

## Greater Binghamton Clean Energy Careers Summit and Job Fair

There are many links in this document, please feel free to check them out!



The Greater Binghamton Clean Energy Careers Summit and Job Fair, held on September 27, 2023, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Binghamton, NY, was a resounding success! Over 189 participants checked in to the event, which united industry leaders, educators, government representatives, and job seekers. The event ignited discussions on the limitless potential of the clean energy sector in the Southern Tier, focusing on inclusivity and opportunity for all, from newcomers to seasoned professionals.

### Presenters and Speakers



Assemblywoman Donna Lupardo set the tone for the event, highlighting that the region is poised for a clean energy transformation. She thanked the organizers for fostering collaboration across sectors. Lupardo stated, "We have all the ingredients for a clean energy economy."

Keynote Speaker Jennifer de Souza, Vice President of Energy Solutions, Supply Chain & Leasing at The Raymond Corporation, stirred the audience with her call to action. She inspired attendees to become believers in the region's clean energy potential through lithium ion battery manufacture and recycling, highlighting that change is possible and drawing on the region's history as the Valley of Opportunity.

Senator Lea Webb encouraged continued collaboration, reminding attendees, "All of us have a role to play in this work. There is room for everybody."

## Panel Discussions



Throughout the day, expert panelists engaged in insightful discussions. Jaden Beck, Clean Energy Project Associate with BlocPower, reinforced the sector's diversity of pathways, asserting, "Whether you're a creative, a communicator, a researcher, or a builder, there is a place for you in this industry."

Adam Flint, Director of Clean Energy Programs at Network for a Sustainable Tomorrow (NEST) and event co-host, underlined the importance of inclusivity, stating, "This transition only works if it includes everyone, especially those who have been most impacted by the current inequitable, dirty, and dangerous system."

Representatives from Cornell Cooperative Extension, BlocPower, ETM Solar, IM3NY, Soulful Synergy, The Raymond Corporation, BAE Systems, New Energy New York, and Southern Tier Community Center discussed the intersection of their work with the clean energy sector.

Paul Presendieu, Director of Community Engagement for Soulful Synergy, injected enthusiasm into attendees, declaring, "We are in the midst of a renaissance at all levels of government." He

highlighted New York's pivotal role in the national clean energy landscape and "making sure we are not leaving anyone behind."

Dr. Gay Canough, founder of Extraterrestrial Materials Solar Works (ETM Solar), noted the silver lining of the energy transition, stating, "One great thing about the clean energy transition is that there is meaningful work to do." I think we need a quote here from someone in the second panel.

"We need to start thinking about where people are living—what is the condition that our workers are in when they're coming to work," said Ebony Hattoh of New Energy New York (NENY). "We've all heard that hungry kids can't learn, right? Well that applies to adults too."

Cory Balliet of BAE Systems said, "If we add climate impact to designs it pushes us to be much better." and "We need people, we need people to do the work."

### **Brainstorming Session**



The summit concluded with a brainstorming session led by facilitators from Binghamton University and New Yorkers for Clean Power. Attendees discussed topics such as education, transportation, livable wages, child care, immigration, housing, and raising awareness of opportunities. Everyone was asked to consider these topics from a job seeker perspective, an employer perspective, and an educator perspective!

### **Job and Community Fair**



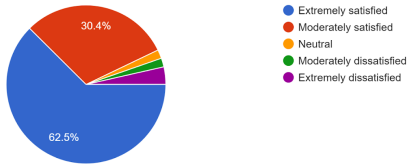
We had 30 different companies and organizations sharing valuable employment opportunities and services, including some featured below!

- **AES Corporation:** Highlighting various job openings and their Energy4Talent trainee program aimed at recent college graduates.
- **BAE Systems:** Offering over 40 job openings at their Endicott location, actively involved in the development of hybrid-electric and all-electric aircraft.
- **Broome-Tioga Workforce:** Serving as a valuable resource for job seekers and offering training programs relevant to the clean energy sector.
- **FedEx Ground:** Reporting numerous job openings in the Binghamton area and their ambitious goal of achieving carbon-neutral operations globally by 2040.
- **International Union of Painters and Allied Trades:** Introducing apprenticeship training programs, offering hands-on learning and classroom instruction.
- **NAACP - Broome-Tioga 2135 Chapter:** Introducing their youth employment preparation program for ages 14-30.
- **New York State Electric & Gas (NYSEG):** Showcasing over 40 job openings in the greater Binghamton area and their internship and 2024 Global Graduate programs.
- **Rotary:** Jeff Smith, representing the Rotary Club, emphasized improving the Southern Tier's economy and reducing workforce barriers.
- **SUNY Broome:** Sharing details about their Battery Academy, a collaboration with New Energy New York (NENY), offering comprehensive courses and labs in the battery industry.
- **The Raymond Corporation:** Reporting over 100 job openings and upcoming student engineering positions for the summer of 2024.

## Participant Feedback

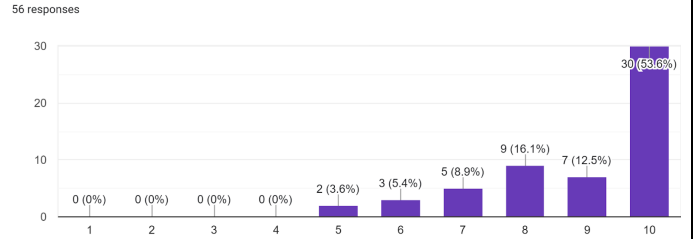
Towards the end of the Summit, participants were encouraged to fill out an online feedback form. Below is a summary of the results!

What was your overall satisfaction with the event? (Please choose one)  
56 responses

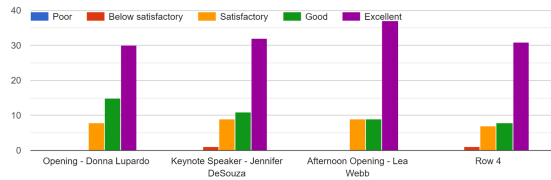


**92.9% moderately or extremely satisfied!**

How likely are you to recommend your friends, family, or colleagues to attend an event such as this?  
56 responses

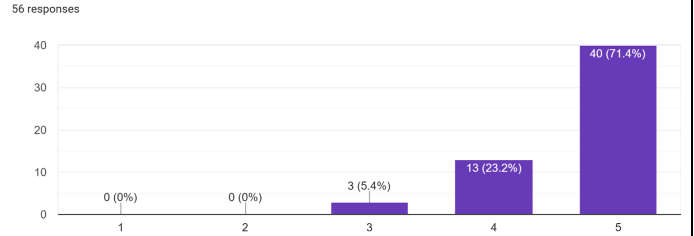


How would you rate each of our featured speakers? (Check one box for each speaker)

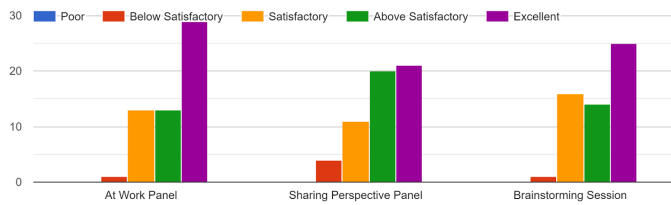


**Row 4: This was in reference to the Breakout Sessions (not BAE speaker)**

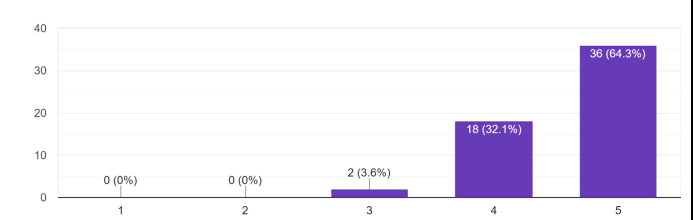
How representative of a variety of different backgrounds do you feel the speakers were?  
56 responses



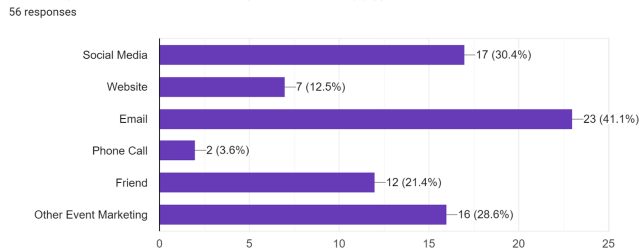
How would you rate the Panel Discussions and Brainstorming session (Check one box for each category)



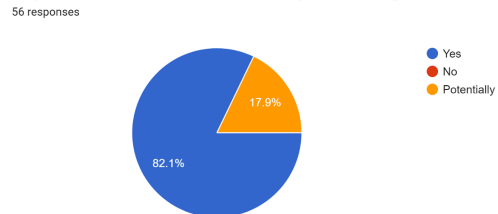
How motivated are you to participate in the follow-on activities after the Summit?  
56 responses

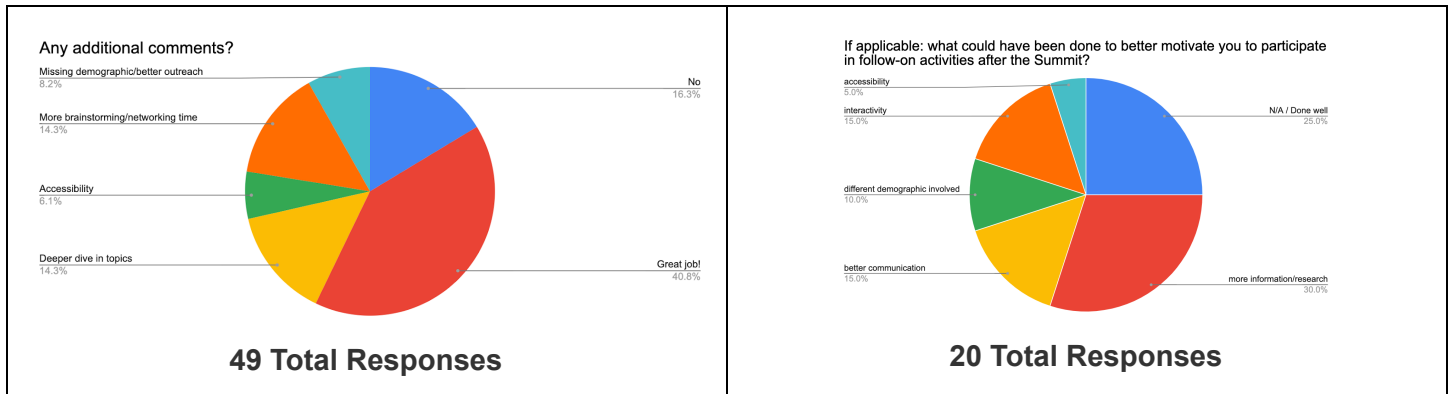


How did you hear about our event? (Check all that apply)  
56 responses



Do you feel that the event fostered meaningful networking and connections for you?  
56 responses





Click here to share your feedback: <https://tinyurl.com/cecsummitfeedback>

## Follow-on Activities

The Greater Binghamton Area has a "Once in a Generation" opportunity to grow jobs and increase average income. We see the need for a minimum of 10,000 clean energy jobs for manufacturing, trades and the many services required to achieve New York State's climate goals. Much work remains to achieve this vision. We believe broad based collaboration of Industry, Business, Government, Education and nonprofits is required to drive progress. Below is a partial list of recommendations from our partners, panelists, and brainstorm session participants we can start with!

- Develop a collaboration to evaluate and implement state and federal funding opportunities.
- Develop an inventory of companies and their programs for job shadowing, interns, and part-time employment.
- Continue in depth interviews with clean energy career professionals about their role in the ecosystem.
- Identify what makes Greater Binghamton a magnet community, further action, and projects.
- Form teams on the high priority barriers.
- Strengthen access to under-served communities.
- Participate in job fairs and related events.
- Increase outreach and education development in schools.
- Meet with NENY to develop a holistic plan about what they will lead, support, and how others can help.

Although we do not have follow-on events scheduled at this time, NEST invites all to email [info@nynest.org](mailto:info@nynest.org) with interest in participating in future events, topics you'd like to focus on, and any other ideas!

## Media Coverage

The Greater Binghamton Clean Energy Careers Summit and Job Fair was promoted and featured in many different publications and news platforms. Check out our highlights below!

- Event promoted in a [CNY Business Journal Article](#) on September 3, 2023
- Live interview with Adam Flint on WNBC 1290 AM radio on September 18, 2023
- Live Interview with Nikki Post and Adam Flint on September 25, 2023
- Event featured on the front page of [Press & Sun](#) on September 25, 2023
- Event featured on TV Stations [WBNG](#) and [WSKG](#) on September 28, 2023

## Thank you!

Thank you so much to our sponsors [AES](#), [BAE Systems](#), [BlocPower](#), [NYSEG](#), [SUNY Broome](#), [Rotary District 7170](#), [The Insulation Man](#), [New Energy New York](#), [Tier Energy Network](#), [The Agency](#), and [Workforce Development Institute](#), for your support! Special thanks to [Raymond Corporation](#) for all their support! We appreciate your understanding and enthusiasm for the future of clean energy in New York's Southern Tier.

We would also like to thank all of the organizing partners of this event. First a big shout out to [Broome Tioga Workforce](#) for organizing the job fair. And, much appreciation to [Cornell Cooperative Extension Broome County](#), [SUNY Broome](#), [Greater Binghamton Chamber of Commerce](#), [Sustainable United Neighborhoods](#), [Cornell Cooperative Extension Smart Energy Choices - Southern Tier](#), [Broome-Tioga BOCES](#), [Southern Door Community Land Trust](#), Clean Energy Careers Southern Tier, [Cornell Cooperative Extension Tioga County](#), [Greater Binghamton Education Outreach Program](#), [Better Buildings New York](#), [Tier Energy Network](#), [New Energy New York](#) and [Southern Tier 8](#). Without all of your hard work and support this event would not have been possible! We are excited to see the bright future that all of you are working hard to create!

And finally, thank you to everyone who participated! This event could not have been so impactful without you, and we truly hope to see you at future events!

*Learn more on our webpage: <https://greaterbinghamtongreenjobs.org>*