

Danielle Fong

Biography

Danielle is the co-founder and Chief Scientist at LightSail Energy, making inexpensive, efficient energy storage systems. She is a writer, programmer, interface designer, and scientist. She entered Dalhousie University at 12 in physics and computer science, graduating at 17 with the university medal, and performed graduate work in nuclear fusion at the Princeton Plasma Physics Lab. She was recently profiled in Forbes as one of the 30 Under 30 Rising Stars in Energy.

Presentation Abstract: Powering the World

Managing the world's ecosystems requires vast and urgent action. In the past 20 years, the world's electricity consumption has doubled. In the next 20, it will double again. If the electricity infrastructure built in those years is based on coal and natural gas, and lives out its 50 year operational lifetime, then much of the ecological damages we have feared become nearly inevitable.

What would we need to do over these next decades to avert this future? What do we need to start doing now? What could a solution look like? Danielle Fong describes the situation, the stakes, a possible solution, and opens it up for discussion.