

The background of the entire image is a stylized circuit board pattern. It features a complex network of light blue and white lines representing traces and pads, set against a gradient background that transitions from a pale yellow at the top to a teal at the bottom. The lines are most prominent in the upper half and become more sparse and faint towards the bottom.

Energy Democracy: Creating A Research Agenda

A two-day symposium | July 12-13, 2017
University of Utah in Salt Lake City

Guiding Questions

- What is energy democracy?
- How can we build an engaged research program to better understand the broad range actors, democratic values, democratic functions, and governance sites that are involved in the practice of energy democracy?

Symposium Goals

- Collaboration between interdisciplinary scholars in communication, STS, and energy studies
- Create a white paper on research directions for energy democracy
- Foster connections between academics, practitioners, and publics

Today's Agenda

9:45- 10:45- Session #1: Framing & Situating Energy Democracy

10:45-11:30- Session #2: “What are the biggest energy challenges moving forward?”

11:30-12:30- Session #3: What is Energy Democracy?

12:30-1:30- Lunch Break (Box lunches provided)

1:30-2:30- Session #4: What is Energy Democracy?

2:30-4:00- Session #5: Facilitated Discussion

7:00- 8:00- Keynote Presentation: “Public Participation in Energy: Nuclear Power as a Case Study,” Allison Macfarlane, George Washington University (Officer's Club, University of Utah)

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THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Justice, Participation, and Power: A Starting Point for Energy Democracy

Danielle Endres, University of Utah

Andrea Feldpausch-Parker, SUNY-ESF

Tarla Rai Peterson, UT El Paso

Leah Sprain, CU Boulder

Composition

“things have to be put together
(Latin-*componere*) while
retaining their heterogeneity”



Democracy

- According to the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*, democracy is: “a method of group decision making characterized by a kind of equality among the participants at an essential stage of the collective decision making”



Energy

Power that may be used to operate the infrastructures of the human-built environment. Humans derive that power from resources such as fossil fuels, solar, wind, hydroelectric, nuclear, biofuels, and geothermal sources that are extracted and harnessed, prepared, and distributed in a cycle of energy production and consumption.



Energy Democracy

Energy democracy refers to an emergent social movement that re-imagines energy consumers as *prosumers*, or innovators, designers, and analysts who are involved in decisions at every stage of this sector, from production through consumption.

“Energy democracy is not a future utopia to be won but, rather, is itself an ongoing struggle or, perhaps more precisely, an ongoing series of multiple struggles over who owns and controls energy and how, where and for whom energy is produced and consumed.”

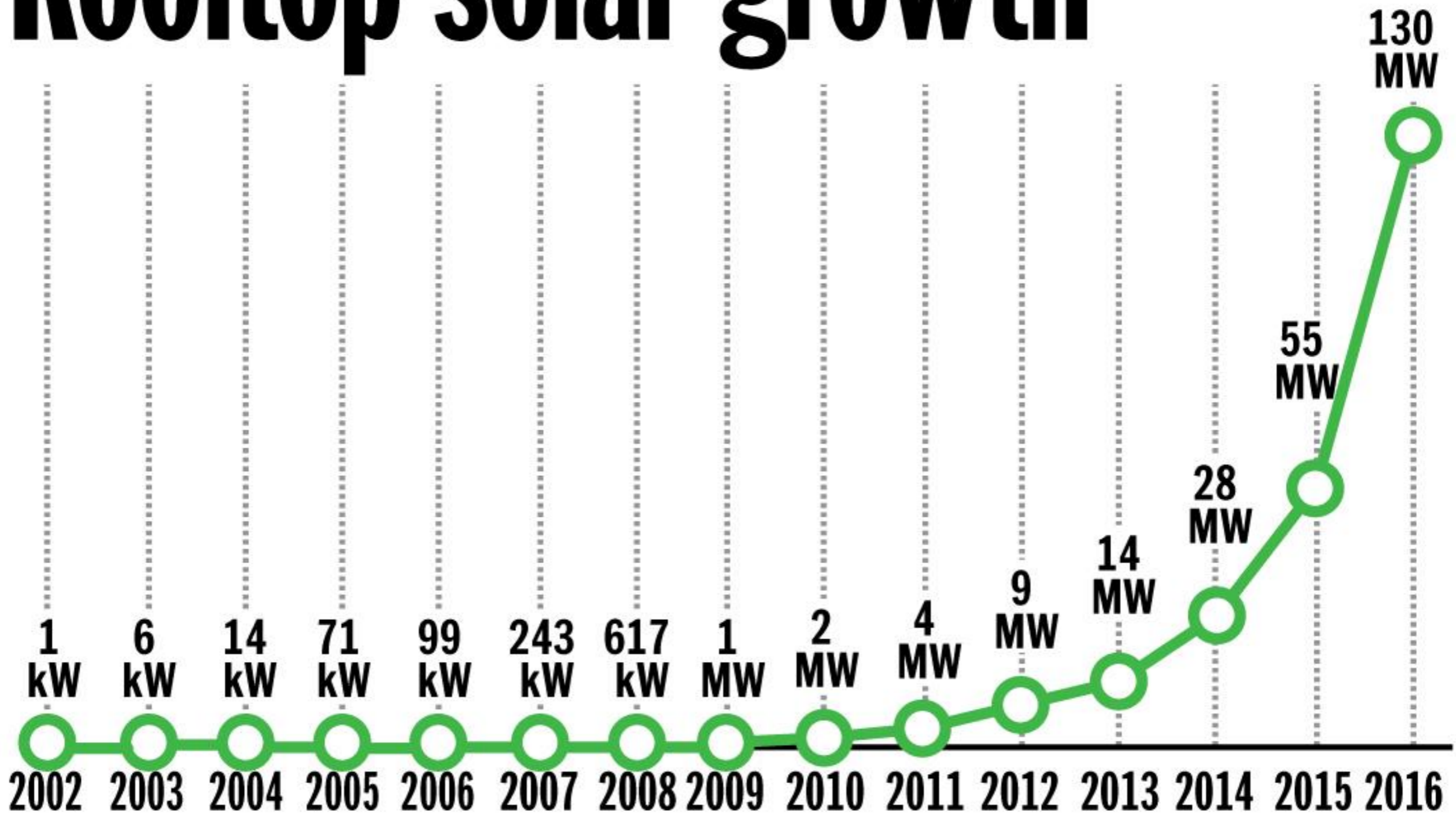
“The quest for energy democracy entails three broad and strategic objectives: (1) resisting the agenda of large energy corporations, (2) reclaiming to the public sphere parts of the energy economy that have been privatized or marketized, and (3) restructuring the global energy system in order to massively scale up renewable and low-carbon energy, aggressively implement energy conservation, ensure job creation and local wealth creation, and assert greater community and democratic control over the energy sector.”

Rooftop Solar





Rooftop solar growth



SOURCE: Utah Clean Energy, Salt Lake City

DESERET NEWS GRAPHIC





An Initial Framework

