FUELCELL ENERGY INC Form DEF 14A February 16, 2018 **UNITED STATES**

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box: Preliminary Proxy Statement Confidential, for use of the Commission only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2)) Definitive Proxy Statement Definitive Additional Materials Soliciting Material Pursuant to ss.240.14a-12

Fuelcell Energy, Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box): No fee required. Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11.

- (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
- (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
- Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the (3) amount on which the fill of the following value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
- (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

(5) Total fee paid:

Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.

Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount Previously Paid:

(2)Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:

(3) Filing Party:

(4) Date Filed:

NOTICE OF 2018 ANNUAL MEETING & PROXY STATEMENT

APRIL 5, 2018 — NEW YORK, NY

DEAR FELLOW FUELCELL ENERGY STOCKHOLDER

On behalf of FuelCell Energy's Board of Directors, I thank you for your ongoing interest and investment in FuelCell Energy, Inc. (the "Company" or "FuelCell Energy"). We are committed to acting in the best long-term interests of our stockholders. For further information about our continuing commitment to maintaining good corporate governance practices, we encourage you to review the "Corporate Governance" section beginning on page 12 of the Proxy Statement.

We are pleased to invite you to FuelCell Energy's 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held on Thursday, April 5, 2018 at 10:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time. This booklet includes the Notice of Annual Meeting and the Proxy Statement.
The Proxy Statement fully describes the business we will conduct at the Annual Meeting and provides information about the Company that you should consider when voting your shares.

February 16, 2018

Your vote is very important and we request that you vote your shares as promptly as possible. We encourage you to vote your shares by proxy even if you do not plan to attend the Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors recommends the approval of the proposals being presented at the Annual Meeting as being in the best interest of the Company and its stockholders.

Sincerely,

"YOUR VOTE IS VERY IMPORTANT. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO VOTE YOUR SHARES BY PROXY EVEN IF YOU DO NOT PLAN TO ATTEND THE MEETING."

NOTICE OF 2018 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

MEETING INFORMATION

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2018

10:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time

JW Marriott Essex House New York

160 Central Park South

New York, NY

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- **1.** To elect seven directors to serve until the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and until their successors are duly elected and qualified;
- **2.** To ratify the selection of KPMG LLP as FuelCell Energy, Inc.'s independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending October 31, 2018;
- 3. To approve the FuelCell Energy, Inc. 2018 Omnibus Incentive Plan;
- 4. To approve the FuelCell Energy, Inc. 2018 Employee Stock Purchase Plan;
- **5.** To approve, on a non-binding advisory basis, the compensation of FuelCell Energy, Inc.'s named executive officers as set forth in the "Executive Compensation" section of the accompanying Proxy Statement; and

6. To transact such other business as may properly come before the Annual Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

RECORD DATE

Stockholders of record on February 9, 2018 are entitled to notice of, and to vote at, the Annual Meeting.

MATERIALS TO REVIEW

This booklet contains our Notice of Annual Meeting and our Proxy Statement, which fully describes the business we will conduct at the Annual Meeting.

PROXY VOTING

It is important that your shares are represented and voted at the Annual Meeting. Please vote your shares according to the instructions under "How to Vote" in the Proxy Summary.

ADMISSION TO THE 2018 ANNUAL MEETING

To attend the 2018 Annual Meeting, please follow the "Meeting Attendance" instructions in the Proxy Summary.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

JENNIFER D. ARASIMOWICZ

Corporate Secretary

February 16, 2018

REVIEW YOUR PROXY STATEMENT AND VOTE IN ONE OF FOUR WAYS:

INTERNET	BY TELEPHONE	BY MAIL	IN PERSON
Visit the website on	Call the telephone	Sign, date and return your	Attend the annual meeting in New
your proxy card	number on your proxy	proxy card in the enclosed	York, NY. See page 58 for instructions
your proxy card	card	envelope	on how to attend

Please refer to the enclosed proxy materials or the information forwarded by your bank, broker or other holder of record to see which voting methods are available to you.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be Held on April 5, 2018: The Notice of Annual Meeting, Proxy Statement and Annual Report to Stockholders for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2017 are available at www.fuelcellenergy.com.

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PROXY SUMMARY

This summary highlights selected information contained throughout this Proxy Statement. Please read the entire Proxy Statement before casting your vote. For information regarding FuelCell Energy's 2017 performance, please review our Annual Report to Stockholders for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2017. We are making this Proxy Statement available on February 23, 2018.

ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE

Holders of record of our common stock at the close of business on February 9, 2018 are entitled to vote at the 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

HOW TO VOTE

You may vote using any one of the following methods. In all cases, you should have your 16-Digit Control Number from your proxy card or Notice of Annual Meeting available and follow the instructions. Voting will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. (EDT) on April 4, 2018:

Online at www.proxyvote.com	By telephone at 1-800-690-6903
Online using your mobile device by scanning the QR Code	By mail by voting, signing and timely mailing your Proxy Card

MEETING INFORMATION

Time and Date: Thursday, April 5, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. (EDT)Place:JW Marriott Essex House New York, 160 Central Park South, New York, NY

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Meeting attendance requires advance registration. Please contact the office of the corporate secretary at corporatesecretary@fce.com to request an admission ticket. If you do not have an admission ticket, you must present proof of ownership in order to attend the meeting.

COMPANY PROFILE

FuelCell Energy delivers proprietary power solutions that enable economic prosperity with the clean and affordable *supply, recovery and storage* of energy. SureSourceTM power plants generate ultra-clean, efficient and reliable power on three continents, affordably providing continuous distributed power generation to a variety of industries, including utilities and commercial and municipal customers. The Company's power plants have generated billions of kilowatt hours of ultra-clean power using a wide variety of fuels, including renewable biogas from wastewater treatment and food processing, as well as clean natural gas. For additional information, please visit *www.fuelcellenergy.com* and follow us on Twitter.

STOCKHOLDER VOTING MATTERS

	Management Recommendation	Page Reference (for more detail)
To elect seven directors to serve until the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders 1. and until their successors are duly elected and qualified	FOR each Director Nominee	8
2. To ratify the selection of KPMG LLP as FuelCell Energy, Inc.'s independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending October 31, 2018	FOR	43
3. To approve the FuelCell Energy, Inc. 2018 Omnibus Incentive Plan	FOR	43
4. To approve the FuelCell Energy, Inc. 2018 Employee Stock Purchase Plan To approve, on a non-binding advisory basis, the compensation of FuelCell	FOR	51
5. Energy, Inc.'s named executive officers as set forth in the "Executive Compensation" section of the Proxy Statement	FOR	55

DIRECTOR NOMINEES

Name	Age	Director Since	Primary Occupation
Arthur A. Bottone	57	2011	President and Chief Executive Officer, FuelCell Energy, Inc.
James Herbert England*	71	2008	Chief Executive Officer of Stahlman-England Irrigation, Inc.
Matthew F. Hilzinger*	54	2015	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for USG Corporation
John A. Rolls* †	76	2000	Investor
Christopher S. Sotos	46	2014	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director of NRG Yield, Inc.
Natica von Althann*	67	2015	Former Financial Executive at Bank of America and Citigroup
Togo Dennis West, Jr.*	75	2008	Chairman of TLI Leadership Group

* Independent Director

[†]Chairman of the Board of Directors

DIRECTOR NOMINEES & BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEES (PAGES 8 - 11)

Our robust Director nominee selection process and Board refreshment practices ensure that Board candidates encompass a diverse blend of skills, experience, perspectives, talents, backgrounds and education that will assist the Board in fulfilling its overall responsibilities, overseeing management's execution of strategic objectives, and representing the interests of our stockholders.

All of our Directors stand for election each year.

5 of the 7 Directors standing for re-election this year are independent.

The average age of our Director nominees is 63.7.

The average tenure of our Director nominees is 7.9 years.

The following information is provided in the "Director Nominees" and "Board of Directors and Committees" sections of this Proxy Statement:

Director Skills, Qualifications and Biographies;

Criteria for Board Membership;

Director Independence; and

Committees and Meeting Attendance.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE HIGHLIGHTS (PAGE 12)

We are committed to practicing good corporate governance and demonstrating exemplary business conduct and integrity. The Board of Directors has adopted Corporate Governance Principles and other policies that provide the framework for achieving effective corporate governance and best practices. The "Corporate Governance" section of this Proxy Statement describes our governance structure, which includes the following highlights:

The Role of the Board, Board Leadership Structure, Board Refreshment, Director Orientation, Majority Voting Standard in Director Elections, Continuing Education and Self-Evaluation, Corporate Governance Principles, Code of Ethics, Whistleblower Policy, Anti-Hedging Policy, Compensation Recovery Policy, Stock Ownership Guidelines and Holding Requirements, and Risk Oversight.

NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ("NEOS") (PAGES 9 & 20)

Name	Age	Occupation	Since	Previous Positions at FuelCell Energy	Year Hired
Arthur A. Bottone	57	President and Chief Executive Officer	2011	Senior Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer	2010
Michael S. Bishop	50	Senior Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer	2011	Vice President, Corporate Controller, Corporate Secretary	2003
Jennifer D. Arasimowicz	46	Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Corporate Secretary	2017	Associate Counsel, Vice President, Managing Counsel	2012
Anthony F. Rauseo	58	Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer	2010	Vice President of Engineering and Chief Engineer	2005

FISCAL 2017 EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION (PAGE 21)

NEO compensation includes cash and equity, including:

Base Salary, Annual Incentive Awards, and Long-Term Incentive Compensation.

FISCAL 2017 EXECUTIVE TOTAL COMPENSATION MIX FOR NEOS (PAGE 22)

FISCAL 2017 EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION SUMMARY FOR NEOS (PAGE 30)

Name	Salary (\$)	Stock Awards (\$)	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$)	All Other Compensation (\$)	Total (\$)
Arthur A. Bottone	428,816	495,750	282,000	3,016	1,209,582
Michael S. Bishop	318,392	262,500	125,520	4,572	710,984
Jennifer D. Arasimowicz	254,615	300,000	115,500	2,615	672,731
Anthony F. Rauseo	333,554	262,500	131,497	4,933	732,484

FISCAL 2017 NON-EMPLOYEE DIRECTOR COMPENSATION (PAGE 37)

AUDITORS FOR FISCAL 2018 (PAGE 43)

We are asking our stockholders to ratify the selection of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending October 31, 2018.

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FuelCell Energy, Inc. (referred to in this Proxy Statement as "we," "FuelCell", "FuelCell Energy" or the "Company") is sending you this Proxy Statement in connection with the solicitation by the Board of Directors (the "Board") of proxies to be voted at FuelCell's 2018 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "Annual Meeting") and at any adjournment thereof. The Annual Meeting will be held at the JW Marriott Essex House New York, 160 Central Park South, New York, NY on Thursday, April 5, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. Eastern Daylight Time. The Company is a Delaware corporation. The address of our principal executive office is 3 Great Pasture Road, Danbury, CT 06810.

The Board of Directors has set the close of business on February 9, 2018 as the record date for the determination of holders of the Company's common stock, par value \$0.0001 per share, who are entitled to notice of and to vote at the Annual Meeting.

As of February 9, 2018, there were 78,221,949 shares of common stock outstanding and entitled to vote on all matters at the Annual Meeting. Holders of common stock outstanding at the close of business on the record date will be entitled to one vote for each share held on the record date.

The approximate date on which this Proxy Statement and the accompanying proxy card are first being sent or given to stockholders is February 23, 2018.

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be Held on April 5, 2018: The Notice of Annual Meeting, Proxy Statement and Annual Report to Stockholders for the fiscal year ended October 31, 2017 are available at www.fuelcellenergy.com.

PROPOSAL 1 ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

FuelCell's Directors are elected annually to serve one-year terms. The Board has nominated each of the seven Director nominees named below to serve until the 2019 Annual Meeting of Stockholders and until his or her successor is elected and qualified or until his or her earlier resignation or removal. All of the Director nominees are currently Directors of the Company who were elected by the stockholders at the 2017 Annual Meeting. It is the intention of the persons named as proxies to vote, if authorized, for the election of the seven Director nominees named below as Directors. Each nominee has indicated his or her willingness to serve, if elected. If, at the time of the Annual Meeting, any Director nominee listed below declines or is unable to serve as a Director (which is not anticipated), it is the intention of the persons named as proxies to vote, in their discretion, for any other person who may be nominated.

DIRECTOR QUALIFICATIONS AND BIOGRAPHIES

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee regularly assesses the performance and attributes of each Director, to ensure that the Board as a governing body encompasses a broad range of perspectives, experience, diversity, integrity and commitment, in order to effectively conduct the Company's global business while representing the long-term interests of its stockholders.

Pursuant to the recommendation of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, the Board has nominated the following seven candidates for election as Directors and have concluded that each of these incumbent Directors should be nominated for re-election based on their extensive senior leadership backgrounds, competencies and other qualifications identified below:

Director Nominee Key Characteristics and Experience include: Technology Commercialization Corporate & International Finance Financial Management Global Power Project Development Government Affairs Energy & Utility Sectors Project Finance Legal Leadership Manufacturing Regulatory Risk Management Strategic Planning

Five of seven of the Directors serving on the Board are considered "Independent Directors" as such term is defined in Nasdaq Rule 5605(a)(2).

Further information about the Company's corporate governance practices, the responsibilities and functions of the Board and its committees, Director compensation and related party transactions can be found in this Proxy Statement.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOMMENDS THAT STOCKHOLDERS VOTE "**FOR**" THE PROPOSAL TO ELECT EACH OF THE SEVEN NOMINEES LISTED BELOW AS DIRECTORS OF THE COMPANY TO SERVE UNTIL THE 2019 ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS AND UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS ARE DULY ELECTED AND QUALIFIED.

Back to Contents DIRECTOR NOMINEES

ARTHUR A. BOTTONE BIOGRAPHY:

Mr. Bottone joined FuelCell Energy in February 2010 as Senior Vice President and Chief Commercial Officer and was promoted to President and Chief Executive Officer in February 2011 and is a named executive officer. Mr. Bottone's focus is to accelerate and diversify global revenue growth to achieve profitability by capitalizing on heightened global demand for clean and renewable energy. Mr. Bottone has broad experience in the power generation field including traditional central generation and alternative energy. Prior to joining FuelCell Energy, Mr. Bottone spent 25 years at Ingersoll Rand, a diversified global industrial company, including as President of the Energy Systems business. Mr. Bottone received an undergraduate degree in Mechanical Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology in 1983, and received a Certificate of Professional Development from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania in 2004.

Age 57

Director since: 2011

SKILLS AND QUALIFICATIONS INCLUDE:

Extensive Global Business Development

Technology Commercialization

Power Generation Project Development

Mergers, Acquisitions and Integration

Capital Raising

JAMES HERBERT ENGLAND

Age 71

Director

since: 2008

PRINCIPAL OCCUPATION:

President and Chief Executive Officer