**Biographies of Speakers**

**Dr. Edward Glab**

**Director, Global Energy Security Forum, FIU**

Dr. Glab has a background in international business, education, media, and government service, including USAID and the Peace Corps. He was with Exxon-Mobil for more than 25 years and held a variety of positions in public affairs, including political risk; government and community relations; new business development; media relations; corporate and marketing advertising, and emergency response, among others. Glab has a Ph.D. in political science and is currently a Clinical Professor and Director of the Global Energy Security Forum in the School of International and Public Affairs at FIU. He has consulted for numerous governmental agencies, international organizations and the private sector on energy, political risk and emergency response. As a former journalist, he also conducts media training seminars. He is a Latin Americanist who has traveled in every country of Latin America and lived in Peru, Chile, Argentina, Puerto Rico and Mexico. He has conducted business in 80 countries, in Latin America, Asia/Pacific, Africa and Europe. Glab also continues to talk about the energy business to a variety of audiences in the U.S. and overseas; he often is quoted in the media. Glab speaks fluent Spanish and often appears on Spanish language television and radio.

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**Christine Heshmati**

**Coordinator, Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition**

As a Senior Policy Analyst for the South Florida Regional Planning Council, Christine Heshmati is the Coordinator for the Southeast Florida Clean Cities Coalition. Through the support of the Council, the Coalition serves Monroe, Miami-Dade, Broward, and Palm Beach Counties which include over 100 cities and approximately 1/3 of the state population.

Chris’s experience includes senior management in transportation planning with the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) and several years with the Florida Department of Transportation District Four. In that position, she coordinated with five MPOs in the Southeast Florida region and oversaw the project justification process for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program, reviewing justifications prior to submittal for federal eligibility determinations. Chris has also served as a member of the Broward County Clean Air Task Force and Sustainability Stewards of Broward.

In addition to managing the Coalition, current responsibilities with the Regional Planning Council include overseeing an electric vehicle planning grant, coordinating with MPOs and municipalities in Southeast Florida, and participating in the local government plan review process. Chris Heshmati’s goals are centered on networking with other professionals in the fields of transportation and air quality in order to promote sustainable communities and healthy lifestyles

**Topic Summary:**

***Expanding Clean Transportation: Drive Electric Florida*** will review the “Florida Gold Coast Sustainable Community Planning for Electric Vehicle Charging and Infrastructure Project.” The project supports the goal of putting one million electric drive vehicles on the road in the US by 2015, the proposed planning effort aims to prepare the Region’s communities for successful and accelerated deployment of plug-in electric drive vehicles (EVs) and infrastructure. The project will develop plans aimed to address technical, commercial, market and regulatory barriers to a supportive EV infrastructure and vehicle adoption.

**Jeremy L. Susac**

**Principal, Real Energy Strategies Group**

Jeremy Lawton Susac currently serves as the President of the Real Energy Strategies Group.  He is an executive with broad expertise in economic and environmental regulation of energy, and hands-on experience with economic development, project management, and commercial litigation. Mr. Susac also has a strong understanding of regulated markets, and all aspects of government having served in all three branches of government: including but not limited to, the legislative process, administrative proceedings, judicial court system, and executive branch functions.

Mr. Susac also serves on various boards of non-profits that focus on economic development and clean energy. He is intimately familiar with the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, the Clean Air Act and portions of PURPA that are relevant to “avoided cost.” Most notably, Mr. Susac works with smart grid technologies, and served as special counsel to grassroots organizations, and is designated as an ‘energy expert’ with the Florida media.

Immediately prior, Mr. Susac served in the Executive Office of the Governor as the head of Florida’s energy office where he was responsible for developing and coordinating energy policy for Florida. In this same capacity, Mr. Susac was responsible for surveying petroleum allocation throughout the state of Florida during emergency operations, advising the Governor on all utility restoration during extreme outages, and drafted the Executive Branch’s comments for submission in the most recent Florida Energy Efficiency Conservation Act proceeding at the PSC.

Immediately prior, Mr. Susac ran the energy office at the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, where he managed the agency’s siting office, and was responsible for siting critical energy infrastructure such as large transmission lines and generating power plants. Lastly, Mr. Susac managed Florida’s energy office renewable tax incentive program that resulted in numerous infrastructure investments for renewable energy projects including the nation’s first public transportation authority biodiesel blending facility.

Lastly, Mr. Susac served as Chief Advisor to a Commissioner at the Florida Public Service Commission.  In that capacity, he provided the Commissioner with legal and public policy guidance on all matters that come before the Commission.  At the national level, Mr. Susac also served on the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioner’s Electric, Nuclear, and Consumer Affairs staff subcommittees.  As a technical advisor to these committees, he worked with regulators from across the nation on issues related to energy, alternative fuels, and conservation initiatives. Mr. Susac also served as a Senior Attorney in the Competitive Markets & Enforcement Division of the Florida PSC.  Before that, Susac engaged in private law practice as outside counsel for a Fortune 500 company in New York City, and served as a summer clerk for a New York Supreme Court Judge.

Susac received a Bachelor’s of Art degree in Political Science from the University of Florida and his Juris Doctor from New York Law School.

He is a member of both the Florida and New York Bar.

**Topic Summary:**

***Policy to Support Innovation: How Smart Grid, Energy Efficiency and Innovation meet Florida's Policy Goals*** will provide the audience with an overview of smart grid initiatives, smart grid technologies and the need to for workforce training in the advanced power sector to enable the benefits of smart grid to the household consumer and business consumer in South Florida. Smart grid technology is a two-way communication platform built into today’s electric grid that will enhance reliability, grid efficiency, and enable consumers to make smarter choices.

**Blanca Perez**

**Manager, Smart Grid Solutions and Meter Operations, Florida Power & Light Company**

Blanca R. Perez is the Change Management manager of Customer Service Smart Grid Solutions and Meter Operations at Florida Power and Light. In her current role, Mrs. Perez is responsible for driving the Smart Grid/Meter program change management strategy. This position is responsible for policy-setting and coordination of program level change management activities in the areas of communications, training, stakeholder management, change readiness and impacts.

Mrs. Perez received a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Florida She is also a certified Six Sigma Black Belt and a Certified Energy Manager (CEM). She has also participated in FPL’s External Business Leadership Program. She has more than 25 years of experience in the electric utility industry and has held various leadership and analytical positions in the areas collections and fraud, decision support, customer service safety, customer care, commercial/industrial account management, distribution support, service planning, regulatory affairs and nuclear engineering.

She is married and has two sons.

**Topic Summary:**

FPL’s ***Energy Smart Florida*** project is part of the company’s ongoing commitment to build a smarter, more reliable and more efficient electrical infrastructure for its customers. Smart meters are an essential smart grid component that are bringing important benefits to customers. In addition to an update on the smart meter deployment, FPL will address customer communications, the benefits of smart meters, and dispel common myths with facts.