



April 2024 Meeting  
Speaker Bios

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*Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund Charge Proposal*

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## **David Widawsky**

**Director**

**U.S. EPA Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund**

David Widawsky is the Director of EPA's Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, a historic \$27 billion investment in financing the clean energy transformation, especially for communities that need it most. He has worked at the U.S. EPA since 1998, where he has served in a number of leadership roles in EPA's Office of the Administrator, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, and Office of Pesticide Programs. David received undergraduate degrees from the University of California, Berkeley; his Master's degree from Colorado State University; and earned his Ph.D. in Applied Economics at Stanford University. Prior to joining EPA, he lived and worked in the Philippines, China, India, the Netherlands, and Scotland.



## **Ashley Allen Jones**

**Senior Finance Advisor**

**U.S. EPA Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund**

Ashley Allen Jones leads environmental finance innovation across the water, agriculture, and energy sectors. She recently joined the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund as Senior Finance Advisor, where she supports implementation of the National Clean Investment Fund and Clean Community Investment Accelerators with an eye toward maximum leverage of private capital. She also serves as Chief Executive Officer of i2 Capital, a firm she founded to expand private investment and public-private partnerships in the sustainability realm. In 2019, Ashley became the founding Board Chair of the Conservation Innovation Fund, a blended finance fund formed to expand market-based solutions for water, carbon and biodiversity through driving capital and execution across an integrated value chain of activities. The CIF has received over \$30mn in financial backing from public and private sources, including grants, loans, and in-kind financial commitments. Recently CIF closed the first major contract awarded under Maryland's landmark Clean Water Commerce Act, an outcomes based model for watershed conservation in the Chesapeake Bay watershed.



In 2020, Ashley joined EPA's Environmental Financial Advisory Board, where she has co-chaired working groups that advise the Administrator and Staff on the \$27bn Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and the

agency's Pollution Prevention program. She holds several private company board positions, and has served on the Boards of the Shakespeare Theatre Company and Washington Area Women's Foundation. Before founding i2 Capital, Ashley spent two decades in the transactional finance sector – as an investor, investment banker and advisor – where she directed over \$1bn for social and environmental projects, managed venture capital investments primarily in technology companies, and helped to execute over \$1bn in Mergers & Acquisitions and private equity deals in the global Aerospace & Defense sector. Raised in rural Wyoming, Ashley has a deep reverence for nature, alongside farming, ranching and watershed scale conservation and supply chain sustainability.

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*EPA Climate Change Technical Assistance Availability and Requirements*

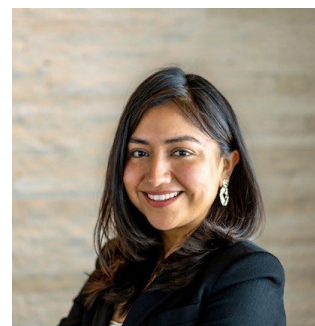
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### **Esther Sosa**

#### **Special Advisor for Policy, IRA Implementation**

#### **U.S. EPA Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights**

Esther is Special Advisor for Policy at the Environmental Protection Agency where she leads the implementation of the Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers. Prior she worked at the Environmental Defense Fund, where she led program strategy and partnership development to integrate diverse communities into climate policy. Previously, Esther worked at the Mayor's Office of New York City, where she formed part of the inaugural team tasked with engaging underserved communities in city services. She recently completed a policy fellowship at the Aspen Institute Climate Technology & Policy Program and advises on NYC Offshore Wind Community Fund, designed to build an offshore wind industry that benefits historically underserved communities. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Studies and Economics from Bowdoin College and a Master's in Environmental Studies from Yale University, School of Environmental Studies.



### **Lorry Frigerio**

#### **CCTA Contracting Officer Representative**

#### **U.S. EPA Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights**

Lorry Frigerio has been with the EPA Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) for almost 2 years, helping to lead technical assistance efforts funded by the Inflation Reduction Act under the Community Change Technical Assistance (CCTA) Program in support of the \$2B Community Change Grants. Lorry has been with EPA for the last 35 years where she has gained valuable experience with numerous program offices, intra-/interagency and intergovernmental collaboration, multi-stakeholder processes, and various community-focused efforts. She started her career in the Region 2 Superfund program as a Remedial Project Manager. Upon completing the Greater Leadership Opportunities Program, she joined the international office in HQ to work on the U.S.-Mexico border program and implementation of the NAFTA environmental side agreement with U.S. and Mexico. She also served as the Designated Federal Officer on the NEJAC International Subcommittee. Lorry continued her NAFTA work in the Office of Pesticides Programs to foster pesticides regulatory



harmonization and supported other pesticides efforts including Schools Integrated Pest Management and Tribal activities such as bed bug management. Lorry also spent some time in the Office of Policy, first as a Special Assistant working mostly on climate adaptation and then as Acting Director for the Federal and State Division of the Office of Sustainable Communities where she contributed to Smart Growth efforts and the Making A Visible Difference in Communities initiative. Later, she joined the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance where she helped launch OECA's reporting under EPA's Lean Management System and also led efforts to improve reporting of environmental benefits resulting from EPA enforcement actions, including development of a new policy on GHG reporting. Under a Skills Marketplace workshare, Lorry also developed a new Best Practices for Community Involvement to Strengthen EJ at Federal Facility NPL Sites. Lorry holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Columbia University. She is fluent in Spanish and was raised with strong cultural ties to her family in Chile.

## **Rachel Zuckerman**

### **Special Advisor for Implementation U.S. EPA Office of the Administrator**

Rachel Zuckerman is a Special Advisor for Implementation in the Office of the Administrator at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, supporting the Agency's implementation of \$100 billion in funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. Rachel works with numerous grant and technical assistance programs, including the Community Change Grant Program, and leads efforts to integrate the Biden-Harris Administration's goals for job quality and equitable workforce development into EPA's historic investments. Rachel's background is in State and local government, where she worked in her home state for the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the City of Detroit in policy design and program implementation.



## **Ted Toon**

### **Senior Advisor U.S. EPA Office of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund**

Ted Toon is EPA's Senior Advisor to the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund. He has over 20 years of experience innovating and leading federal policy and programs at the intersection of housing, finance, and climate. He spent more than 20 years with the US Department of HUD, in various roles including Directing FHA's multifamily mortgage division, designing and implementing the Green Retrofit Program, and running the Office of Recapitalization and the RAD program. Ted has served in two White House roles, as a Senior Advisor at the Office of Management and Budget on climate resilience in the residential sector, and as Director for Building Emissions at the Council on Environmental Quality. Ted joined EPA to help design and implement the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund, the new \$27 billion Inflation Reduction Act program. He earned undergraduate degrees in Environmental Design, and Business from the Univ of Colorado, Boulder, and a Master's in Real Estate from M.I.T.



## **Megan V. Brachtl**

**Air Quality Policy Division Associate Director  
U.S. EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards**

Megan V. Brachtl is an Associate Director for the Air Quality Policy Division (AQPD) in the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at U.S. EPA. Currently she leads the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program authorized under the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, but she also provides strategic leadership for EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) implementation efforts, New Source Review (NSR) permitting, and permitting for projects on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). Between 2014 and 2021, Ms. Brachtl served as supervisor for both the NAAQS implementation group and NSR/OCS permitting group within AQPD. Her other roles since joining EPA in 2005 include environmental engineer in the Office of Transportation and Air Quality, where she helped develop regulations for EPA's Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) Program and the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP).



Ms. Brachtl is a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer (Côte d'Ivoire, 1998-2000). She holds master's degrees from the School of Engineering and The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University (Medford, MA), and a BS in civil engineering from Northeastern University (Boston, MA). This August she will graduate with an MBA from Boston University.

## **Morgan Brown**

**Senior Technical Assistance Specialist  
U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management**

Morgan Brown is a Senior Technical Assistance Specialist with US EPA's Office of Wastewater Management, supporting EPA's free water technical assistance (WaterTA) services, particularly on coordination, communications, outreach, and community engagement. WaterTA supports communities to identify water challenges, develop plans, build capacity, and prepare application materials to access water infrastructure funding. Morgan has nearly 10 years' experience working for water sector associations and nonprofits, including the Water Environment Federation and Water Research Foundation. Most recently, Morgan was a Senior Program Manager at the US Water Alliance, working with communities and utilities across the country to help facilitate more equitable and climate resilient water infrastructure projects and programs. Morgan holds a degree in Biology and Environmental Sciences from the University of Virginia and is a certified Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP).



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## Climate Change Technical Assistance Needs Panel

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### **Tim Profeta**

**Panel Moderator**

**Senior Fellow**

**Nicholas Institute at Duke University**

Tim Profeta is a senior fellow at Duke University's Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment & Sustainability and associate professor of the practice at Duke's Sanford School of Public Policy.



In 2023, Profeta returned to Duke from two years of service at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, where he served as the special counsel for the power sector and a senior advisor. At the Agency, Profeta had a lead role in the development of the regulatory strategy affecting the power sector, including the recent proposed greenhouse gas regulations, served as a liaison between the Agency and other federal departments and agencies regarding power sector policies, and took an instrumental role in the design of several Agency programs that were authorized in the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act.

Prior to leaving for EPA, Profeta was the founding director of the Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions, which merged with the Duke University Energy Initiative in 2021 to create the Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment & Sustainability. Since its creation in 2005, the Nicholas Institute has grown into a major nonpartisan player in key environmental debates, serving both the public and private sectors with sound understanding of complex environmental issues.

Profeta's areas of expertise include climate change and energy policy, the Clean Air Act, and adaptive use of current environmental laws to address evolving environmental challenges. His work at the Nicholas Institute has included numerous legislative and executive branch proposals to mitigate climate change, including providing Congressional testimony several times on his work at Duke University, developing multiple legislative proposals for cost containment and economic efficiency in greenhouse gas mitigation programs, and facilitating climate and energy policy design processes for several U.S. states.

Prior to his arrival at Duke, Profeta served as counsel for the environment to Sen. Joseph Lieberman. As Lieberman's counsel, he was a principal architect of the Lieberman-McCain Climate Stewardship Act of 2003. He also represented Lieberman in legislative negotiations pertaining to environmental and energy issues, as well as coordinating the senator's energy and environmental portfolio during his runs for national office. Profeta has continued to build on his Washington experience to engage in the most pertinent debates surrounding climate change and energy.

Profeta is a member of the Climate Action Reserve Board of Directors, and is a member of The American Law Institute.

Profeta earned a J.D., magna cum laude, and a master's in environmental management in resource ecology from Duke in 1997 and a Bachelor's degree in political science from Yale University in 1992.

## **Dale S. Bryk**

### **State & Regional Policy Director Harvard Environmental & Energy Law Program**

Dale Bryk is Director of State & Regional Policy at the Harvard Environmental & Energy Law Program and a Senior Fellow at the Regional Plan Association. She helped launch the Conveners Network, which supports state efforts to develop climate and clean energy strategies and access and deploy federal resources to advance them. She served as New York State's Deputy Secretary for Energy and Environment from 2019-2020. As the Governor's top energy and environment policy advisor, she oversaw New York's nation-leading climate agenda and directed the agencies and authorities responsible for developing and implementing the state policies and initiatives needed to build a just and sustainable clean energy economy, including the landmark Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.



Prior to this role, Dale was the Director of Programs at the Natural Resources Defense Council. Throughout her 21 years at NRDC, she worked to develop and implement climate, energy efficiency, renewable energy and clean transportation policies. From 2002 to 2010, she also taught the Environmental Law Clinic at Yale Law School. Before joining NRDC, she practiced corporate law at Davis Polk & Wardwell in New York. Dale holds a bachelor's degree from Colgate University, a master's from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, and a J.D. from Harvard Law School. She is based in New York City.

## **Adam Kent**

### **Blended & Inclusive Finance Director Natural Resources Defense Council**

Adam Kent works to maximize the catalytic impact public and private capital can play in shifting the financial system to deliver a sustainable, resilient, just, and equitable economy. Prior to NRDC, Kent was the deputy director in the Washington, D.C., office of the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC). During his time there, he financed over 1,500 affordable homes for lower-income families and helped to grow LISC's solar financing. In addition, he developed and led LISC's Elevating Equity Initiative, a \$100 million effort devoted to fostering equitable and inclusive development in the neighborhoods surrounding the 11th Street Bridge Park. Prior to LISC, Kent worked as a high school math teacher in the D.C. public schools system and as a researcher at the Urban Institute. He serves on the board of Project Create, a D.C.-based arts nonprofit that delivers accessible multidisciplinary arts education and programming to youth and families. Kent holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Macalester College, a master's degree in teaching from American University, and a master's degree in public affairs from Princeton University.



## John Moon

**Senior Vice President  
Sustainability Philanthropy Leader  
Institute for Sustainable Finance  
Wells Fargo & Company**

John Moon is Senior Vice President Sustainability Philanthropy Leader at Wells Fargo where he leads grant-making to scale sustainable finance toward an equitable climate transition. He has extensive public and private sector experience, focused on the intersection of racial equity, investments, climate, and health including work at the Federal Reserve, Living Cities, Municipal Government, and Fleetbank. A core focus has been how the built environment/communities are key levers to produce transformative change that improves economic mobility, resilience, and reduced inequality.



John has helped to lead national cross-sector initiatives in partnership with philanthropy, social impact investors, community-based organizations, and government to tackle complex social challenges holistically with a wide range of stakeholders and sectors. He also serves on a number of regional and national advisory groups. John graduated from UCLA and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

## Meghan Pazik

**Policy Director  
Climate Mayors**

Meghan Pazik is the Policy Director of Climate Mayors. Meghan is responsible for leading member cities into thoughtful policy creation and program implementation, including supporting local leaders, dedicated to climate action, to implement the largest federal climate investments in history. Prior to joining Climate Mayors, Meghan served in Congress managing several climate initiatives, including assisting Members of Congress on their work on the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, Natural Resources Committee, and Science, Space and Technology. Meghan also holds a Master's in Science in Energy and Climate Policy from Johns Hopkins University and resides in Washington, D.C.



## Daphany Rose Sanchez

**Executive Director  
Kinetic Communities Consulting (KC3)**

Daphany Rose Sanchez is a community organizer and expert at climate sustainability with a community and social justice focus. Born and raised in public housing in NYC, she witnessed and lived through the intersections of housing discrimination, climate divestment from communities of color, and economic injustice.

When her parents purchased a house and lost it in Hurricane Sandy just a few years later, while Daphany was finishing her undergraduate degree, her parents didn't receive help because authorities didn't believe they were residents of the neighborhood due to their skin color.



The loss of her home moved Daphany to fight for climate resiliency in the communities she grew up with, organizing neighborhoods of color across every major borough in the city while working alongside renewable energy companies and climate resiliency organizations to provide these community members with the tools they need to reduce their energy bills, reduce their carbon footprints, and keep their homes protected from natural disasters.

She is a graduate of NYU Tandon School of Engineering and holds a Master's of Science in Environmental Policy and Sustainability Management from the New School.

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*EPA Chief Financial Officer Update*

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## **Gregg Trembl**

### **Deputy Chief Financial Officer**

#### **U.S. EPA Office of the Chief Financial Officer**

Gregg Trembl is the Deputy Chief Financial Officer for the EPA. His responsibilities include oversight of EPA's annual budget and performance plans, financial operations, and financial information systems. Gregg is also responsible for directing strategic planning and policy development efforts as well as overseeing the E-Enterprise for the Environment initiative, EPA's continuous improvement efforts, and the Agency's evidence and evaluation activities.



Prior to joining EPA, Gregg served as Assistant Inspector General & Deputy Chief Financial Officer at the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Inspector General. Gregg has also held leadership roles in budget, finance, and human resources at the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the General Services Administration's Public Buildings Service, and the Department of Homeland Security.

Gregg earned a Master of Science in Accounting from the University of Connecticut and a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy, with minors in Finance and Western Civilization, from Providence College.



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*Environmental Financial Center Network Update*

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## **Heather Himmelberger**

### **Director**

#### **Southwest Environmental Finance Center at the University of New Mexico**

Heather Himmelberger is the Director of the Southwest Environmental Finance Center, a position she has held for the past 28 years. She has worked with water and wastewater utilities of all sizes, on a variety of issues, including, but not limited to: capacity development, asset management, water loss control, rate setting, regionalization/partnering, access to funding, infrastructure development, and regulatory compliance for the past 37

years. She is a registered professional engineer in New Mexico and Pennsylvania with a BS in Environmental Engineering from Penn State University and an MS in Environmental Engineering from Johns Hopkins University. Heather served as an expert witness to the Environmental Financial Advisory Board from 1996 till 2013 and then served as a board member from 2013 until approximately 2019. On the board, she served on numerous committees, including some committees she chaired or co-chaired. Heather was also instrumental in the creation of the Environmental Finance Center Network in 2000.



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*EPA Office of Agriculture and Rural Affairs*

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## **Venus Welch-White, PhD**

### **Acting Deputy Director and Senior Advisor to the Administrator's Agriculture Advisor**

#### **EPA's Office of Agriculture and Rural Affairs**

Dr. Venus Welch-White currently serves as the Acting Deputy Director of the Office of Agriculture and Rural Affairs and the Senior Advisor to the Administrator's Agriculture Advisor (Rod Snyder). In addition, she supports EPA's Farm, Ranch and Rural Federal Advisory Committee well as the Designated Federal Officer. She joined EPA in November of 2020 as the Senior Policy Advisory in OLEM's Resource Conservation and Sustainability Division and supported initiatives, policy and programs across the division including Anaerobic Digester Grants and RCRA'S voluntary partnership programs. Prior to joining EPA, she served as the National Rural Energy Program Coordinator in USDA's Rural Business-Cooperative Service where she conducted stakeholder engagement, outreach, technical reviews, business strategy and development, policy support, and facilitated collaborations with internal and external partners in agriculture, renewable energy, biofuels, economic development, and access to capital. Venus began her federal career as a 2014 Presidential Management-STEM Fellow and as part of the of her PMF program she completed detail assignments in in USDA's Office of the Chief Economist, supporting climate smart ag and forestry initiatives as well as in the Executive Office of the President, Office of Management and Budget, where she analyzed policy and budget legislation for EPA, developed congressional reports, and supported implementation of executive orders and administrative initiatives of across federal agencies.



Venus has received honors such as the USDA Shining Star award and named Energy News Network 40 under 40. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Biology, a Master of Science and Ph.D. in Integrative Biosciences from Tuskegee University in Alabama.