

## 2023-2024 Member Biographies

### Jeff Birchall

Dr. Jeff Birchall is an Associate Professor of local-scale climate change adaptation/ resilience in the School of Urban and Regional Planning (SURP), Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Alberta. Jeff is the Associate Director of SURP and Director of the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Lab and leads the UArctic Thematic Network on Local-scale Planning, Climate Change and Resilience.

Jeff has domestic and international experience, within an academic/ research setting and the public sector. Jeff is a registered professional planner.

Jeff's research program is interdisciplinary and explores localized climate impacts, how these affect critical infrastructure and the built form, how this relates to planning/ policy decisions, and what this means for community well-being and safety. Jeff's research is largely driven by key actor and local stakeholder engagement, with the aim of (co-) producing policy relevant knowledge/ outcomes, or translating theory into practice in a useful, locally informed way. In addition to his internal responsibilities, Jeff is currently engaged with Public Safety Canada on the National Risk Profile project, and supports programming of the Natural Hazard Centre/ Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction.

### Dolly Cepeda Montufar

Dolly Cepeda Montufar was born in Bogotá, Colombia and grew up right here in Edmonton. She studied chemical engineering and geography at the University of Ottawa, and currently works as a federal public servant. A 2021 Student Energy Fellow, Dolly has used the learnings she gained in her work as the Climate Resilient Design Competition Project Lead at the Global Shapers Edmonton Hub. As part of the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation's Sustainable Development Hub, she developed a series of articles on Alberta's Renewable Energy Potential. Dolly loves to read, visit new cafés with her friends and scour social media for reaction memes.

### Satya Das

Satya Brata Das is a Canadian thought leader with more than 45 years service as an influential writer, adviser and strategist. His policy expertise focused most recently on climate resilience, sustainability and emerging technology. Satya leads the Center of Excellence on Human-Centered Global Economy at The Digital Economist, a global impact ecosystem headquartered in Washington, D.C.

Satya has served on public, private and philanthropic boards, and believes deeply in community service as an engaged volunteer, particularly in advocating social justice and human rights as a way of life. He is a frequent commentator, and public speaker in both of Canada's national languages, in media, and in national and international events. His fourth book of literary non-fiction, *Us*, offers a path out of the politics of division and fear to a future that works for us all.



## Marieke Dube

Marieke is the Director of Government Affairs and Public Policy at the University of Alberta. She has worked in and adjacent to the post secondary sector for over a decade, contributing to the success of ambitious research and infrastructure projects at the University of Alberta. A proud Francophone, born and raised primarily in Edmonton, Marieke has lived and worked across Canada, and studied internationally.

In her role at the Alberta Climate Change Office, she led provincial, national and international files related to energy, the environment, climate change, and trade for over five years. She has over fifteen years working in government relations, across all orders of government and internationally.

She is a passionate environmentalist who works in community to support food security and sustainability, and believes that collaboration - across economic sectors, orders of government, and between generations - is critical to addressing the complex policy issues of our time. She believes that cities are the locus of innovation for climate action, and that they hold the key to real innovation and impactful partnership.

## David Dodge

David Dodge has spent the last two decades working on clean energy, energy transition and climate change. David is the producer and host of the GreenEnergyFutures.ca, multimedia series. He has spent a decade researching and producing more than 300 video, radio and blog stories on leading clean energy technologies, projects and leaders in Canada. David served as the founding chair of the board of Energy Efficiency Alberta and Co-Chair of Edmonton's Energy Transition Advisory Committee. David is a sought after public speaker and has delivered more than 150 talks and keynote addresses on energy transition.

## Chelsea Donelon

Chelsea is a Policy Analyst with the Electricity and Sustainable Energy Division of the Government of Alberta where she works on the Renewable Energy Program. As part of the Climate Leadership Plan the program seeks to achieve 30% renewable electricity in Alberta by 2030. She was valedictorian at the University of Cambridge for her Master's in Economic Development and has an unquenchable thirst for understanding the contradictions of climate change and economic growth.

As such, she has done research in areas where climate change and development intersect including the role of oil and gas companies in the energy transition, the reality of jobs in a green economy, and the ethics of how we economically price the future environment. Chelsea has previously worked with the Alberta Council for Global Cooperation in a number of roles and was recently named one of their Top 30 Under 30.

## Daniel Grist

Daniel was born and raised in the United Kingdom. He served the British Army for seven years before gaining a Bachelor's degree in environmental engineering and a Master's degree in sustainable energy engineering. Daniel initially worked as an analyst for Cenex, a low carbon vehicle research and consultancy organization. He continues to work for Cenex as a sustainable transport consultant. Daniel moved to Edmonton in October 2019 and is excited by the opportunity to serve on the Energy Transition Climate Resilience Committee.



## Anna Ho

Anna Ho, M.Sc., P.Eng., is an Environmental Engineer with a career in consulting, research and project management. As a volunteer and community member, Anna co-founded Paths for People, an Active Transportation advocacy organization. She has been a guest speaker for City of Edmonton Change for Climate, Social Innovation lectures at the University of Alberta, and reviewed grant applications for Alberta EcoTrust Foundation. In 2018, she moved to Ontario where she developed curricula and instructed project management and alternative energy at Lambton College. In 2021, Anna returned to Edmonton and she currently works on water quality research and development initiatives in the mining sector. Anna enjoys learning, working and collaborating across different sectors and disciplines to identify innovative solutions. She believes in the power of individuals to create meaningful change in our communities and cities.

## Melanie Hoffman

Dr. Melanie Hoffman (she/her) is the Program Manager for Capital Region EcoSchools with the Alberta Council for Environmental Education. She lends support to connect teaching to community-engaged youth-led environmental and climate action. A Ph.D. chemist and passionate educator with over a decade of experience, Melanie directed community learning projects with Edmonton's Kings Centre for Visualization in Science.

In her free time, Melanie initiated Drawdown Alberta with the Alberta Environmental Network, and the Edmonton Community Transition cohort with the Tamarack Institute. She volunteers as Lead Mentor for Alberta with the Climate Reality Project Canada. Her family owns a solar array, has converted their front lawn to a permaculture food forest and veggie plot, celebrates public and active transportation and is participating in a deep energy retrofit pilot project. Melanie loves connecting with neighbor-friends, savoring the fruits of permaculture gardening, hiking, trail running, and otherwise enjoying this beautiful planet we call home.

## Maya Kalogirou

Dr. Kalogirou was born and raised in Edmonton. She is a Registered Nurse with a clinical background in emergency room nursing and is a doctoral graduate from the University of Alberta. Her program of research relates to climate change, health, and nursing practice, and her doctoral work examined: 1) Albertan nurses' perspectives on climate change and health, and 2) how the hospital setting influenced nurses' abilities to practice in environmentally responsible ways. She is passionate about finding ways to help nurses and other healthcare professionals get engaged with the climate crisis and plans to continue working on developing nursing leadership in this field. Moreover, Maya has a distinct passion for planetary health and the integration of planetary health into all areas of her professional career as well as her personal life. Maya is currently the President-Elect for the Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment, a nursing group that is a member of the Canadian Network of Nursing Specialties of the Canadian Nurses Association. She also holds an assistant professor role at MacEwan University.

## Jacob Komar

Jacob Komar, P.Eng. is the Principal and lead mechanical engineer at Revolve Engineering Inc. and is a specialist in Net Zero building design, energy modelling and geothermal systems. Jacob has helped design more than ten Net Zero buildings and over thirty commercial geothermal systems. Jacob started his Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) career designing heating/cooling systems for buildings in Virginia working for a leading green design firm, gaining experience in both traditional as well as green HVAC design. Upon returning to Edmonton, Jacob continued to pursue his passion for green design by focusing most of his energy on renewable systems including geothermal, solar thermal, heat recovery systems as well as energy modelling. Today, Jacob focuses solely on Net Zero building designs, energy modelling and renewable mechanical systems. Jacob is a passionate advocate for Alberta's green energy industry and is committed to helping Edmonton transition to a renewable future.



## Alvin Law

Alvin Law is a utilities strategist who has been helping public organizations navigate the interactions between energy, emissions and economics for nearly two decades. As the Senior Director of Utilities at Alberta Municipalities, Alvin assists municipalities of all sizes in advancing their goals for innovative energy supply, achieving sustainability and emissions reduction objectives, all while maintaining a keen focus on fiscal prudence. Alvin currently oversees a \$100M energy retailing business and played a crucial role in scaling up the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre.

Prior to this, Alvin championed improvements in the environmental and energy performance of provincial facilities. Alvin led the certification of 80 buildings under BOMA BEST and established Sustainable Building Operations throughout Government of Alberta facilities.

As a Professional Engineer with a Master of Business Administration in Finance, Alvin continuously looks to enhance the world around him, having served on the Board of BOMA Calgary, the Board of Green Calgary, technical committees for green building certifications, and environmental health and safety committees. After working in Calgary, Alvin recognized his heart was still in his hometown and returned to Edmonton where he is committed to ensuring that his loved ones and fellow citizens can be happy and healthy.

## Kathleen (Kate) Rich

Kate Rich, M.Sc. and P.Geo., has led various strategies for the public and private sectors related to energy, climate change, water and land management – all with a focus on sustainable economic growth. She has worked in several cities across Canada and internationally, and returned to Edmonton and the Government of Alberta in February 2020.

She was an Assistant Deputy Minister in the Government of Manitoba leading delivery of the province's Climate and Green Plan. She was a leader in the federal government's implementation of the pan-Canadian approach to carbon pricing, and represented Canada at international fora on carbon markets and competitiveness. She has held a number of executive and senior management positions in the mining sector and governments, including climate change and air policy, land-use planning, oil sands environmental management and water strategy implementation.

## James (Jim) Sandercock

Dr. Jim Sandercock is the inaugural Chair of the Alternative Energy diploma program at Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT). The two-year program has prepared over 150 highly qualified personnel who can design and assemble renewable energy systems such as solar PV, model energy efficiency measures such as geothermal and improved building envelopes, and recommend conservation measures through energy auditing and energy management planning. Jim has taught in multiple programs, ranging from trades to degrees, and helped create new diplomas, including the Nanotechnology and Alternative Energy programs. Prior to teaching at the NAIT, Jim studied the production of fuel-grade ethanol using locally-sourced feedstocks. He completed a Doctor of Philosophy in Microbiology and Biotechnology at the University of Alberta, studying biodegradable plastics.

In 2023, Jim and his family completed a net-zero retrofit of their 1950s Edmonton home using a panelized wall system similar to the Dutch EnergieSprong method. If you can achieve a net-zero retrofit on a house in Edmonton, you can do it pretty well anywhere on Earth!





## Sheena Wilson

Dr. Sheena Wilson is Associate Professor at Faculté Saint-Jean, University of Alberta. She is the co-director of the international Petrocultures Research Group, and research lead on Just Powers, an interdisciplinary and community-engaged initiative focused on climate justice organized around socially just energy transition for all. Funded by a Tri-Council SSHRC grant and the Future Energy Systems' Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF), the research initiatives ongoing under Just Powers include (but are not limited to): 1) Feminist Energy Futures: Power Shift and Environmental Social Justice; 2) Speculative Energy Futures; 3) iDoc; and 4) Bigstone Cree: A Vision for the Future. Publication highlights include *Petrocultures: Oil, Politics, Cultures* (MQUP, 2017); *Gendering Oil: Tracing Western Petrosocial Relations* (2014); and *Sighting Oil* (2012). Dr. Wilson's monograph in process is titled *Deep Energy Literacy: Toward Just Futures*.

