ENERGY TRANSITION
CLIMATE RESILIENCE
COMMITTEE

Member Biographies

Ahsan Ahmed

Ahsan Ahmed has been working for the Government of Alberta, Ministry of Infrastructure as a Project Manager and has delivered projects throughout the province under different project delivery methods i.e Public Private Partnerships, Design-Builds and Design-Bid- Build. He has more than ten years of experience in urban develop projects in Canada and abroad.

He is currently pursuing his Masters in Engineering from the University of Alberta and is currently involved with several boards and committees i.e. Appeals and Complaints Board, Nominating Committee, Dean of Students' Advisory Committee at the University of Alberta, Greening Government Initiative Committee and OH&S Committee with the Government of Alberta, Water Community Advisory Panel with EPCOR. Ahsan has been part of the Planning Academy, the Citizens Police Academy and Master Composter Recycling Program with the City of Edmonton. The City of Edmonton and the Government of Alberta have also recognized Ahsan's volunteering contributions.

Ahsan's work has included developing strategies, policies and implementation of energy efficient and sustainable practices through the application of LEED Silver for building construction. One of the projects led by Ahsan is currently under design school which includes the installation of solar photovoltaics to assist in offsetting the building's carbon footprint.

Peter Amerongen

Peter Amerongen has been designing and building energy efficient houses in and around Edmonton, Alberta since the 1970's. He is a partner in Habitat Studio, an Edmonton design/build company. Starting in 2007, he has designed and built 11 net zero energy houses (including several that are generating significant surplus energy) in Edmonton's 5100 O C (9200 O F) heating degree-day climate. Under his leadership, Habitat Studio has also built more than 50 houses with Energuide Ratings of 86 or better (under Canada's ERS rating system). He and his team designed and built Canada's first net zero energy affordable multi-family project and Canada's first net zero energy church in the Edmonton neighbourhood of North Glenora.

Net zero energy buildings and retrofits demand close attention to the saving or generation of every bit of energy used. This micro scale focus has left him with a keen appreciation for the monumental challenge of preparing all of our buildings for a low carbon future – hopefully in time to avoid catastrophic climate change.

Peter is an original member of Edmonton City Council's Energy Transition Advisory Committee and of the CHBA Net Zero Council Management Committee. He is also a Certified Passive House Consultant (PHIUS and PHI). He serves on the board of Passive Buildings Canada.

Gregory Caldwell

Greg was born in Edmonton and educated as an Engineer at the University of Alberta. Since graduation from the Faculty of Engineering Greg has worked full time while completing CMA and PMP designations.

Greg's professional experience consists of Engineering, Accounting, and Regulatory work in the Utility and Oil Field Industries. His recent focus (since 2012) has been in the areas of Business Technology, Utility Regulation, and Innovation. Greg has extensive professional experience dealing in Regulatory and financial matters, which when combined with his technical background provides a unique skillset to help understand and analyze problems holistically from an engineering, financial, and regulatory perspective.

Greg enjoys working collaboratively and in groups and has strong written and verbal communication skills. He currently participates on national committees with the Canadian Gas Association in partnership with multiple levels of government with goal of funding and testing of emerging technologies to combat climate change, promoting energy security, and alternative ways for Canadians to provide for their energy needs.

Greg is married and has two children aged one and three. When not spending time with his family he enjoys playing hockey, travelling the world, and constantly learning about new technologies and strategies to solve the challenges facing industry and society.

David Dodge

David Dodge has spent the last decade working on energy issues, energy literacy and more recently as the producer and host of the Green Energy Futures multi-media series. He has spent the last five years travelling across Canada researching and producing more than 190 video, radio and blog stories on leading clean energy technologies, projects and leaders in Canada who are working on the transition to clean energy.

David has examined solar, wind, geothermal, biogas, biomass, biodiesel, landfill gas, industrial symbiosis and many more clean technologies. He has researched net-zero buildings, energy efficiency, electric vehicles and mode shift through urban design and is a regular speaker at conferences, events and in the media. David is also the chair of Energy Efficiency Alberta, the provincial agency responsible for delivering energy efficiency and renewable energy programs in Alberta.

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.

Michael Fleischauer

Prof. Michael Fleischauer, Ph.D., P.Eng., is an Associate Research Officer and the Energy program coordinator at the National Research Council – Nanotechnology Research Centre (NRC-NANO). Mike earned his B.Sc. (Physics) at the University of Guelph in 2001. He then studied, explained, and patented lithium-ion battery electrode materials while earning his M.Sc. (Physics, 2003) and Ph.D. (2006) at Dalhousie University. Mike moved to Edmonton and the University of Alberta (UofA) for his NSERC / Alberta Ingenuity / Killam Postdoctoral Fellowship and established UofA's organic photovoltaic program. In 2007, Mike was hired by the National Research Council and expanded the photovoltaic effort to NRC. He led a major fuel cell catalyst support effort from 2010-2012. Since then, Mike has led the photovoltaic device characterization effort (from which G2V Optics Inc. was spun out), created an industry-integrated high-temperature compatible energy storage effort, and established NRC-NANO's project management office. Mike became an Adjunct Professor of Physics at UofA in 2015 and a Professional Engineer in 2016. Mike has delivered 25 invited talks; his Web of Science Hirsch index is 23 with 37 refereed articles cited >1600 times.

Marc Huot

Marc Huot is the Director of Non-Residential Programs at Energy Efficiency Alberta. As part of the EEA team, Marc helps Alberta's businesses, nonprofits, and industries reduce their energy use and greenhouse gas emissions through programs supporting the implementation of energy efficiency technologies, conservation practices, and small scale renewable energy systems.

As a previous Manager of the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre (MCCAC), Marc worked closely with municipalities across the province, providing them with educational resources on energy use, building energy benchmarking, and funding through the MCCAC's energy efficiency and solar energy programs.

Educated at the University of Alberta, Marc is a professional engineer with over 10 years of experience working on climate change and energy policy from within public agencies, the Government of Alberta's Climate Change Office, and as technical and policy analyst with the Pembina Institute. Marc is passionate about the need to address climate change at the local level and is eager to be a part of the City of Edmonton's Energy Transition..

Shafraaz Kaba

Manasc Isaac architect Shafraaz Kaba calls himself "an instigator of ideas for making the world a better, more sustainable place." That dedication is evident in Kaba's net-zero designs, which include Edmonton's Mosaic Centre and the his own home in Beverly Heights. Shafraaz continues to push for improved policies, practices, and public engagement in design through his involvement in the Media Architecture Design Edmonton (MADE) Society, the Lean Construction Institute of Canada, and the Canada Green Building Council.

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.

Kalen Pilkington

Kalen understands that sustainability is about more than recycling and saving the bees (although she really loves bees). It's about finding a balance between ecological integrity, economic vitality, social equity and cultural continuity. With a Masters of Environment and Sustainability, a postgraduate degree in Green Architecture, and current candidacy for her MBA, Kalen seeks to apply an interdisciplinary lens that connects local solutions to larger systemic challenges. Understanding that role the built environment plays in our energy consumption, Kalen has a keen interest in transforming our built environment, integrating biomimetic design, and moving towards net positive and regenerative buildings.

As Director of Sustainability at MacEwan University, Kalen sets and achieves admiral goals for campus and community sustainability — but she sets equally admiral goals for herself. She's an avid backcountry canoer, a lifetime learner, and an advocate for inclusive built environments that promote connectivity, health and well-being. Kalen hopes to inspire everyone to find their passion, take action and create collective, innovative solutions that will make our future a little brighter.

Klaas Rodenburg

Klaas has been in the building design industry for more than 35 years receiving his LEED AP accreditation in 2003. He has served as the Chair of the Alberta Chapter of the CaGBC as well as a director on the CaGBC Board and has served as the CEO of the Alberta Center of Excellence for Building Information Modelling (aceBIM). He has a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in Industrial Design (1984) and a Master of Arts degree in Communications and Technology (MACT) (2009) both at the University of Alberta.

Klaas was the Sustainable Design Coordinator at Stantec before moving to Mammoet Canada Western in 2014 as a quality advisor where he is a member of the Sustainovation Steering Committee, a Global initiative responsible for identifying and implementing innovative solutions to sustainability challenges faced by Mammoet and it's sister companies. He is currently the volunteer President of the Alberta Council of Technology (ABCTech), has taught sustainability courses at NAIT, Lakeland College and U of A and has presented at a variety of sustainability focused events.

Chris Vilcsak

Chris Vilcsak is President and CEO of Solution 105 Consulting Ltd. and has been active in the energy indu stry for more than 30 years.

He started Solution 105 19 years ago, focusing on "Making Sense of Energy"; for companies operating in deregulated environments. Today, Solution 105 is an award-winning global provider of complete utility management solutions with a client list that includes some of Canada's largest property owners and managers (e.g. Oxford Properties, Manulife Financial, Morguard, Bentall Kennedy). They also bought EPCOR's submetering business a few years ago and that business has grown extremely fast.

Chris was born and raised in Edmonton and area, graduating with a mechanical engineering degree from the University of Alberta in 1985 and completing an MB on a part-time basis from the UofA in 1997. He credits the MBA with sparking his entrepreneurial fires. He is active in the community on a professional and personal level, having served six years on the board of the Edonton Chamber of Commerc, several more years on the City of Edmonton's Renewable Energy Task Force, was part of the founding ETAC members and has been on the BOMA Edmonton board since 2005.

Geoffrey Wagner

Geoff is a Professional Engineer with over 20 years' experience in the power industry. He holds both Bachelors and Master degrees in Engineering from the University of Alberta. During his career Geoff has worked in all areas of power, spending considerable time working in generation. His experience includes working in renewable generation and he has managed wind, landfill gas, hydro and biomass facilities.

Geoff is currently the Director for EPCOR Technologies which is an integrated engineering, construction and maintenance firm providing, Traffic and LRT Signals, Street and Specialized Lighting, LRT Traction Power, and Fibre Optic services to a range of organizations. Geoff has been with EPCOR for 20 years. He is active in the community and has lead Scouts and coached soccer. He is a Director of the Edmonton Power Historic Foundation.

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) 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 Petrosexual Relations" (2014); and Sighting Oil (2012). Dr. Wilson's monograph in process is titled Deep Energy Literacy:Toward Just Futures.