

# Dentons Smart Cities & Connected Communities Think Tank

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## “Hydrogen Now Has Traction!”

December 13, 2022

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. EST



Moderator: **Clint Vince**, Chair of the US Energy practice, Co-chair of the Global Energy sector for the US Region, and Co-chair of the Global Smart Cities & Connected Communities Think Tank at Dentons.



**Rob Wilhite**  
Strategic Advisory Lead, Senior  
Vice President at Black & Veatch

Panelist

Rob Wilhite is a Senior Vice President and leader of the Strategic Advisory business line at Black & Veatch. He and his team provide advisory services on the topics of zero-emission transportation, distribution grid planning, decarbonization, strategic planning, clean fuels strategies, transaction services, and rates and regulatory services. Rob is an energy industry leader with 37 years' experience in energy business strategy and utility operations, and has held P&L responsibility for managing, and profitably growing, global energy advisory practices for the past three decades. He serves the industry as a board director and executive committee member for GridWise Alliance, serves as chairman for the City of Belmont's Environmental Sustainability Board, and as co-chair of the technology & innovation pillar for Dentons' Smart Cities & Community Think Tank. Rob was recognized as one of the top 25 consultants in the US by Consulting Magazine in 2009.



**Alex Kizer**  
Executive Vice President at  
Energy Futures Initiative (EFI)

Panelist

Alex Kizer is Executive Vice President at EFI and Officer of the Board of Energy Futures Initiative Foundation. He develops and manages projects on cross-cutting issues related to technology, policy, and innovation in energy sectors at home and abroad. An expert in developing and managing major analytical initiatives, Kizer supports funders and sponsoring organizations with advice on navigating the interaction between technology disruptions and legacy markets and systems.

At EFI, Kizer (pronounced KI-zer) oversees all qualitative and quantitative analysis for EFI reports, including Optionality, Flexibility & Innovation: Pathways for Deep Decarbonization in California; Advancing the Landscape of Clean Energy Innovation, for Bill Gates' Breakthrough Energy; Investing in Natural Gas for Africans, a project sponsored by the Africa50 infrastructure fund; and white papers on blockchain technology applications for energy, an examination of the US nuclear enterprise and the role it plays in national security, studies on large-scale carbon management, and a variety of budgetary analyses.

Kizer brings over 15 years of experience advising clients at institutions, such as Sandia National Laboratories, the National Infrastructure Simulation and Analysis Center, the

US Department of Energy, the US Department of Defense, as well as energy companies that operate in the Middle East and Europe.

At EFI, he designs and manages projects that focus on investment strategies for accelerating clean energy innovation, oversees cost-benefit analyses of electric sector cyber security, develops methods for valuing US energy security, and examines techniques for evaluating the emission savings from the at-scale deployment of all clean technologies.



**Linda J. Willard**  
Counsel, Energy Practice at  
Dentons

Panelist

Linda is a member of the Energy practice where she concentrates on energy, environmental and transportation policy. Resident in the Washington, DC, office, Linda represents clients before Congress, the executive branch and other government entities. Her experience as a government affairs lawyer and public policy advisor spans the public and private sectors. She has served as a counsel to the US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works; a lawyer in the Energy and Environment practice of a global law firm based in Washington; and counsel and senior policy advisor in a DC-based lobbying firm.

As counsel to the US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Linda focused primarily on infrastructure policy in the areas of surface transportation and water resources. Linda also served as the lead staff member for nuclear safety, Tennessee Valley Authority, Clean Water Act/Section 404, oil pollution, federal emergency management, surface transportation and water resources development. She drafted and helped build a bipartisan coalition of 40 senators in support of, the Estuary Restoration Act. She also drafted legislative language, committee reports and hearing materials relating to the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century and two subsequent Water Resources Development Acts.

In addition to working for the US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Linda served as a legal clerk for Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, researching and drafting amendments to legislation before the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee and conducted legal research for budget and tax issues in pending legislation before the Senate.

Linda's private sector experience includes representing electric cooperatives, municipal systems and investor-owned utilities before the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy and other relevant state and federal agencies; monitoring and analyzing federal legislative and regulatory developments for a wide variety of energy clients; and advocating on behalf of customers of federal power marketing administrations before Congress. She has also lobbied members of Congress and the executive branch on behalf of a global vaccine initiative and a national organization dedicated to urban and rural renewal; and helped a health care company develop a strategic plan to market its products to hospitals and other providers.



**Dr. Gabriele Haas**  
Partner (Energy Law,  
Compliance and Regulation),  
leader of Dentons' global  
hydrogen initiative at Dentons  
Panelist

Dr. Gabriele Haas is a partner in Dentons' Frankfurt office and a member of the Corporate / M&A practice group. Gabriele leverages her extensive in-house experience as an executive in the energy sector, advising on energy law, regulatory law and compliance.

Within her energy and regulatory practice, her main area of focus is energy transition issues, such as decarbonization, sector coupling, energy storage and advising on the regulation of hydrogen, green gas, clean and low emission fuels, e-mobility, emissions reduction and emissions trading as well as the wholesale energy market and its regulation.

In addition to her energy and regulatory practice, she advises clients on current compliance and ESG issues, such as the EU Taxonomy Regulation, the Supply Chain Duty of Care Act and the implementation of preventive measures for sustainable corporate governance, among others. She also advises on the development of customized compliance management systems, organizational structures and procedures, as well as on the risks of fines and civil liability. She further advises on the prevention of market manipulation and insider trading, bribery and corruption, money laundering and terrorist financing as well as violations of human rights.