

Decolonizing Renewable Energy Development

with B. 'Toastie' Oaster and Jennifer Sahn

When: Wednesday, February 19 from 5:30-7:00 pm

Where: Native American Forum (BSS 162) at Cal Poly Humboldt



Schatz Energy
Research Center

Renewable energy development is necessary to decarbonize the electrical grid and move communities away from reliance on burning fossil fuels, and yet sometimes decarbonization efforts conflict with the also pressing work of decolonization. Advocates view renewable energy projects as necessary, even if building them requires sacrifices. But those sacrifices tend to fall on Indigenous people, who have already suffered genocide, loss of land, boarding schools, and other tragic consequences of colonization. To be truly just, climate solutions need to be developed outside of colonial structures, rather than replicate them.

This talk will touch on ways that Tribal communities are pushing back against renewable energy projects that threaten ecological and cultural resources, what alternative approaches to renewable energy development might look like, and how one Indigenous affairs reporter has brought these issues to light and made an impact through their work.



B. 'Toastie' Oaster (left) is an award-winning Indigenous affairs journalist in North America's Pacific Northwest, a National Magazine Award finalist for feature writing, and an IJA & TJA member.

Jennifer Sahn (right) is the editor in chief of High Country News. She is an award-winning editor with a passion for quirky, illuminating, and inspiring stories—particularly those that have the power to help make the world a better place.



Attention students:

Do you want to learn more about environmental reporting and professional development? Join us on Thursday, February 20, from noon to 1 pm in the Library Fishbowl (2nd floor), for a student-oriented professional development workshop and pizza lunch with Oaster and Sahn. Questions? Email Professor Marlow at jjm182@humboldt.edu

Many thanks to our campus partners for sponsoring this event and supporting conversations around energy, equity, community, and sustainability! Collaborators for this event include faculty and staff in the departments of Environmental Science & Management (ESM), the ESM Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion Committee, Journalism & Mass Communication, Native American Studies, Environmental Studies, English, Engineering, and the Campus Library and Sustainability Office.

We also offer deep thanks to Native faculty, staff, and students at Cal Poly Humboldt for sharing their Forum with us for this special event.

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