

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS, INC.

Director

San Francisco, CA

2009 – present

Mr. Schlag's principal area of expertise is in electric integrated resource planning, with an emphasis on renewable integration and system flexibility needs; in addition, Mr. Schlag has extensive experience in distributed resource cost effectiveness, market analysis, and gas-electric coordination. Currently, he is working with the California Public Utilities Commission to implement a framework for integrated resource planning in the state of California, as well as with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to develop a plan to achieve a goal of 100% clean energy. Mr. Schlag has been the lead author on several high-profile planning studies of electric infrastructure in the Western Interconnection, including the *Western Interconnection Flexibility Assessment* and *Natural Gas Infrastructure Adequacy in the Western Interconnection: An Electric System Perspective*. Mr. Schlag's prior clients include the Balancing Authority of Northern California, Bonneville Power Administration, the California Public Utilities Commission, the California Independent System Operator, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, Portland General Electric, Seattle City Light, the Western Electricity Coordinating Council, and the Western Interstate Energy Board. Select projects include:

- **LADWP 100% Clean Energy Study, LADWP, 2017.** Working directly with LADWP staff, Mr. Schlag designed a work plan for LADWP's 100% Clean Energy Study to be executed over the next two to three years. This effort included scoping of a public outreach program, development of potential research partnerships, and preliminary data gathering and validation.
- **Integrated Resource Planning Implementation Support, CPUC, 2016-2017.** Mr. Schlag has worked closely with the CPUC in its rollout of an initial framework and process for integrated resource planning. Working closely with CPUC staff, Mr. Schlag helped design the analytical framework currently in use in the 2017 IRP and also managed an E3 team working to develop a "Preferred System Plan"—an optimal resource portfolio consistent with the state of California's long-term greenhouse gas reduction goals—using RESOLVE, E3's in-house capacity expansion model designed for use on high-penetration renewable systems.
- **RPS Program Evaluation Support, CPUC, 2012-2017.** Mr. Schlag managed an E3 team including four subcontractors to provide multiple services to the CPUC over a five-year period. Foremost among these was the redesign, development, and maintenance of an updated RPS Calculator—tailored specifically to highlight renewable integration challenges at high penetrations—which was used as a key source of inputs in both the CAISO's Transmission Planning Process (TPP) and the CPUC's Long-Term Procurement Proceeding (LTPP). Additional support tasks included development and maintenance of a database of the renewable contracts of the three investor-owned utilities and an assessment of renewable cost, potential, and performance in California and throughout the Western U.S.
- **BANC EIM Benefits Analysis, BANC, 2016.** Mr. Schlag led E3's study of the benefits to BANC members of participating in the Western EIM. The E3 team worked closely with representatives from all BANC members to model the operations of their respective electric systems accurately

using PLEXOS production simulation software, providing a clear illustration of the EIM value proposition for each BANC member.

- **SCL EIM Benefits Analysis, Seattle City Light, 2016.** Mr. Schlag led the assessment of Seattle City Light's prospective benefits of participation in the Western EIM. E3's analysis for SCL was designed specifically to highlight the value of Seattle's flexible hydroelectric generation fleet in the EIM's 15- and 5-minute markets, using dispatch optimization software and historical market prices to quantify the value of arbitrage opportunities.
- **CAISO SB350 Regionalization Study, CAISO, 2015-2016.** Mr. Schlag contributed to E3's work as part of a consulting team studying the benefits of expanding the CAISO to a broader regional entity in accordance with California's Senate Bill 350. Using RESOLVE, Nick helped to design the alternative portfolios used as the basis for identifying the potential infrastructure impacts (and associated fixed cost savings) of ISO expansion.
- **Western Interconnection Flexibility Assessment, WECC & WIEB, 2014-2016.** Working in partnership with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, an E3 team managed by Mr. Schlag completed a thorough examination of the flexibility of the generation fleet of the Western Interconnection and its ability to integrate high penetrations of renewable generation. The study identified both operational challenges as well as institutional and physical solutions to facilitate renewable integration across the region.
- **Western Gas-Electric Study, WIEB, 2013-2014.** Mr. Schlag managed a two-phase study of gas-electric coordination in the Western Interconnection to investigate whether the natural gas infrastructure in the West would be sufficient to meet future needs of the electric sector, considering both the anticipated retirements of a sizeable portion of the Western coal fleet as well as the increasing penetrations of intermittent renewable resources.
- **Investigating a Higher Renewables Portfolio Standard for California, PG&E, SCE, SDG&E, LADWP & SMUD, 2013.** As part of the E3 team, Mr. Schlag helped to design and analyze a range of renewable portfolios to meet a 50% Renewables Portfolio Standard, using production simulation to evaluate integration challenges and calculating the corresponding rate impacts for California ratepayers.
- **PGE Low Carbon Portfolio Development, Portland General Electric, 2012.** Mr. Schlag worked with PGE staff and a group of environmental stakeholders to create a low carbon portfolio for analysis in PGE's 2012 Integrated Resource Plan. The portfolio was designed to include higher penetrations of renewable generation and accelerated achievement of efficiency goals.
- **Cost and Performance Review of Generation Technologies, WECC, 2012.** Mr. Schlag led E3's literature review of the cost and performance of new electric generation technologies, which culminated in a report to WECC staff with recommended assumptions for use in its 10- and 20-year study processes.

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Teaching Assistant

Palo Alto, CA

2008-2009

Assisted students with coursework in engineering classes related to energy efficiency, electric power, and meteorology; facilitated students' experiments in the Renewable Energy Laboratory

ROCKY MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE

MAP Sustainable Energy Fellow

Boulder, CO

Summer 2008

Awarded three-month MAP Sustainable Energy Fellowship sponsored by MAP Royalty, Inc. to conduct research on the energy efficiency potential in residential, commercial, and industrial sectors of the United States as part of RMI's Next Generation Utilities project

STOCKHOLM ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE

Donald Kennedy Environmental Fellow

Stockholm, Sweden

Summer 2007

Awarded Donald Kennedy Environmental Fellowship through Stanford in Government to study benefits of clean cooking fuels in Sub-Saharan Africa, research that culminated with a working paper on the market barriers to clean cooking fuel adoption

Education

Stanford University

M.S., Atmosphere and Energy (Civil & Environmental Engineering)

Palo Alto, CA

2009

Stanford University

B.A., Earth Systems (Energy Science and Technology)

Palo Alto, CA

2008

Citizenship

United States

Refereed Publications

1. Olson, A., C.K. Woo, N. Schlag and A. Ong (2016) "What Happens in California Does Not Always Stay in California: The Effect of California's Cap-and-Trade Program on Wholesale Electricity Prices in the Western Interconnection," *The Electricity Journal*, 29(7), 18-22.
2. A. Olson, E. Hart, J. Hargreaves, R. Jones, N. Schlag, G. Kwok, N. Ryan, R. Orans, R. Frowd, "*Halfway There: Can California Achieve a 50% Renewable Grid?*", *IEEE Power and Energy Magazine*, 13(4), 41-52.
3. Woo, C.K., H. Liu, F. Kahrl, N. Schlag, J. Moore, and A. Olson (2012) "Assessing the economic value of transmission in Alberta's restructured electricity market," *Electricity Journal*, 25(3): 68-80.