

New England - Germany Energy Transition Forum

The GACC NY was a major organizer of the New England-Germany Energy Transition Forum this week at [Harvard Law School](#), courtesy of the [Environmental and Energy Law Program](#).

Hosted by the [Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs \(EEA\)](#) in partnership with the [German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy \(BMWi\)](#), the forum was an opportunity for officials from government, industry and academia to discuss shared energy challenges, pursue urgent action on climate change mitigation, integrate lessons learned in Germany and New England and incorporate best practices.

Industry leaders from both countries discussed recent developments and challenges in energy transition, including the rapid increase of renewables, power sector decarbonisation, heating sector innovation, clean transportation and offshore wind.

Kathleen Theoharides, Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Massachusetts and Nicole Menzenbach, Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Boston (both pictured above) delivered opening remarks.

Thorsten Herdan, Director General at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (pictured at podium) and Ari Peskoe, Director Electricity Law Initiative at Harvard Law School gave introductory keynotes.

The forum featured not only renowned energy experts, but also high-ranking governmental decision makers. David Littell, Principal, Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP), former Maine DPU commissioner, moderated a roundtable featuring energy/environmental protection experts from both Germany and New England:

- Kate Dykes, Commissioner, Dept of Energy and Environmental Protection, Connecticut
- Thorsten Herden, Director General, German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy
- Judith Judson, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Energy Resource
- June Tierny, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Public Service.

GACC NY CEO & President Dietmar Rieg is pictured above moderating a discussion on offshore wind deployment with panelists:

- James Bennet, Chief of the Office of Renewable Energy Programs, Bureau of Ocean Energy
- Holger Grubel, Head of Offshore Wind Portfolio, EnBW
- Lars Thaaning Pedersen, CEO of Vineyard Wind
- Frank Wester, Senior Manage Asset Management Offshore, Tennet

All participating organizations considered the forum to be a huge success, and that it established a firm basis for future cooperation between New England and Germany on energy policies.