

Pace Energy and Climate Center 2016 Annual Report

In 2016, Pace Energy and Climate Center was all REVved up, and more!

The Center staff and many allies are deeply involved in the business of electric utility transformation. We live and work in a remarkable time. Decades of steady, thoughtful leadership on clean energy issues is now bearing fruit. Clean energy is not just the right thing to do, it is increasingly recognized as the right choice economically, technically, and for all members of society. Our work, especially in 2016, has been about making sure that we seize the moment and secure the benefits of clean energy use for all communities in New York, the Northeast U.S., across the country, and throughout the world.

Never has it been more important that we succeed in our work. The challenges of climate change, the changing path of policy, and the moral imperative of building a clean energy foundation for future generations drive us every day. While we don't work actively in Washington, D.C., changes there threaten our work. The Center focuses on waging a strong offense at the state and community level, and on effectively communicating the benefits of clean energy development and policy.

In 2016, we answered the call for clear-eyed policy leadership in the many New York Public Service Commission's ("NY PSC") Reforming the Energy Vision ("REV") initiative proceedings under way. Our work multiplied as the Commission transitioned from vision to implementation and execution, and so did our impact.

See the Appendix for the active NY PSC proceedings in which the Center is engaged!

The Center continued its regional leadership as a champion of super-efficient combined heat and power, strong solar energy market policy, and interstate cooperation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We expand the reach of our ideas and support through formal regulatory interventions, thought leadership, and good old-fashioned research and writing.

The Pace Energy and Climate Center continues to operate as a small, agile, interdisciplinary team of talented and committed individuals, and continues to benefit from the support of the best law student interns anywhere. Our network of collaborators at other organizations has grown over the year, as has our reputation in the media.

As always, the Center succeeds because of the support it receives from funders, the Elisabeth Haub School of Law, and Pace University. These people and institutions, too many to name, make our work possible. We are deeply grateful.

The Pace Energy and Climate Center Team

Pace Energy and Climate Center Highlights for 2016

- Earned, renewed, and expanded funding from the Energy Foundation and Silicon Valley Community Trust to engage in the 2016 Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative Program Review to strengthen regional climate work.
- Led the Northeast Solar Market Energy Coalition, a coalition of regional solar business associations with support from the U.S. DOE's SunShot Initiative Solar Market Pathways Program through its second full year. Secured a third year of funding.
- Advised the New York City Mayor's Office of Sustainability on a plan to reduce city greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050.
- Employed and trained 19 legal interns, taught an upper level energy law course, and supported the Pace Environmental Law Program.
- Intervened in Consolidated Edison's 2016 rate case. Secured key wins for: energy efficiency, climate resiliency, advancing fair rates, and growing markets for distributed energy resources ("DER") such as energy efficiency, energy management, distributed generation, and electric vehicles.
- Selected by NYSERDA to organize a panel of experts to address and report on the topic of "Innovations in CHP Finance."
- Published for the United Nations Environment agency the *UNEP Guide for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Law*, with chapters by 20 leading international experts and containing global case studies.
- Filed over 600 pages of comments and testimony in 11 Reforming the Energy Vision proceedings. Worked with 26 organizations in New York's REV landscape.
- Hosted and presented in dozens of workshops, seminars, and webinars on clean energy topics like: microgrids, the Clean Power Plan, solar energy valuation and regulation, maritime fuel conversion, community clean energy, electric vehicle charging, equitable access to clean energy, and innovative financing for renewable energy.
- Published several studies and reports on power plant emissions profiles, microgrids, reducing energy-related pollution in megacities, municipal sustainable energy initiatives, value of solar, and electric utility energy efficiency programs in New York.
- The Center is negotiating with the International Renewable Agency ("IRENA") to assist countries in which IRENA promotes renewable energy programs.

Looking Ahead

In 2017, the Pace Energy and Climate Center will be a strong, affirmative, and aggressive voice for clean energy in New York, the Northeast, other states, and around the world. Using the tools of law, economics, engineering, and science, we will engage, communicate, and advocate for cleaner, more efficient, and more equitable energy systems.

The New York REV landscape is moving from exploration to execution, and the Center and its allies will be a tireless voice of reason and policy integrity. We will face at least one, and perhaps three new major utility rate cases and Phase II of the “Value of DER” proceeding—all of which are foundational for REV. And we will work to ensure that the Indian Point Nuclear Plant closes on schedule and is replaced with clean distributed energy resources.

We will continue to translate our experiences into utility transformation proceedings now emerging in the Northeast and across the United States. And we will continue to be a U.S.-based resource for clean energy advocates and analysts around the world.

2017 promises to be a year of challenge and change—and the Pace Energy and Climate Center will enthusiastically champion clean energy for every community, today and tomorrow.

Letter from the Executive Director, Karl R. Rábago

Dear Friends and Supporters of Pace Energy and Climate Center:

Thanks to you, and to our dedicated staff and interns, our families, and our friends for another great year! I hope this message finds you and yours happy and healthy.

The year 2016 was, in a word, intense. We published, intervened, lectured, discussed, edited, taught, led, advocated, criticized, praised, and, along the way, learned, laughed, and loved. We traveled, and we sat at our desks for long hours. I was personally impressed by the professionalism and enthusiasm of the entire Pace Energy and Climate Center team

In 2016, and as 2017 begins, we have seen changes on the team. We welcomed our first Equitable Access to Sustainable Energy Fellow, Sheryl Musgrove with support from our friends at Earthjustice and the law school. Our director of strategic engagement, Roni Epstein, has set up her own practice and continues to work with us as a trusted advisor. Dan Leonhardt is returning to his engineering roots and a much shorter commute. Nick Martin heads to Canada. I can't wait to see what these fine folks do next, and what kind of wonderful new people join our team in the future.

Once again, I want to extend a special thanks to Loretta Musial and Mary Cataneo, who keep the engines of the Center tuned and running smoothly.

Some things are constant—the good cheer, advice, and outstanding example set by Dean Richard Ottinger; the brilliance and dedication of our interns; and the support and inspiration of professional colleagues at other advocacy and educational institutions. We are fortunate to have deep relationships in government, business, academia, and civil society.

*As in 2015, this report is organized along three main themes that exemplify how we work. While we can't possibly report on everything that has happened over the past year, we have tried to highlight major accomplishment in **Policy, Relationships, and Technology.***

Thank you again for your support and for taking the time to learn about the great year that we had at Pace Energy and Climate Center in 2016. We hope we can enjoy your support in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Karl R. Rábago