



# ENERGY TRANSITION CLIMATE RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

## 2022-2023 Member Biographies

### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### **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.

### **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 its sister companies. He is currently the volunteer past 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 industry for more than 30 years.

He started Solution 105 19 years ago, focusing on "Making Sense of Energy" for companies operating in deregulated utility 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, and 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 MBA on a part-time basis from the University of Alberta 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 Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, several more years on the City of Edmonton's Renewable Energy Task Force, was a founding member of ETCRC, and has been on the BOMA Edmonton board since 2005.

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

