



## For Immediate Release

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## Clean Energy Nonprofit Announces Six New Board Appointees

Solar One is New York's go-to sustainability education group for city businesses and residents.

**NEW YORK, December 8, 2023** – Solar One, a New York City-based green energy nonprofit - that promotes environmental K-12 education, clean energy workforce development, and solar and other renewable energy access for urban households -announced Friday the appointment of five new members to its board of directors.

The new board members include: Christopher Casey, Tim DeSieno, Lee Anne Hagel, Rishie Kumar, Valerie G. Lewis, and Anna Malhari. All will serve three-year terms that begin November 15, 2023.

"We are delighted to have such a distinguished group join our Board," said Jane R. Crotty, Chair of Solar One's Board of Directors. "They bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to our organization." Founded in 2004, Solar One is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization whose mission is to design and deliver innovative education, training, and technical assistance that fosters sustainability and resiliency in diverse urban environments.

Crotty added, "We look forward to working with our new directors as we advance our renewable energy goals and reinforce our educational programs in 2024."

The new members are:

**Christopher Casey**, a Senior Attorney in the Climate & Clean Energy Program at the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), champions climate and clean energy policies in New York. Within NRDC's Eastern Energy and Sustainable FERC project teams, he drives initiatives focusing on NYISO wholesale electricity markets, renewable energy deployment, energy efficiency, and clean transportation. Previously, Casey practiced energy law at a boutique firm in New Jersey, served as assistant attorney general for the Washington State Utilities and Transportation Commission, and contributed to a consumer-owned utility. He holds a Juris Doctor and a Master's in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School, complemented by a Bachelor's degree from Bates College.

**Tim DeSieno** is the Global Director of Distressed Debt and Senior Investment Manager at Omni Bridgeway. He brings more than three decades of partner and senior partner expertise from leading law firms including Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP, Bingham McCutchen LLP, and Hebb & Gitlin. With a robust background advising institutional investors globally, DeSieno's experience includes the 1980s/1990s junk bond workouts, the Asian currency crisis, the 2008 global financial crisis, and navigating the aftermath of COVID-19. A recognized authority in emerging markets debt restructuring, DeSieno has worked in and for national governments in trade and

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investment law reform and insolvency law development, including at the US Department of Commerce, and as advisor to several countries' finance and justice ministries. He earned a Bachelor's in German from Davidson College and a Juris Doctor from Emory University School of Law.

**Lee Anne Hagel** is a Responsible Investment Credit Analyst at APG Asset Management, one of the world's largest pension investors. Her work focuses on climate-related financial considerations and informs investment decisions and engagements across a range of sectors. Prior to joining APG, Hagel worked in ESG advisory at Georgeson, a strategic shareholder engagement and governance consultancy. She also spent five years as an equity analyst at RBC Capital Markets, covering electric utilities and renewable energy operators. Hagel holds a Bachelor's in Finance from Bentley University and a Master's in Business Administration from Cornell University.

**Rishie Kumar**, an Executive Director at JPMorgan in New York, oversees the bank's North American corporate metals and agriculture portfolio. With more than 14 years at JPMorgan, he's specialized in structuring commodity hedges and financing for numerous corporate clients, collaborating closely with C-suite, treasury, and procurement professionals. Kumar's expertise lies in the ferrous sector, driving growth in steel-related derivatives like hot rolled coil, iron ore, and scrap markets. Prior, he traded equities at Roberts & Ryan Investment after earning a Bachelor's in Finance from Carnegie Mellon University. Originally from California, Kumar treasures time with his young family.

**Valerie G. Lewis** has passionately championed the arts in New York City for more than two decades. Serving as the Anna-Maria Kellen Executive Director of Third Street Music School Settlement since 2014, she celebrates the institution's 130-year legacy of fostering arts education accessibility. During the past decade, Lewi has strategically expanded and diversified Third Street's programs while fortifying its institutional foundation. Her previous tenure as Executive Director of the Grammy Award-winning Brooklyn Youth Chorus marked significant growth in commissioning and performance initiatives. Earlier, at the Alliance for Downtown New York, she spearheaded Lower Manhattan's cultural renaissance and co-founded the acclaimed River-to-River Festival post-9/11. Lewis holds a Bachelor of the Arts from the University of Delaware and a Master of Public Administration from Baruch College's Marxe School of Public and International Affairs.

**Anna Malhari**, as Chief Operating Officer for Veris Residential, directs operational strategies and supports the CEO while spearheading ESG endeavors at the property and corporate levels, including cybersecurity initiatives. Under her leadership, the company became the first U.S. real estate firm to endorse the Climate Group's EV100 and attained the WELL Equity Rating globally across its portfolio. Previously at Colony Capital, Inc., Malhari managed NorthStar Realty Europe's capital markets and played a pivotal role in investment activities. Recognized by Globe St. as part of their 'Fifty Under 40' and 'Women of Influence,' Malhari was also named to New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy's Clean Buildings Working Group and Fast Company's Executive Board. Malhari holds the MIEMA environmental certification and has a CEMS Master in International Management degree from the Business University in Prague and the University of Cologne.

Solar One's programs help individuals and communities explore new ways of living and working that are more adaptive to a climate-change impacted world. The group's work has been lauded

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by the U.S. Department of Energy, Citi Foundation's Community Progress Makers, and United Laboratories (UL) among others.

The group's Green Design Lab program provides STEM education for K-12 students; its Green Workforce program provides training for under-and-unemployed and formerly incarcerated adults and offers both inspiration and hands-on skills development. Solar One's staff also manages Stuyvesant Cove Park, an architect-designed, sustainably managed, two-acre park on the East River, which will be the site of the new environmental education center now under construction.

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Solar One is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization whose mission is to design and deliver innovative education, training, and technical assistance that fosters sustainability and resiliency in diverse urban environments. We facilitate learning that changes the way people think about energy, sustainability, and resilience by engaging diverse program participants. Our programs help individuals and communities explore new ways of living and working that are more adaptive to a climate-change impacted world. The official IRS 501c3 designation is CEC Stuyvesant Cove, Inc.

Visit <http://www.solar1.org> for more information