



**EMBARGOED UNTIL Sept. 3, 2020 at 9 p.m.**

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### **Reimagine Jobs Showcase Launches with Program Highlighting Sustainable Jobs in Southwestern Pennsylvania**

**Sept. 3, 2020. Beaver, PA** – The region’s transition toward a sustainable and healthy economy that works for all people in Southwest Pennsylvania is the focus of a new initiative that will be launched Thursday evening by Re-Imagine Beaver County.

The [Reimagine Jobs Showcase](#) highlights the hundreds of sustainable jobs available in the region right now, thanks to the work underway to move the region toward employment and careers that support workers and families, communities and the environment. The website highlights sustainable economic development opportunities and available positions in SWPA while laying the groundwork for future areas of economic growth.

**Join the launch on Sept. 3, 2020 at 7 p.m. on the [ReImagine Beaver County’s Facebook page](#) or [reimaginejobs.org](http://reimaginejobs.org)**

“The residents of Beaver County share a love of family, want access to education and healthcare and are concerned with justice issues,” says Joanne Martin, co-founder of Re-Imagine Beaver County. “All of this can be possible in a region where jobs with good wages in stable industries are made available. Re-Imagine Beaver County is calling leadership forth to pursue a socially, economically and environmentally conscious vision to do right by Beaver Countians.”

For job seekers, educators, investors and community members, it provides information on and opportunities in nine green economy sectors:

- Renewable Energy
- Sustainable Construction
- Conservation
- Recreation and Tourism
- Grid and Broadband

- Regenerative Agriculture
- Sustainable Construction
- Green Chemistry and Manufacturing
- Workforce Development

The first hour of the live event will be hosted by Dr. Patricia DeMarco and will feature a keynote speech by Sharon Pillar of E2 and the PA Solar Center. It will conclude with a panel discussion by Lalit Chordia of Thar Process, Sean O'Leary of the Ohio River Valley Institute, and Carl Jackson of P14.

During the second hour, participants will have the opportunity to explore the website and join zoom rooms with sector experts to learn more about opportunities in each sector.

The wealth of jobs in these sectors is exemplified by these growing sectors. Clean energy creates jobs and grid modernization continues to grow, adding thousands of jobs each year. Solar alone employs twice as many workers as the coal industry. The demand for green buildings and construction continues to swell. In time, the number of jobs on the website is expected to grow as available work in these sectors grows.

"This is our opportunity to get things right in creating an economy that works for everybody," said Sharon Pillar, executive director of the PA Solar Center and a consultant for E2. "We are at a time in history, a nexus, of several crises including one of racial and socio-economic inequalities that has become a larger part of our collective conscience. The Reimagine Showcase will help us think a little differently about our future and create a window that we've never looked through before."

## **Bios**

**Dr. Patricia DeMarco**, a native of Pittsburgh, has spent her 30-year career in energy and environmental policy in both private and public sector positions. She is a Rachel Carson Scholar and served as executive director of the Rachel Carson Homestead Association and director of the Rachel Carson Institute at Chatham University, where she holds an appointment as senior scholar. She also is vice president of the Forest Hills Borough Council.

**Sharon Pillar** is the founder and executive director of the [Pennsylvania Solar Center](#), a nonprofit project of New Sun Rising that launched in 2019. The Center ushers tax-exempt organizations and businesses through the solar procurement process, helping them find solar developers and financing and offers online resources and educates decision makers on the need for robust solar policies. Sharon also owns the Hot Earth Collaborative LLC, a consultancy that she started in 2013 to advance clean energy markets that transform our communities, economy and environment. Since 2016 she has also consulted for [Environmental Entrepreneurs](#) (E2) as their Pennsylvania Advocate working with businesses across the state to advocate for clean energy.

**Dr. Lalit Chordia** - For over 30 years Dr. Lalit Chordia has pioneered research and development, manufacturing and commercialization of supercritical fluid technology, an environmentally friendly,

materials processing technology. Dr. Chordia's work extends across multiple industries to applications in food, pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, chemicals and energy. Some examples of his involvement in supercritical fluid process and equipment technologies over the years are natural pharmaceutical, algae and spice extraction, drug purification and design, coatings, electronics cleaning, cooling and advanced biofuels.

**Carl J. Jackson** is co-founder of Prospect 14 (P14), a renewable energy development company with a focus on solar. Since entering the solar industry in 2010, Carl has originated, developed, contracted and financed 2.2GW of projects in 10 states. P14 has an active 3 gigawatt development pipeline with 2 gigawatts in Pennsylvania. Prior to P14, Carl led project origination and business development for Cypress Creek Renewables, where he developed and financed solar energy projects.

**Sean O'Leary**, senior researcher, energy and petrochemicals of the Ohio River Valley Institute, is a native of Wheeling, WV. He has written about coal, natural gas, and their role in the economies of Appalachia in a book, a newspaper column, and blog titled, "The State of My State". Previously, Sean served as communications director at the NW Energy Coalition in Seattle, Washington.

***[Re-Imagine Beaver County](#)** is a group of local residents who are working together to reimagine a future for Beaver County that makes wise long-term economic, cultural and social development choices for a vibrant and healthy community.*