

CLIMATE ADAPTATION FORUM

*Environmental Business Council of New England, Inc.
Sustainable Solutions Lab at the University of Massachusetts Boston*

New Narratives for Action: Addressing Climate Misinformation and Disinformation

Friday, June 5, 2026

Hosted by:

Foley Hoag LLP

155 Seaport Boulevard
Boston MA 02210

and

Streaming virtually on Zoom

Sponsors of the 2025-2026 Climate Adaptation Forum programming:



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AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m. **Registration & Networking**
- 9:30 a.m. **Welcome**
- Gabriela Boscio Santos, Forum Organizer
Associate Director, Sustainable Solutions Lab
University of Massachusetts Boston
- Welcome from Host & Access Sponsor**
- Aaron Lang, Partner, Foley Hoag LLP
- Welcome from Sponsor of the Virtual Presentation & Program Introduction**
- Indrani Ghosh, Steering Committee Member, Climate Adaptation Forum
Vice President, Resiliency Practice Leader, Weston & Sampson
- Program Introduction**
- Ellen Douglas, Forum Co-Chair; Senior Resiliency Project Manager, AECOM
- 9:50 a.m. **Understanding Climate Change Conspiracy Beliefs: A Canadian/Comparative Outlook**
- Daniel Stockemer, Ph.D., Full Professor, School of Political Studies
University of Ottawa – *presenting virtually*
- 10:15 a.m. **When Trust Becomes a Target: Climate Disinformation & Climate Resilience**
- Kate Cell, Senior Climate Campaign Manager, Union of Concerned Scientists –
presenting virtually
- 10:40 a.m. **Break**
- 11:00 a.m. **Fossil Fuel Companies' Communications about Climate Action: The Case of Native Advertising**
- Christopher Wells, Professor, Emerging Media Studies
College of Communication & Climate Disinformation Initiative
Boston University
- 11:25 a.m. **Next Era Climate Narratives for a New Media Environment**
- Luis Lopez, Manager, Strategy, Insights, and Analytics, Potential Energy Coalition
- 11:50 a.m. **Moderated Panel Discussion**
- Moderator:** John Valinch, Forum Co-Chair; ESG Analyst
- Panelists:**
- Kate Cell, UCS
 - Luis Lopez, Potential Energy Coalition
 - Daniel Stockemer, University of Ottawa
 - Chris Wells, BU
- 12:30 p.m. **Adjourn**
- Closing Remarks**
- Kelly Knee, Forum Organizer
Executive Director, Ocean Science, Tetra Tech

FORUM CO-CHAIRS

Ellen Douglas, Senior Resiliency Project Manager

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Dr. Ellen Douglas is a hydrologist and engineer with broad expertise in the analysis of water-related issues. Ellen was a professor in the School for the Environment at UMass Boston for 17 years, researching the impacts of climate change on coastal and inland communities across New England before joining the AECOM team in August 2023. Her role at AECOM includes managing projects related to climate resilient infrastructure. She has authored or co-authored over 50 peer-reviewed publications, book chapters, and technical reports. She was a contributing author for the 2013 U.S. National Climate Assessment and the IPCC Fifth and Sixth Assessment Reports. Ellen spent nine months as a Fulbright Fellow in Australia (2013-14) working with the CSIRO on the Water Values and Benefits project.

Carolyn Norkiewicz, Regional Coordinator for Greater Boston, Municipal Vulnerability Program

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Carolyn Norkiewicz is the Greater Boston Regional Coordinator for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant Program. She works with municipalities on local climate change adaptation planning and implementation projects that are funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In addition to assisting communities with grant management, she connects MVP grantees with resources and local partners to support an equitable and holistic approach to building climate resilience.

Prior to her current role, Carolyn most recently worked with the City of Medford's Office of Energy & Environment on their climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning process, while earning her M.A. in Urban & Environmental Planning & Policy from Tufts University. Her thesis work focused on the opportunities and challenges of collaborating at a watershed scale on climate adaptation planning. Before graduate school, Carolyn worked for an urban conservation organization in Lowell, MA (Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust) and, prior to that, served with AmeriCorps Cape Cod. She graduated from Stonehill College with a B.A. in English, and currently resides in Boston.

John Valinch, ESG Analyst

John Valinch's (he/they) journey in the environmental and climate justice movements began at the age of 15 when he joined [GreenRoots](#) to stop a diesel power plant from being built in his hometown of Chelsea, Massachusetts. He is guided by a principled commitment to justice, equity, and building people-power.

John has undertaken efforts to promote justice through prior work as an Analyst at UNITE HERE, a national union representing over 300,000 hotel, gaming, airport, and food service employees. At UNITE HERE, John conducted strategic research, led stakeholder engagement efforts to support hotel organizing campaigns, and co-founded a joint labor-management culinary academy in Miami, Florida ([HEAT, Inc.](#)), which provides hospitality workers the training and skills needed to earn sustainable living wages, benefits, and jobs with dignity in South Florida.

In his work as the Senior Manager of Climate Resilience and Land Use at [Groundwork USA](#), John coached residents and Groundwork affiliate staff to design and advance resident-centered climate resilience strategies, promoted equitable development and land use best practices, and strengthened the organization's federal affairs strategy to secure resources for the national organization and its affiliate network.

Seeking to advance impact at a national scale, John began work as an ESG Analyst at a Boston-based investment management firm in 2024. He is responsible for conducting environmental, social, and governance-related (ESG) investment due diligence and engaging companies to promote enhanced management of ESG-related risks and opportunities.

John joined the Climate Adaptation Forum in 2023 and also serves as the Co-President of [Comunidades Enraizadas \("Rooted Communities"\) Community Land Trust](#). He previously served on the inaugural board of GreenRoots Inc and, in 2015, co-founded the Chelsea LGBTQ Coalition, the first interracial, interfaith, and intergenerational LGBTQ network in Chelsea's history. He holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy and a Master of Business Administration from the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University as well as a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Massachusetts - Boston. In his spare time, John enjoys spending time with loved ones, outdoor explorations, dancing, and building up the power of communities to secure a healthy, equitable, and life-affirming future for all.

FORUM SPEAKERS

Kate Cell, Senior Climate Campaign Manager
Union of Concerned Scientists
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Kate Cell is the Senior Climate Campaign Manager for the Climate & Energy program at the Union of Concerned Scientists. In her role, she manages the UCS Climate Campaign, leading a multi-disciplinary team of scientists, policy analysts, legislative affairs staff, and outreach and communication experts working to achieve policies that can reduce global warming emissions and increase resilience to climate change impacts. Her team is focused on demonstrating and alleviating the disparate burdens climate change poses to environmental justice communities, low-income communities, and communities of color. Kate also was instrumental in creating the UCS Economists Network. Kate is the former executive director of Economists for Peace and Security, an organization that works with the United Nations on issues of peace, conflict, war, and the world economy. She holds a BA in English and psychology from Macalester College and studied at the Iowa Writers' Workshop.

Luis Lopez, Manager, Strategy, Insights, and Analytics
Potential Energy Coalition
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Luis Lopez is a Manager on the Strategy, Insights, and Analytics team at Potential Energy Coalition, a nonpartisan, purpose-built communications nonprofit that is shaping the global narrative on climate change and clean energy through messaging research, proven marketing strategies, and campaigns that create public demand for solutions. At Potential Energy Coalition, Luis conducts qualitative and quantitative research and leads strategic communications initiatives on a range of topics from the Inflation Reduction Act to global communications.

Luis's long-term commitment to climate progress goes back to teaching high schoolers to be climate leaders through University of North Carolina's Climate Leadership and Energy Awareness Program. Prior to Potential Energy Coalition, Luis was a management consultant at AT Kearney, focusing on digital transformation and M&A for telecom and healthcare companies. He also has experience in marketing and strategy for enterprise blockchain SaaS. Luis graduated with a degree in Management and Marketing from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Daniel Stockemer, Ph.D., Full Professor, School of Political Studies
University of Ottawa
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Daniel Stockemer is Full Professor and Konrad Adenauer Research Chair at the School of Political Studies at the University of Ottawa. His research interests are elections, populism, parties, and conspiracy theories.

Christopher Wells, Professor, Emerging Media Studies
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Chris Wells worked in environmental politics before attending graduate school at the University of Washington, where he focused on political communication and early social media. In his research, Chris uses a variety of methods, both conventional and computational, to study how news media coverage takes shape, how citizens learn about politics, and how they choose to participate. His most recent work is exploring how people can understand the many different media around us as making up an interactive media system.