Electricity Policy Bootcamp Agenda

Tuesday, May 19

5:00 – 8:00 pm Dinner/Panel Discussion

Session 1: Doing Policy in Academia: Fitting a square peg into a round table
Andrew Leach, UAlberta
Madeleine McPherson, UVic
Sara Hastings-Simon, UCalgary

Topics/Questions
Inspiring big picture discussion - what's the most exciting thing you've done/cool examples of success

The nitty gritty of making it work in practice - How to make it work with academic requirements and faculty expectations?

How you fund it?
How to build relationships?
How to identify relevant questions?

Wednesday, May 20

8:00 – 9:00 am Breakfast (Vistas Room)

9:00 – 10:30 **Session 2: Canadian government 101**
Lisa Young, UCalgary

Topics/Questions
Overview of everything you wanted to know about how laws get made but were too embarrassed to ask including the roles of the 3 levels of government, the differences and responsibilities of bureaucrats vs political staff, and more etc.

10 – 10:45 Break

10:45 – 12:15pm **Session 3: How to make friends and influence people**
Mark Cameron
Rachel Samson, IRPP
Tim Weis, Pembina Institute

Topics/Questions
How academics can work directly with different stakeholders in the policy process.

How academic ideas/evidence gets turned into influence (with case studies/examples).

What not to do.

12:15 – 1:15	Lunch (Vistas Room)
1:15 – 2:15	**Session 4: Getting your results out there: beyond the journal** **Emma Graney,** The Globe and Mail **Robson Fletcher,** CBC News
2:15 – 2:30 pm	Wrap up **Erica Myers,** UCalgary **Sara Hastings-Simon,** UCalgary

Topics/Questions
What are different forums for communicating your results?

How to talk (and how not to talk) to journalists?

Where do decision makers find your research (and where they don't find it).

Speaker bios

Andrew Leach is an energy and environmental economist and is Professor at the University of Alberta, with a joint appointment in the Department of Economics (Arts) and the Faculty of Law. He has a Ph.D. in Economics from Queen's University, a B.Sc (Environmental Sciences) and M.A. (Economics) from the University of Guelph, and an L.L.M. (Constitutional Law) from the Faculty of Law at the University of Alberta. His research spans energy and environmental economics with a particular interest in climate change policies and the law. Outside of work hours, his free time is spent with his two kids, as well as cycling and arguing on Twitter.

Madeleine McPherson is an Associate Professor in the department of Civil Engineering and the Associate Director of the Institute for Integrated Energy Systems at the University of Victoria. As the principal investigator of the Sustainable Energy Systems Integration & Transitions (SESIT) Group, Dr. McPherson and her team have developed an integrated suite of models to explore the evolution of our energy system. Her team applies those models in collaboration with governments, civil society, Indigenous rights holders, and industry to co-create decarbonization pathways. Dr. McPherson is a co-founder and co-director of the Energy Modelling Hub, which is convening a national dialogue between modelers, policymakers and stakeholders around Canada's energy system.

Sara Hastings-Simon is an associate professor in the department of Earth, Energy and Environment at the University of Calgary. She is a macro energy system researcher and her work is focused on building better quantitative and qualitative understandings of large-scale, systems-level, and long-term elements of energy systems to enable decarbonization. Sara is also co-founder and co-host of the Energy

vs Climate Podcast. Her previous roles include Director of Clean Economy at the Pembina Institute, founder of Business Renewable Centre Canada, and practice manager for Clean Technologies at McKinsey & Company. Dr. Hastings-Simon holds a PhD in physics from the University of Geneva. She is a soccer mom of twin teenagers and is an e-cargo bike and winter trike evangelical.

Lisa Young is Professor of Political Science at the University of Calgary, where she teaches courses in Canadian and comparative politics and public policy. She has published in the areas of Canadian party politics, advocacy groups, election finance, and graduate education. In addition to her academic research, Young has written about Alberta politics for *Alberta Views* magazine, *The Tyee* and *The Conversation Canada* and appears frequently in the media offering commentary. During the 2026/27 academic year, she will be President of the Canadian Political Science Association.

Mark Cameron has over three decades of experience in government, business and consulting. Mark has served in several roles with the Government of Canada, including in Ministers' offices, the Privy Council Office, and as Director of Policy and Research in the Prime Minister's Office. Mark has also served as Deputy Minister of the Policy Coordination Office in the Government of Alberta. He has worked in executive roles with Ontario Power Generation, BlackBerry, and Hill + Knowlton Strategies. He served as the Executive Director of Canadians for Clean Prosperity. Mark has also served in board or advisory roles with the Banff Forum, Canadian-American Business Council, Canada-India Business Council, Canada 2020, Cardus, the Energy Futures Lab and Smart Prosperity. Mark holds a BA and MA in political science from the University of British Columbia.

Rachel Samson is Vice President of Research at the Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP), an independent, national, non-profit organization that generates research and insight to improve public policy in ways that better the lives of Canadians. She leads a team analyzing issues including affordability, skills and training, community transformation, trade diversification, and industrial policy. Previously, she was Clean Growth Research Director at the Canadian Climate Institute and spent 15 years as an economist and executive in the federal government, along with five years as an independent consultant. Rachel holds a master's degree in economics from Queen's University.

Tim Weis is the Senior Director of the Industrial Decarbonization group at the Pembina Institute, having previously worked for over a decade with the Institute starting in 2002. Prior to re-joining the institute, Tim was an industrial professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Alberta for nearly a decade, where he taught courses in energy systems, and supervised graduate student research focussed on renewable technology, market and policy modelling. Tim has worked for NRCan's Office of Energy Research and Development, as the policy director for the Canadian Wind Energy Association and as a ministerial advisor for the Government of Alberta on climate change. Tim holds a PhD in environmental sciences from Université du Québec à Rimouski, where he studied wind energy development in remote communities. He also has an M.Sc. (University of Alberta) and a B.A.Sc. (University of Waterloo) in mechanical engineering.

Emma Graney has covered energy from The Globe and Mail's Calgary Bureau since 2019, including oil and gas, alternate fuels, renewables, liabilities and green technology. She keeps her eye on the energy sector across the country, from the oil sands in Alberta to geothermal potential in Saskatchewan, the explosive liabilities of old gas wells in Ontario, and renewable hydrogen in Newfoundland and Labrador. Emma was one of The Globe's team of correspondents deployed to Europe in the days following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022. In 2024, she was a Xana Fellow with the Society for Advancing Business Editing and Writing, part of the 2023 Oxford Climate Journalism Network cohort and, in 2020, was a Columbia University Energy Journalism fellow.

Robson Fletcher is a former senior reporter and data journalist with CBC News, where he covered Alberta's electricity sector through some of its most turbulent years — from the coal phase-out and renewables boom to the government's controversial moratorium on wind and solar projects. His work translated data, policy and technical jargon into clear stories for general audiences and has been recognized with numerous journalism awards. Robson left CBC in early 2026 to launch his own practice as a Data & Storytelling Strategist. He now works at the intersection of data analysis, public opinion research, and strategic communications, helping organizations make sense of complex information and communicate it credibly to the audiences they need to reach.