

Transforming the Northwest Energy System NWESS 2026



University of Washington
Alder Hall
April 1-2, 2026



Speaker: GreCIA Elenes and Reagan Price

Title: Journey Towards a Just Transition: Engineering Equitable Outcomes

Abstract:

As the energy sector rapidly evolves, engineers are increasingly central to ensuring that the transition to clean energy is not only technically sound but also fair. Technical choices—such as grid investments, infrastructure siting, and program design—have proven to meaningfully shape equitable outcomes. The session introduces:

- the concept of a just transition; and
- practical tools engineers can use to integrate equity strategies into their portfolios and projects; and
- a feature case study modeling a strategic equity integration.

As we shift toward decarbonized energy sources, the disparate experiences of historically marginalized workers and communities must be understood and prioritized. This session aims to equip engineers with actionable next steps to ensure the clean energy transition benefits all communities.

Bio:

GreCIA Elenes (she/her)
Environmental Equity Advisor, Seattle City Light

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Grecia (Spanish pronunciation or gray-see-uh) is an Environmental Equity Advisor on the Energy Equity team at Seattle City Light. She brings over a decade of experience partnering with Environmental Justice communities, grounding her work in transparency, accountability, and self-determination. Originally from California's San Joaquin Valley, she previously led community-driven policy and legal advocacy at a nonprofit serving inland California, supporting historically overlooked communities in advancing their own priorities for healthier, more equitable neighborhoods.

Grecia approaches her work with curiosity and humility, drawing on her experience to foster meaningful, non-extractive partnerships. She is enthusiastic to help Seattle City Light build authentic relationships with communities most affected by historic inequities, ensuring their voices shape decisions and outcomes. She holds a B.S. in Environmental Science from UC Berkeley and a master's degree in Urban Planning from USC.

Reagen Price (she/her)

Race and Social Justice Initiative Program Manager, Seattle City Light

Reagen Price (she/her(s)) is an anti-racism strategist, facilitator, and advocate who believes workplaces should be safe spaces. Distinctly focused on organizing within institutions, she has built a career translating the theory of racial justice into practice. In her current role as the Race and Social Justice Initiative Program Manager for Seattle City Light, she resources utility project and program teams with information, education, and tools to lead change. Prior to joining the City of Seattle, Reagen served as the Anti-Racism Initiative Manager for a prominent Seattle social service agency, Solid Ground, and as one of seven collaborative organizers of the Non-Profit Anti-Racism Coalition.