agriculture specialist at AFT New England. She has experience in agricultural research, organic farming, and as an agricultural service provider. In 2018 Julie earned an MS in plant and soil science from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at UMass Amherst researching the effects of winter-killed cover crops on nutrient cycling, weed suppression, and soil health. Through relationships with farmers across the Northeast, Julie has seen the agricultural and climate challenges that food producers face and is dedicated to working together towards site-specific solutions for climate risk, soil health, and sustainable food production.

Julie has worked on dairy and vegetable farms in MA, CA, and New Zealand over the last 20 years before settling with her family in western Massachusetts. She has served on the Northeast SARE technical committee, as a Climate Adaptation Fellow, and as the founding director of Harvest Against Hunger in Seattle, WA. Prior to that, she taught organic farming and gardening at the UC Santa Cruz farm and Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems. In her free time, you can find Julie drinking coffee, keeping her kids busy, or fighting back the weeds in her family's garden.

Ben Raymond

Project Manager, Borrego

Ben is a PMP certified, EPC Project Manager at Borrego Solar, based out of their Lowell, MA headquarters. As the EPC PM, He led the Grafton Solar Projects by coordinating Local Permitting, managing Contracts and Subcontracts, handling engineering action items, maintaining safety and quality standards, and spearheading onsite daily construction progress. He's managed and/or assisted the construction of 19 Solar + BESS projects totaling over 110 MW with a combined contract value of over \$150 million dollars.

Before and during his current 4 year tenure at Borrego, he was enlisted for 8 years in the NH Air National Guard where he did construction for the US Military. Many of his training deployments were humanitarian in nature where his construction efforts would assist local communities. Like building a fishing village in remote western Alaska for a village suffering the very real effects of global warming. His contract in the US Military allowed him to pursue degrees in both Architectural Engineering and Construction Technology which he later applied to his real world Operations and Project Management experience.