



# DUPONT SUMMIT 2013

..... Pressing Issues, Economic Realities

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The Policy Studies Organization

## **Speaker**

Jason O'Leary - *Arizona State University*

### **"Assessing Equity and Justice in Energy Transition Policy"**

Solar photovoltaic (PV) technology is disruptive on many levels within today's large-scale energy system. The past three decades of energy technology innovation and adoption took place in such incremental ways that social concerns were given only marginal consideration within energy policy. Coal, natural gas, even nuclear, all fell within the standard centralized generation and distribution model. As solar PV installations sprout on neighborhood rooftops en masse, distributed generation becomes an issue that must be addressed. Standard models of supply and demand do not take into consideration the new socio-economic arrangements that are created by the uneven distribution and adoption of solar energy. This case study of the Phoenix metropolitan area serves as a snapshot of solar energy distribution from a socio-technical perspective.

## **Biography**

O'Leary is a third year doctoral student in the Human and Social Dimensions of Science and Technology program and a graduate research associate for the Quantum Energy and Sustainable Solar Technologies Engineering Research Center (QESST ERC) at Arizona State University. His research deals with large-scale energy transitions, especially when characterized as complex, socio-technological systems. Viewing energy as both socially embedded and culturally contextual, he regards policy through a pragmatic lens mounted upon the multi-pronged foundation of foresight and futures thinking. O'Leary served as a science policy intern at the Arizona Corporation Commission in 2011. He earned a B.A. in Communications from Rowan University in 1992 and a Professional Science Masters degree in Science and Technology Policy from Arizona State University in 2011.