2022 NECC Bios

KEYNOTES

Kelly Speakes-Backman, U.S. Department of Energy

Kelly Speakes-Backman is the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Acting Assistant Secretary for DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). In her role, she leads and directs the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, focused on creating and sustaining American leadership in the transition to a global clean energy economy. She oversees the planning and execution of the organization's $3.2B portfolio of research, development, demonstration, and deployment activities in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable transportation.

Grace Rink, City and County of Denver

Grace Rink is the Chief Climate Officer for the City and County of Denver and Executive Director of its Office of Climate Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency. This new office, created in 2020, manages the city's ambitious climate action and sustainability goals and promotes policies and programs that strengthen Denver's economic vitality. Denver voters approved a special sales tax to provide this office with up to $40M per year to implement projects such as new solar installations, electrifying buildings, and expansive community engagement programs.

SESSIONS

Ashley Armstrong, U.S. DOE

Ashley Armstrong is the Acting Buildings Regulatory Director within the Building Technologies Office and a Senior Advisor for the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). In her role, Ashley provides oversight to DOE's Appliance Standards Program, Building Energy Codes Program, Federal Rulemakings, and Building Performance Standards. Ashley has focused her career on energy efficiency and buildings, and most recently served as the Director of Regulatory and Technology Policy at A. O. Smith Corporation. In that role, Ashley advised senior management on a wide range of policy issues, including efficiency trends, building codes, decarbonization, and voluntary programs to advance public policy goals, drive business certainty, and bring new technologies to market. From 2010 to 2018, Ashley led the DOE Appliance Standards Program's test procedure rulemakings, compliance testing program, and ENERGY STAR product efforts. Ashley holds a Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University.

Chris Perry, U.S. DOE

Chris Perry is an Engineer with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Building Technologies Office. He participates in technical code development processes and directs energy code projects that promote energy efficiency, grid-interactivity, and resiliency. Before joining DOE, Chris worked as Research Manager at the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), a Sustainability Consultant at JDM Associates, and an Engineer at URS Corporation. He earned a M.S. degree in Engineering Management from George Washington University and a B.S. degree in Industrial Engineering from Pennsylvania State University. Chris is a registered professional engineer in Washington, DC.

Jeremy Williams, U.S. DOE

Jeremy Williams is a Specialist with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Building Technologies Office. He directs projects related to building energy efficiency, and specializes in energy codes which help U.S. homes and businesses in becoming more efficient, healthier, more productive, and more resilient. For over 10 years, he has represented the Department in its code research and development activities, and is a voting member of the IECC and Standard 90.1 technical committees. Jeremy has also led DOE's code technical assistance initiatives, which support states and local governments in successfully implementing their codes. His educational background includes an M.S. degree in Construction Management from Michigan State University, and a B.S. in Business and Education.

Harry Bergmann, U.S. DOE

Harry Bergmann is a Technology Manager within the Department of Energy's Building Technologies Office (BTO) where he manages the agency's work on building performance standards (BPS) and leads the Building Energy Data Subprogram. Harry's work supports BTO's effort to improve the efficiency of and decarbonize existing buildings through data-driven policies and programs to rapidly deploy new technologies. Prior to joining DOE, Harry worked with The Energy Coalition, supporting local government agencies with turnkey services for energy efficiency improvements. Harry has a Master's in Environmental Science and Management from the Bren School at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a bachelor degrees in Geography and Philosophy from the George Washington University.

Bing Liu, PNNL

Bing Liu is the Building Sector Manager at the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory under US Department of Energy. Bing oversees the strategic planning and implementation of PNNL's building portfolio. She also spearheads PNNL's building decarbonization, electrification and grid-building integration efforts. Bing has over 26 years of experience in building codes and standards and clean energy technology demonstration and deployment. Bing is serving on the ASHRAE's Task Force for Building Decarbonization as the executive committee member. ASHRAE's Decarbonization Task Force was appointed by ASHRAE President and is responsible for the strategic planning of ASHRAE's overall decarbonation efforts, specifically focus on codes, standards, guides, education, and trainings. Bing has chaired the Building Performance Standards working group which is in process to develop ASHRAE's BPS Technical Guide. Bing was a member of ASHRAE Standard 90.1 and Standard 189.1, the lead author of award-winning Advanced Energy Design Guide. Bing is a registered Professional Engineer and ASHRAE Fellow. She was featured as one of Top 20 Women in HVAC Industry for 2020 by Engineered System Magazine. Bing serves on the Board of Director as a board member of New Building Institute.

Crystal Egelkamp, Colorado Energy Office

Crystal Egelkamp is the Benchmarking & BPS Program Manager at the Colorado Energy Office. In this role, Crystal manages the State's benchmarking program, Building Performance Colorado, as well as leads the Building Performance Standards (BPS) Task Force. Crystal also works on other building policy and program areas including building codes, beneficial electrification, and workforce development. Before moving to Colorado, Crystal lived in Chicago and worked with various municipalities on their building codes and benchmarking policies. In her free time, Crystal likes to explore all the nature that Colorado has to offer.

Ed Carley, NASEO

Ed Carley works with State Energy Offices to support policy and program development in building energy efficiency, including ENERGY STAR for buildings, building energy codes, home energy labeling, and other areas. Prior to NASEO, he consulted with a California municipal utility on energy efficiency program design, and interned with the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy supporting a research paper investigating Measurement and Verification 2.0 topics. Mr. Carley received his Bachelor of Science in political science from Appalachian State University and a Master of Sustainability Management from American University.

Ian Finlayson, Massachusetts

Ian is the Deputy Director, Energy Efficiency Division of the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER). Ian works on the policy development of a number Massachusetts energy efficiency priorities, including the statewide 3-year energy efficiency plans, updates to the building energy code, and pilots for residential and commercial building labeling and zero-net energy buildings. Ian was the lead author of the buildings chapter of the Massachusetts clean energy and climate plan for 2020. Prior to joining state government Ian worked for a regional affordable housing developer, and internationally in Afghanistan and Japan. He holds degrees from Edinburgh University, and MIT.

Robin Yochum, Nevada Governor's Office of Energy

As an Energy Program Manager with the Nevada Governor's Office of Energy (GOE), Ms. Yochum works on advancing energy efficiency policies and carbon emission reduction in the built environment. Ms. Yochum joined the GOE team in 2016, and her responsibilities include participating in the development and implementation of the triennial International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), the development and adoption of appliance standards, and administrating Nevada's HEROS program, which provides no cost energy efficiency improvements for low-income seniors. Ms. Yochum currently serves as Vice Chair on the International Code Councils (ICC) Residential Energy Code Consensus Committee and is a voting member of the ICCs Building Membership Council Governing Committee. She represents Nevada on the US Climate Alliance Building and Appliance working groups, serves as co-chair of the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO) Buildings Committee, and serves on the Green Building Initiative (GBI) Board of Directors. Ms. Yochum's work also includes programs to support field code verification in new construction and opportunities for curriculum development to train the next generation of code officials. Ms. Yochum is a Nevada Certified Contracts Manager as well as a LEED Green Associate and is GPRO Certified for green building and sustainable practices. Ms. Yochum has over 20 years of experience in residential and commercial construction.

Kim Cheslak, New Buildings Institute

Kim is a building energy codes and policy leader and content matter expert that guides the future of building decarbonization policies throughout the United States. Kim leads NBI's Code and Policy team in policy and code roadmaps, development and implementation for state and local jurisdictions across the US working on advanced energy codes and building performance standards along with other supportive policies and programs. She has over 10 years of experience focusing on buildings and codes. Her career has included commercial and residential code compliance studies, working with local governments to maximize savings through adoption of and compliance with code, and managing sustainability portfolios. Kim was instrumental in the formation of Washington DC's Green Building Division. She supports NBI's broader engagement in building decarbonization through research, education, and market engagement opportunities.

Jenny Niemann, City of Flagstaff

Jenny is the Climate Program Manager in the City of Flagstaff Sustainability Office. She works across the City organization and Flagstaff community to advance Flagstaff's aggressive and necessary climate goals. Jenny draws on her background in green building and urban planning to help Flagstaff residents create a healthier and more connected community. Jenny holds Masters degrees in Urban Planning and Public Health from the University of Colorado Denver. She loves to talk parking ratios and remains a novice high-desert gardener.

Ellen Franconi, PNNL

Ellen Franconi, Ph.D., BEMP, has served as a building systems researcher, policy analyst, and energy consultant over her 35-year career in building efficiency. She works at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory supporting DOE's efforts to advance building energy codes. Her research addresses grid-interactive, net-zero, and resilient building capabilities. Ellen is a member of ASHRAE Standard 189.1 and ASHRAE Standard 90.1, and facilitates task group discussions on carbon metrics. She is a former board member of IBPSA-USA, vice chair of ASHRAE Standard 209, and chair of the IPMVP Technical Committee. Ellen has worked at three DOE national research labs (SERI/NREL, LBNL, and PNNL), two consulting firms (Schiller Associates/Nexant and Architectural Engineering Corporation/Noresco), and one nonprofit (Rocky Mountain Institute).

Bertine Stelzer, BC Hydro

Bertine Stelzer (MA) is the Program Manager for BC Hydro's Residential New Construction Program and co-chair of the Energy Step Code Capacity Building and Communications Subcommittee. Having worked as consultant with BC Hydro prior to her current role, she has been deeply involved in the development and roll out of the BC Energy Step Code. Today, Bertine oversees and coordinates a large industry partnership network that dedicates its work to Energy Step Code and low carbon electrification implementation and capacity building initiatives to drive market transformation across British Columbia. Bertine is originally from Germany, where she completed her Master's degree in Sustainability Economics and Management. Since 2010 she calls British Columbia, Canada, her home.

Jamy Bacchus, ME Engineers

Jamy Bacchus, PE, LEED AP BD+C, BEMP, has been a mechanical engineering consultant and sustainability advocate in commercial buildings for over a quarter century serving as design engineer, policy analyst, code consultant, energy modeler, energy auditor, professor and mentor. He works at ME Engineers managing their sustainability and modeling group. He is Chair of the USGBC's LEED Energy & Atmosphere Technical Advisory Group. He liaises with ASHRAE's 90.1 and 189.1 working groups on carbon metrics. He is a member of Denver's energy and green codes committees while also collaborating with Colorado State Energy Office on building energy related policy. He has worked at Integral Group, Natural Resources Defense Council, Arup, Battle McCarthy and WSP in NYC, DC, SF, London and Denver.

Alison Lindburg, Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance

Alison Lindburg is the Senior Building Policy Manager at MEEA, where she works to improve energy efficiency in buildings in the Midwest via energy codes and market transformation strategies such as energy benchmarking. Prior to MEEA, Alison was the director of the Buildings policy program at the Minnesota non-profit organization Fresh Energy, and also served on the Board of Directors for the U.S. Green Building Council of Minnesota and the Technical Advisory Committee of the GreenStar residential remodeling standard. Previously Alison was a program director for Minnesota non-profit Dovetail Partners, working in rural areas to promote sustainability and local economic development through green building demonstration projects, community education and contractor training. Prior to Dovetail, Alison worked for a Twin-Cities urban development firm, where she helped write and implement its green building program. Alison has a B.A. in Architecture with a focus on sustainable design, and a minor in Spanish from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

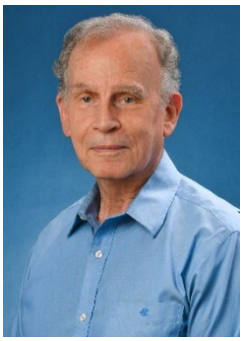
Cameron Freberg, Austin Energy

Cameron Freberg is an Emerging Technologies Program Manager for Electric Vehicles & Emerging Technologies at Austin Energy and has experience working across many areas in the utility industry. His work at Austin has supported program development and operations around new technologies to include energy storage, electric vehicles, demand response, marketing campaign development, and serving as a liaison for new technology initiatives with academia, industry, and the community. Previously, Cameron worked in the Energy Research and Technology Initiatives department at CPS Energy in San Antonio. Cameron holds a Master's degree in Public Administration with a focus on Urban and Environmental Planning from Texas State University.

Greg Arcangeli, Austin Energy Green Building

Gregory Arcangeli, LEED BD+C, WELL AP, is a Utility Strategist at Austin Energy Green Building, and co-chair of the Carbon Leadership Forum's Austin hub. He holds a Master of Architecture and a Master of Science in Architectural Engineering focused on building energy and environments, both from UT Austin. In previous roles he has served as a building energy modeler and reviewer, and as a designer at the firm of Massimiliano Fuksas Architect in Rome, and MF Architecture and Kasita in Austin, TX.

Howard Wiig, State of Hawaii



Howard C. Wiig has served as an Energy Analyst for the Hawai'i State Energy Office for over 30 years. After bringing the nation's early energy codes to Hawai'i in the 1980s he incorporated the first ASHRAE codes into Hawaii law in the 1990s and modified the residential section to suit Hawai'i's mild climate. After testifying at the 2006 IECC hearings, he was appointed to the 2009 IECC Central Committee, and testified at the 2012, 2015 and 2018 committee hearings. At the 2015 hearings, he was among the leading proponents of requiring cool roofs for flat rooms and the creation of the new Tropical Climate Zone. He has performed similar work for iterations of NAHB's National Green Building Standard. He has conducted code trainings in Hawai'i, Guam, Saipan and the US Virgin Islands, has spoken at several Energy Code conferences and is the author of numerous energy-related articles. He spearheaded the inclusion of cool walls in Hawai'i's amendments to the 2015 IECC. He is president of the Hawai'i Chapters of the IES, Engineers and Architects of Hawaii and Dark Skies International, and was awarded "Top 50 Innovations of the Year" status by the Kennedy School of Business for his work on converting marine debris to electrical energy.

Kevin Rose, Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance

Kevin provides technical and strategic guidance to NEEA's Codes & Standards initiatives, including code development, adoption, and compliance support at the state and national levels. Prior to joining NEEA in 2021, he designed, managed, and evaluated utility energy efficiency programs targeting the residential and commercial new construction markets in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Preceding that, he supported similar energy code and building energy rating initiatives from Maine to Maryland and helped deliver home energy ratings in his native New York state.

Alexi Miller, New Buildings Institute

Alexi Miller is the Associate Technical Director at NBI and is NBI's lead engineer. He brings insight and analysis about cutting-edge technologies and strategies to diverse stakeholders as part of a wide-ranging effort to improve the energy performance of the built environment. Alexi leads several programs and initiatives at NBI including the GridOptimal Initiative, the Public Buildings Portfolio Management Initiative, the Getting to Zero Buildings Database, and FirstView. Alexi has expertise in a range of topics including zero energy and zero carbon buildings, code and policy, building controls, deep energy savings retrofits, and emerging technologies. Prior to joining NBI in 2013, he spent six years at The Cadmus Group. Alexi is a registered Professional Engineer in Mechanical Engineering in Oregon and is a LEED accredited professional. He is fully fluent in Spanish and conversationally fluent in Portuguese.

Rodney Sobin, NASEO

Rodney Sobin leads NASEO's building-grid integration initiative; supports a range of building energy efficiency and energy-environmental integration activities; conducts research on such issues as evaluation, measurement and verification; technological innovation; industrial energy; rural energy; and energy productivity. Prior to NASEO, he served as Director of Research and Regulatory Affairs at the Alliance to Save Energy; worked at the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality; and did environmental technology work at Concurrent Technologies Corporation, the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment, and the World Resources Institute. He has a Bachelor of Science in biology and society from Cornell University and two master's degrees – Master of Arts in technology and human affairs and Master of Science in biological sciences from Washington University in St. Louis.

Jim Meyers, SWEEP

Jim Meyers is the Director of Buildings Efficiency Program, where he works on increasing energy efficiency in buildings, supporting municipalities with building electrification including storage and EV infrastructure . Jim is responsible for leading the buildings programs including adoption of newer energy codes and standards, going beyond code with green building programs, studies to verify energy savings from programs and codes, and opportunities for electrifying. Previous to his current position Jim was a regional manager for an insulation trade association, he has also served as a Technical Director of a home energy rating provider where he provided rater training, quality assurance and program direction. He has provided building efficiency trainings across numerous building industries. Jim actively participates in International Code Council committees and sits on the 2024 residential IECC committee, USGBC chapters and is a board member of the Energy Efficiency Business Coalition a non-profit trade association that represents energy efficiency businesses. His engineering degree comes from San Jose State University and is a LEED Green Association and Certified Green Professional.

Joseph Sollod, International Code Council

Joseph W. Sollod is the Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation Associate at the International Code Council and staff member of the Alliance for National and Community Resilience. At the Code Council, Joseph contributes to highly visible sustainability, resilience and innovation initiatives, including the Global Resiliency Dialogue, the Code Council's Off-Site Construction Initiative, the Code Council's Energy Team, and administration of the U.S. Technical Advisory Group to ISO Technical Committee 59 and Subcommittee 19. He brings a wealth of acquired knowledge in climate change and adaptation, environmental policy, global environmental issues, sustainable development and buildings, and community resilience. Prior to joining the Code Council, Joseph participated in updating the Planning for Natural Disaster Debris guidance document with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and served as a solar permitting specialist for TRC Environmental Corporation. A graduate of Drew University in Madison, N.J., he has a bachelor's degree in environmental studies and sustainability, with minors in anthropology and political science. He also holds a Master of Science degree in urban sustainability from the City College of New York.

John Ingargiola, FEMA

John Ingargiola is Lead Physical Scientist in the Building Sciences Branch of the Risk Management Directorate at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Federal Insurance & Mitigation Administration (FIMA) in Washington, D.C. Ingargiola's work involves a broad range of mitigation activities that include; pre- and post-disaster building sciences, building science education, working with codes and standards-producing organizations; building codes policy development; development of technical guidance related to hazard mitigation and coordination with various mitigation partners in the public and private sector. In 2013, Ingargiola received an ICC Community Service Award recognizing his untiring support of and dedication to professional code enforcement promoting public health, safety and welfare. Before joining FEMA in 1999, Ingargiola was a Building Code Official in Florida. He holds a Bachelor of Engineering Degree in Civil Engineering from the Cooper Union for Advancement of Science and Art

Heather Rosenberg, Arup

Heather Rosenberg leads Arup's Resilience Skills Network in the Americas. An ecologist by training, Heather brings 20 years of experience leading sustainability and resilience projects in the built environment. Her systemic approach integrates interdisciplinary teams to bring together technical expertise with stakeholder engagement and a commitment to social equity. Her current work focuses on decarbonization and energy transition through a resilience lens. She works extensively with local governments, utilities, community choice aggregators and non-profits to better understand the resilience of the energy system, how buildings can play a role in local and grid-level resilience, and how to leverage investments to support those most vulnerable to power outages. She has worked closely with the affordable housing community to innovate policy and financial tools that can spur decarbonization projects without triggering displacement. Before joining Arup, Heather was the founder and president of her own successful resilience strategy consulting practice, Fifth Road. She created the Building Resilience Network, a multi-stakeholder initiative designed to help public, private, and non-profit organizations weave physical, social and economic resilience into core operations. She is a USGBC Ginsberg Fellow and has served on multiple boards and committees. Heather has formal training in facilitation and integrated design processes and extensive experience leading workshops, training sessions and charrettes to address complex challenges related to sustainability and resilience.