

JUNE 24, 2024

What's Possible:
**Workforce Solutions
for Community Climate
Resilience**



Agenda

Monday, June 24, 2024

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| 12:00 noon | Networking Lunch |
| 1:00 p.m. | Welcoming Remarks by Erin Mierzwa, Assistant Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, and Javier Silva, Senior Associate Director, Federal Reserve Bank of New York |
| 1:10 p.m. | Fed Talk: Climate Risk, Community Resilience, and the Role of Insurance

In her framing remarks, national thought leader Carolyn Kousky, associate vice president for economics and policy, Environmental Defense Fund, will reflect on climate risks to the built environment, the current state of insurance, and connections between insurance and resiliency investments. |
| 1:20 p.m. | Research on Climate Risks and Workforce

This panel will feature recent research on disparities in climate risk at the local and national levels. Panelists will address how climate mitigation activities like retrofitting homes, constructing green buildings, and electrification can foster employment opportunities, particularly within communities that are disproportionately affected by climate hazards. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• David Althoff Jr., Director, Energy Programs Office, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection• Theresa Dunne, Community Development Research Analyst, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia• Mallick Hossain, Financial Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia• Carolina K. Reid, I. Donald Turner Distinguished Professor in Affordable Housing and Urban Policy, University of California, Berkeley Moderator: Lei Ding, Community Development Research Officer, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia |
| 2:30 p.m. | Break |
| 2:40 p.m. | Identifying Workforce-Related Climate Solutions

Leading industry experts will reflect on establishing innovative cross-sector partnerships to provide training and employment resources for green jobs to residents living in financially underserved communities. The panel will also share insights on workforce initiatives that offer training for green jobs that help advance local climate mitigation and resiliency efforts. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Donnel Baird, CEO and Founder, BlocPower• Rachel Korberg, Executive Director and Cofounder, Families and Workers Fund• Emily Schapira, President and CEO, Philadelphia Energy Authority Moderator: Claire Kramer Mills, Assistant Vice President and Director of Community Development, Federal Reserve Bank of New York |
| 3:50 p.m. | Closing Reflections by Andrew Frishkoff, Executive Director, LISC Philadelphia |
| 4:00 p.m. | Adjourn |

Biographies



David Althoff Jr.

Director, Energy Programs Office
Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

David Althoff Jr. is the director of the Energy Programs Office at the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), which is involved in supporting, designing, and implementing energy-focused programs to encourage the development and deployment of energy efficiency, energy resiliency, and alternative energy projects in Pennsylvania. The mission of the Energy Programs Office is to support energy activities that result in environmental improvements, including mitigating the effects of and adapting to climate change.

Althoff and his staff have spent the last several years developing forward-looking plans centered on positioning Pennsylvania to take advantage of the clean energy economy. Recent products include the Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan 2021, the soon-to-be-released 2024 Climate Action Plan and Climate Impacts Assessment for Pennsylvania, the 2023–2025 Clean Energy Program Plan for Pennsylvania, and Pennsylvania’s Solar Future Plan, among others.

During his career with DEP, Althoff has served as the executive director for the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority, and he is currently a board member and the Mid-Atlantic Chair of the National Association of State Energy Officials and serves on the executive committee of the National Council on Electricity Policy.

Althoff has proudly served the citizens of Pennsylvania through his work at DEP for over 30 years. He is a lifelong Pennsylvanian and a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh.



Donnel Baird

CEO and Founder
BlocPower

Donnel Baird is the chief executive officer and founder of BlocPower, a climate tech company based in Brooklyn, NY, that analyzes, finances, and installs clean energy and decarbonization upgrades in buildings in underserved communities. BlocPower creates jobs for qualified low-income workers and energy savings for building owners, and it also reduces carbon emissions and asthma rates and provides financial returns to investors. In 2021, the company announced a historic partnership with Ithaca, NY, to decarbonize 100 percent of the city’s buildings as part of the first such project in the United States.

Baird spent four years as a political and community organizer and two years managing a national initiative to leverage energy efficiency investments from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in underserved communities. He is a member of the councils and boards of directors of several organizations, including the Federal Reserve Bank of New York’s Second District Advisory Council, the board of the Climate Reality Project, and the board of the Coalition for Green Capital. Additionally, he serves on the Advisory Committee of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission’s Small Business Capital Formation. Baird was also the recipient of the Columbia Business School Entrepreneur of the Year award in 2021, the National Venture Capital Association’s Startup Innovator of the Year award in 2022, and *TIME Magazine*’s inaugural Dreamer of the Year award in 2022.

Baird is a graduate of Duke University and Columbia Business School.



Lei Ding

Community Development Research Officer
Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

Lei Ding is a community development research officer at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. He was initially trained as a mechanical engineer, but his strong interest in social science led him to work as a senior research associate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and later as a faculty member in the Department of Urban Studies and Planning at Wayne State University. He joined the Philadelphia Fed's Community Development and Regional Outreach Department in 2013, researching housing and community development; specifically, credit access, gentrification and neighborhood change, and affordable housing.

Ding understands how important it is to use evidence-based research to help people understand the effects of policy issues on housing, community development, and access to credit. He believes this research not only allows policymakers to better develop intervention strategies and improve existing policies but also allows us all to better understand the nature of our society.

Recently, Ding's research on the consequences of gentrification and the effects of the Community Reinvestment Act has drawn significant attention from policymakers, practitioners, and the media. It has led to the publication of three research articles and has been covered by outlets that include CNN, Bloomberg, and NPR.

Ding has a Ph.D. in public policy from George Mason University and bachelor's and master's degrees from Tsinghua University.



Theresa Dunne

Community Development Research Analyst
Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

Theresa Dunne is a community development research analyst in the Community Development and Regional Outreach Department at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. Her research interests lie at the intersection of community development and public health. Currently, she works on topics related to digital equity and device access, equitable wealth in the city of Philadelphia, and the broad economic impacts of anchor institutions on regional economies.

Dunne's research has examined disparities in digital device access across Pennsylvania to help state and local policymakers understand where gaps exist. The findings inform a national effort to expand access to broadband and digital devices to underserved communities.

Before joining the Bank, Dunne interned at the Baltimore Neighborhood Indicators Alliance, where she conducted housing research and data analysis on community change in Baltimore. In that role, Dunne developed skills in helping local leaders and community members easily access and use data to inform their decisions.

Dunne has a master's degree in urban planning from the University of Illinois and a B.A. in history from the College of Wooster.



Andrew Frishkoff

Executive Director
LISC Philadelphia

Andrew Frishkoff has served as the executive director of LISC Philadelphia for the past 13 years. LISC Philadelphia is one of 38 local offices of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), the nation's largest community development organization. Over more than 40 years, LISC Philadelphia has invested \$625 million in Philadelphia's neighborhoods, supporting the creation of 9,300 affordable homes and 2.8 million square feet of commercial and community space.

Prior to joining LISC Philadelphia, Frishkoff served for seven years as the director of neighborhood economic development for the City of Philadelphia's Commerce Department, Neighborhood Transformation Initiative, and Empowerment Zone. From 1991 to 2002, he served in leadership roles for multiple organizations involved in affordable housing and community development, including ACORN Housing Corporation of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Low Income Housing Coalition (now the Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania), and the Urban Affairs Coalition.

Frishkoff has an M.B.A. from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and a B.A. from Haverford College.



Mallick Hossain

Financial Economist
Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

Mallick Hossain is a financial economist at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. His research interests broadly cover consumer finance, disaster risk, and health economics. Recently, his work has focused on understanding the impacts of natural disasters on household finance and consumer credit. He has written papers on how wildfires affect mortgage performance and how flood risk is incorporated into mortgage-backed securities.

Before joining the Bank, he worked as a staff economist for President Obama's Council of Economic Advisers and for the Census Bureau. He has a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Pennsylvania.



Rachel Korberg

Executive Director and Cofounder
Families and Workers Fund

Rachel Korberg is the executive director and cofounder of the Families and Workers Fund, a coalition of more than 40 diverse philanthropies working together to build a more equitable U.S. economy that uplifts all. The \$125+ million fund invests and builds strategic partnerships to advance good jobs and deliver equitable, effective public benefits. It has a special focus on climate and infrastructure careers.

Previously, Korberg served in program leadership roles at the Ford Foundation and Rockefeller Foundation, where she worked to advance economic opportunity, mobility, and equity. Earlier in her career, she was vice president of a boutique investment firm and a global development and humanitarian aid worker serving communities coping with disasters.

Her commentary has appeared in, or her work has been profiled by, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *TIME*, *Fortune*, TechCrunch, and the *Stanford Social Innovation Review*. She has been a featured speaker at the Federal Reserve, United Nations, National League of Cities, Aspen Institute, and many universities. In addition to receiving other awards and recognitions, Korberg was named a 2023 Presidential Leadership Scholar and *New York Times* DealBook 2022 Groundbreaker. She is also president of the board of the Stonewall Community Foundation, one of the largest funders of LGBTQIA+ causes.

Korberg has a master's degree in public policy from Yale University and executive training in human-centered design from Stanford Graduate School of Business.



Carolyn Kousky

Associate Vice President for Economics and Policy
Environmental Defense Fund

Carolyn Kousky is associate vice president for economics and policy at Environmental Defense Fund. Her research examines multiple aspects of climate risk management and policy approaches for increasing resilience. She is the author of *Understanding Disaster Insurance: New Tools for a More Resilient Future* and an editor of *A Blueprint for Coastal Adaptation*. Kousky has published numerous articles, reports, and book chapters on the economics and policy of climate risk and disaster finance, and she is routinely cited in media outlets. She is a member of the Federal Advisory Committee on Insurance at the U.S. Department of the Treasury; a nonresident senior fellow in the Brookings Metro program; a university fellow at Resources for the Future; a nonresident scholar at the Insurance Information Institute; a member of the High-Level Advisory Board on the Financial Management of Catastrophic Risks at the OECD; the vice chair of the California Climate Insurance Working Group; and a member of the Roundtable on Risk and Resilience of Extreme Events at the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. She was previously executive director at the Wharton Risk Management and Decision Processes Center at the University of Pennsylvania, where she also directed the Policy Incubator.

Kousky has a Ph.D. in public policy from Harvard University and a B.S. in earth systems from Stanford University.



Claire Kramer Mills

Assistant Vice President and Director of Community Development
Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Claire Kramer Mills is assistant vice president and director of community development at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, leading a team that promotes economic opportunity by equipping community stakeholders with rigorous data analysis and tools to make impactful investments.

She initiated a Federal Reserve effort to gather intelligence on small business conditions, leading to the launch of the Fed's annual Small Business Credit Survey — a partnership of the 12 Federal Reserve Banks. The survey has been widely covered in the *Financial Times*; the *Wall Street Journal*; the *New York Times*; CNN; the *Washington Post*; *Businessweek, Inc.*; and *Marketplace*.

Kramer Mills has been an invited speaker at the White House, U.S. Department of the Treasury, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Small Business Administration, and U.S. Chamber of Commerce. She has a Ph.D. in political science from Duke University and graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in government from Franklin & Marshall College.



Erin Mierzwa

Assistant Vice President, Strategic Outreach and Engagement
Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

Erin Mierzwa is an assistant vice president at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. She and her team play a key role in helping the Bank fulfill its mission to safeguard the financial system and foster a strong regional and overall economy. Mierzwa builds relationships with banking, nonprofit, and community leaders and others in the Third District. She is responsible for setting the strategy for the financial institutions and community development outreach divisions and implementing innovative programs across the District to respond to needs and challenges identified. Mierzwa also oversees the Philadelphia Fed's Community Depository Institutions Advisory Council and Economic and Community Advisory Council. She sees her role as one that brings partners together to find ways to promote economic opportunity and revitalize communities.

Previously, Mierzwa worked for Towers Perrin, a benefits consulting firm, where she specialized in health and welfare benefits for large companies. She helped companies renew their benefits, managed account activities, analyzed healthcare trends, designed and priced healthcare plans, and developed communication strategies.

Mierzwa has a master's degree in economics and a bachelor's degree in English from Lehigh University. She was formerly a licensed life and health insurance broker in the state of New Jersey.



Carolina K. Reid

I. Donald Turner Distinguished Professor in Affordable Housing and Urban Policy
Turner Center for Housing Innovation, University of California, Berkeley

Carolina K. Reid is the I. Donald Turner Distinguished Professor in Affordable Housing and Urban Policy in the Department of City and Regional Planning at the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley). As the faculty research advisor for the Turner Center for Housing Innovation, she leads the design and execution of the Center's research agenda and portfolio. Current projects with the Turner Center include studies on aligning climate and housing policies, advancing equitable decarbonization strategies, increasing the supply of affordable housing, and addressing homelessness through stronger housing-health sector partnerships.

Reid's work seeks to inform state and federal policy, and she has consulted on projects for the California Department of Housing and Community Development, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Center for Community Capital, and Abt Associates, as well as community development nonprofits. Her scholarship has been covered in national and international media, including the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and NPR, as well as local outlets such as the *Mercury News* and *San Francisco Chronicle*. Before joining the faculty at UC Berkeley, Reid worked for a year at the Center for Responsible Lending, where she undertook policy analyses on how provisions in the Dodd-Frank Act could affect future access to credit for lower-income and minority households. Before that, she served as the research manager for the Community Development Department at the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco for six years.

Reid has a Ph.D. and an M.A. from the University of Washington, Seattle, and a B.A. from Stanford University.



Emily Schapira

President and CEO
Philadelphia Energy Authority

Emily Schapira has led the Philadelphia Energy Authority (PEA) as its president and chief executive officer since 2016. PEA is an independent municipal authority building a robust, equitable clean energy economy in Philadelphia. PEA has supported over \$900 million in energy efficiency and clean energy programs and projects so far, creating over 7,600 jobs. PEA's work has been nationally recognized as a model for other states and municipalities, and it covers city infrastructure, the School District of Philadelphia, housing, small businesses, and commercial and industrial properties. Prior to joining PEA, Schapira worked in sustainability and energy efficiency roles in the private sector, with both startups and Fortune 500 companies. She also chairs the board of the Philadelphia Green Capital Corp, Philadelphia's green bank.

Schapira has an M.B.A. from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.



Javier Silva

Senior Associate Director, Community Engagement
Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Javier Silva is senior associate director of community engagement with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. He focuses on analysis and programming related to community and economic development issues by working with community and civic organizations, universities, government officials, business and trade groups, and financial institutions across the New York Fed's District. Silva also helps to organize Regional Visits to the District by the Bank's president.

Silva has worked with communities on various issues and topics, including access to capital, impact investing, the EB-5 visa program, workforce development, the Community Reinvestment Act, affordable housing, foreclosure prevention, corporate social responsibility, and small business surveys. He is also responsible for outreach and implementing community economic development programming in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Prior to joining the Federal Reserve in 2006, Silva was a senior research and policy associate at Demos: A Network for Ideas and Action. Silva also served as a Hunger Fellow, working at La Fondita de Jesús in Santurce, Puerto Rico, during his field placement and at Prosperity Now (formerly CFED) in Washington, D.C., during his policy placement.

Silva has a master's degree in public policy from Georgetown University and a bachelor's degree from Western Connecticut State University.



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