

Vijay Satyal

Deputy Director of Regional Markets, Clean Energy



Vijay Satyal, Ph.D., is the deputy director of regional energy markets at Western Resource Advocates (WRA). In this role, he oversees initiatives, stakeholder engagement and public interest advocacy for wholesale energy market expansion in the West. Satyal has over 15 years of experience that encompasses energy, transmission and regulatory policy analysis, the evaluation of renewable energy technologies, and regional bulk electric system grid planning.

Vijay Satyal grew up absorbing a great deal about electric grid and transmission, as his father was deeply involved with the power sector. Growing up primarily in India with early childhood years in Africa and Middle East, and then both coasts of the U.S. and Utah, Satyal has seen drought, how people manage life in arid-conditions and the value of desalinization technologies.

Through this lived experience, Vijay saw that the nexus of water and energy are fundamental for our energy systems to manage and cope with growth, societal tradeoff and human choices. This fostered in him a passion for economics of the environment and the ability to use that discipline to help create a reliable, accessible energy grid that is also compatible with clean energy development.

After working for more than a decade in the energy policy space, Vijay saw working as WRA as an opportunity to bring together his knowledge of regional planning, energy policy, transmission expansion issues, grid reliability, and – with his background as an economist – an understanding of the role of markets. He joined WRA in 2019.

Satyal was previously a senior policy advisor at the Western Electricity Coordinating Council (WECC), where he advised WECC's CEO, executive management and staff on energy policy and regulatory issues. Satyal played a critical role in helping WECC's executive management develop strategic responses and served as a liaison between WECC and western states' energy offices and utility regulators.

Prior to his time at WECC, Satyal was a senior policy analyst at the Oregon Department of Energy, where he held several responsibilities, including advising the Governor's Office on renewable energy and emerging grid technologies. He also served as the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's first policy economist, and was a senior consultant at Navigant, where he assisted utilities in developing risk assessments for compliance with North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) reliability standards.

In addition, for the past 12 years, Satyal has worked as an adjunct professor at Oregon State University's School of Public Policy, where he teaches graduate level (MS and PhD) classes on renewable and international energy policy. Satyal holds a Master of Science in Resource Economics from Michigan State University and a Doctor in Philosophy in Environmental Sciences from Oregon State University. Beyond work and teaching, Satyal loves to travel, and has taken road trips to explore communities all across the country. He also enjoys cooking and trying out new recipes.

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