

Jimmy Nelson, Ph.D.

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ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS, INC.

Carrboro, NC

Associate Director

Dr. Nelson advises utilities, system operators, and state agencies on the operations, economics, and planning of electricity systems with large amounts of variable renewable energy resources. He supports the California Public Utilities Commission's integrated resource planning process and was E3's technical manager for the development of the CPUC's 2019-20 Reference System Plan. His study *Investigating the Economic Value of Flexible Solar Power Plant Operation* received the Public Utility Fortnightly's Top Innovators Award in 2018. He has more than a decade of experience with capacity expansion modeling and is a technical advisor to many E3 projects.

Prior to joining E3 in 2016, Dr. Nelson was a Kendall Science Fellow at the Union of Concerned Scientists and earned a Ph.D. from the Energy and Resources Group at the University of California, Berkeley. Dr. Nelson began his career in energy working to make solar panels cheaper when cost was one of the main barriers to adoption. More than a decade later, he is helping clients understand how to manage and use frequent surpluses of renewably sourced electricity.

Select E3 projects include:

- **Analytical Integrated Resource Plan Support – Zero Carbon Analysis, NV Energy, 2021.** Led capacity expansion modeling using PLEXOS software to quantify the value of diverse renewable resources in helping NV Energy meet the state of Nevada's goal of 100 percent zero-carbon energy by 2050. Implemented an interdependent solar and storage resource adequacy contribution in expansion modeling.
- **Machine Learning Ramping Requirements, Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E), 2020-2021.** Co-managed a team that used machine learning to determine ramping requirements for the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) system. Led production simulation that quantified savings of new ramping requirements.
- **RESOLVE model product manager and developer, 2016-Present.** Contributes to the development and use of E3's RESOLVE model, an in-house capacity expansion model that adds capacity expansion logic to a simplified production simulation model to produce an optimal investment plan.
- **Integrated Resource Planning Implementation Support, California Public Utilities Commission, 2016-Present.** Contributes to E3's CPUC IRP support work, conducts specialized analysis and engages with CPUC staff and a broad range of stakeholders on the implementation of California's system-wide electricity plan. Using the RESOLVE model, E3 staff model least-cost resource portfolios for the electricity system consistent with the state of California's long-term greenhouse gas reduction goals.
- **Extended Day Ahead Market (EDAM) support, California Independent System Operator and EIM Entities, 2019.** Helped E3 staff calculate and validate reserve and balancing needs for 14 Western Interconnection balancing areas using E3's RESERVE model.

- **Investigating the Economic Value of Flexible Solar Power Plant Operation, First Solar, 2018.** Led a study finding that increasing the operational flexibility of solar plants could decrease dispatch costs, reduce solar curtailment, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The study explored four modes of solar plant operation on Tampa Electric Company's system and received the Public Utility Fortnightly Top Innovators Award.
- **Balancing Area of Northern California (BANC) Energy Imbalance Market (EIM) Benefits Analysis, BANC, 2016.** Technical lead on E3's study of the benefits to BANC members of participating in the Western EIM. The E3 team worked closely BANC members to model the operations of their respective electric systems using PLEXOS production simulation software, providing a clear illustration of the EIM value proposition for each BANC member.

UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS

Oakland, CA

Energy Modeling with Senior Energy Analyst Laura Wisland

2013 – 2015

Project: Operational flexibility at high fractions of variable renewable energy in California

- Production cost modeling using PLEXOS and REFLEX models
- Expert testimony and public comments on energy policy and planning
 - California Public Utilities Commission: Long Term Procurement Plan
 - California Independent System Operator: Frequency Response Stakeholder Process
- Kendall Postdoctoral Fellowship (2013 – 2014)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, Energy Resources Group

Berkeley, CA

Doctoral Research with Professor Daniel Kammen

2009 – 2013

Dissertation Title: "Scenarios for Deep Carbon Emission Reductions from Electricity by 2050 in Western North America Using the SWITCH Electric Power Sector Planning Model"

- Electric power system planning using high spatial and temporal resolution computer modeling
- Renewable energy deployment, integration, economics, and public policy
- Linear programming, database management, and geospatial information systems

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, Department of Chemistry

Berkeley, CA

Master's Research with Professor A. Paul Alivisatos

2006 – 2008

Project: Nanoparticle synthesis, characterization, and computer modeling for solar energy conversion

Education

University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, CA

Ph.D., Energy and Resources

2013

Link Foundation Energy Fellowship

2011 – 2013

University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, CA

M.S., Chemistry

2008

Haverford College

Haverford, PA

B.S. with High Honors, Chemistry

2006

American Chemical Society Philadelphia Chapter Undergraduate Award

2006

Citizenship

United States

Peer-Reviewed Publications in Energy Analysis

1. He, G.; Avrin, A. P.; Nelson, J. H.; Johnston, J.; Mileva, A.; Tian, J.; Kammen, D. M. "SWITCH-China: a systems approach to decarbonizing China's power system." *Environmental Science & Technology*, 50 (11), pp. 5467-5473 (2016).
2. Mileva, A.; Johnston, J.; Nelson, J. H.; Kammen, D. M. "Power system balancing for deep decarbonization of the electricity sector." *Applied Energy*, 162, pp. 1001-1009 (2016).
3. Morrison, G. M.; Yeh, S.; Eggert, A. R.; Yang, C.; Nelson, J. H.; Greenblatt, J. B.; Isaac, R.; Jacobson, M. Z.; Johnston, J.; Kammen, D. M.; Mileva, A.; Moore, J.; Roland-Host, D. Wei, M.; Weyant, J. P.; Williams, J. H.; Williams, R.; Zapata, C. B. "Comparison of low-carbon pathways for California." *Climatic Change*, 131, pp. 545-557 (2015).
4. Sanchez, D.; Nelson, J. H.; Mileva, A.; Johnston, J.; Kammen, D. M. "Biomass Enables the Transition to a Carbon-negative Power System Across Western North America." *Nature Climate Change*, 5, pp. 230-234 (2015).
5. Mileva, A.; Nelson, J. H.; Johnston, J.; Kammen, D. M. "SunShot Solar Power Reduces Costs and Uncertainty in Future Low-Carbon Electricity Systems." *Environmental Science & Technology*, 47 (16), pp. 9053-9060 (2013).
6. Wei, M.; Nelson, J. H.; Greenblatt, J. B.; Mileva, A.; Johnston, J.; Ting, M.; Yang, C.; Jones, C.; McMahon, J. E.; Kammen, D. M. "Deep Carbon Reductions in California Require Electrification and Integration Across Economic Sectors." *Environmental Research Letters*, 8, 014038, (2013).
7. Nelson, J.; Johnston, J.; Mileva, A.; Fripp, M.; Hoffman, I.; Petros-Good, A.; Blanco, C.; Kammen, D. M. "High-Resolution Modeling of the Western North American Power System Demonstrates Low-Cost and Low-Carbon Futures." *Energy Policy*, 43, pp. 436-447 (2012).

Reports and Book Chapters

1. Nelson, J. H.; Kasina, S.; Stevens, J.; Moore, J.; Olson, A.; Morjaria, M.; Smolenski, J.; Aponte, J. "Investigating the Economic Value of Flexible Solar Power Plant Operation." *Energy and Environmental Economics, Inc.* (2018).
2. Nelson, J. H.; Wisland, L. M. "Achieving 50 Percent Renewable Electricity in California." *Union of Concerned Scientists* (2015).

3. Nelson, J. H.; Mileva, A.; Johnston, J.; Kammen, D. M.; Wei, M.; Greenblatt, J. B. "Scenarios for Deep Carbon Emission Reductions by 2050 in Western North America using the SWITCH Electric Power Sector Planning Model." CEC-500-2014-109, California Energy Commission (2014).
4. Wei, M.; Nelson, J. H.; Ting, M.; Yang, C., Kammen, D. M.; Jones, C.; Mileva, A.; Johnston, J.; Bharvirkar, R.; Greenblatt, J. B.; McMahon, J. E. "California's Carbon Challenge: Scenarios for Achieving 80% Emissions Reduction in 2050." Tech. Rep. LBNL-5448E, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (2012).
5. Tidwell, V.; Dale, L.; Franco, G.; Averyt, K.; Wei, M.; Kammen, D.; Nelson, J. H. "Energy Impacts." Chapter 12 in: *Assessment of Climate Change in the Southwest United States. Technical Report, U.S. National Climate Assessment*, [Garfin, G., Jardine, A., Merideth, R., Black M., Overpeck, J. (eds.)]. Tucson, AZ: Southwest Climate Alliance (2012).