CELT Clean Energy & Environment Legacy Transition

# Office of Energy Transformation Fellowship

## *Year One Impact*

The Office of Energy Transformation (OET) Fellowship is sponsored by the Clean Energy and Environment Legacy Transition (CELT) Initiative, a project of the **Rist Institute for Sustainability and Energy at University of Massachusetts, Lowell** and the **Institute for Global Sustainability at Boston University.**

The Fellowship supports the state's energy transition while training the next generation of sustainability leaders. The 12-month program places Massachusetts undergraduate and graduate students within OET, an organization within the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) dedicated to driving the state's clean energy transition. Fellows from the 2025 cohort supported OET's focus area working groups by producing research, tools, and other contributions that directly informed state planning and expanded OET outreach to stakeholders.



*Photo credit: Office of Energy Transformation*

# Key Contributions

### Supported the Special Commission on the Fossil Fuel Workforce

> Fellows helped to shape recommendations for transitioning the fossil fuel workforce into clean energy jobs by coordinating citations and integrating input from multiple authors for the commission report.

### Developed framework for assessing facility decarbonization

> Fellows helped develop a comprehensive spreadsheet for the Decarbonizing the Peak working group to assess decarbonization options at peaker plant facilities in Massachusetts.

### Conducted policy research for energy affordability act

> Fellows conducted research on "certified sites" policies in other states, informing discussion for a similar offering in Massachusetts, as referenced in the Governor's energy affordability legislation.

### Identified key stakeholders for engagement

> Fellows compiled a database of over 10,000 stakeholders in coordination with OET and the 13 offices within EEA. The database was immediately used by Governor Healey's team.

### Strengthened public engagement capacity

> Fellows organized community meetings to ensure that the community is aware of the plans and actions the OET is undertaking, and to give the community a chance to voice their perspectives and ideas.

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## *Year One Fellows*



## Catherine (Cat) Keane | Boston University

**Decarbonizing the Peak & Transitioning Away from Everett Marine Terminal**

Cat synthesized utility company Climate Compliance Plans, and supported work on peaker plant case studies, which laid the groundwork for future recommendations to decarbonize these facilities. She also created an online resource for OET and its stakeholders to centrally access meeting documents.

**"My work supporting the Decarbonizing the Peak working group laid the foundation for equitable and effective outcomes."**



## Colin Ormond | University of Massachusetts, Lowell

**Transitioning Away from Everett Marine Terminal & Enabling Sustainable Economic Development**

Colin researched how other states have implemented certified sites programs and developed recommendations for incorporating clean energy goals into these policies in Massachusetts. He also gathered vendor data on the cost of geothermal drill rigs to better understand barriers to access in thermal energy.

**"My fellowship experience was nothing short of transformative. I learned more about energy policy in this role than I could throughout all of my college courses."**



## Salma Ngokila | University of Massachusetts, Lowell

**Decarbonizing the Peak & Special Commission of the Fossil Fuel Workforce**

Salma edited multiple sections of the Special Commission on the Fossil Fuel Workforce report and created a policy framework spreadsheet for evaluating decarbonization options at peaker plant facilities. She also supported stakeholder outreach, which helped bridge community perspectives with state decision-making.

**"Everything I hoped going into this program I was able to receive. I was part of a team contributing to big projects and helping out where needed. "**



## Samantha (Sam) Jackson | Northeastern University

**Community Outreach & Special Commission of the Fossil Fuel Workforce**

Sam led the creation of the centralized stakeholder database, which is now a permanent resource across EEA offices and has already supported engagement efforts. She also coordinated community meetings and standardized the Special Commission of the Fossil Fuel Workforce report text and citations.

**"My most important policy contribution was the stakeholder database, as it will be used by all of EEA for years going forward."**



## Soon Kyu Kwon | University of Massachusetts, Boston

**Enabling Sustainable Economic Development & Financing the Transition**

Soon contributed to the Governor's discussion of creating certified sites in Massachusetts. He helped to set the framework for certified sites by comparing policies in other states to the limitations and clean energy goals of the state.

**"My overall experience with the OET fellowship was unexpected. I felt I was influential in the transition to clean energy in the state of Massachusetts."**