Evaluating the Local Impact of Department of Energy Programs

Committee

Kathryn E. Newcomer

Chair

Kathryn Newcomer is a professor in the Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration at the George Washington University. She was founding director of the Trachtenberg School in 2003 and served as its director for 14 years. She is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration. She served as president of the American Evaluation Association (AEA) in 2017 and served as president of the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) for 2006–2007. Kathryn is an internationally recognized expert in program evaluation and has published over ten books, including: Research Handbook on Program Evaluation (2024), Evidence-building and Evaluation in Government (2022), Engagement for Equitable Outcomes: A Practitioner's Playbook (2022), Federal Inspectors General: Truth Seekers in Turbulent Times (2020), and The Handbook of Practical Program Evaluation, 4th edition (2015), and dozens of articles. She earned her B.S. in education and an M.A. in political science from the University of Kansas, and her Ph.D. in political science from the University of Iowa.

Nnenia M. Campbell

Member

Nnenia Campbell is Executive Director of the William Averette Anderson Fund and a research associate with the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado Boulder. Her research interests center on the social dimensions of disasters, particularly the interplay between risk, vulnerability, and resilience within frontline communities. Dr. Campbell's applied research aims to foster the integration of empirical evidence into policy and practice, with an emphasis on inclusive engagement in organizational preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. From 2020-2021 she led the development of rapid expert consultations related to COVID-19 and concurrent disasters as part of the National Academies' Societal Experts Action Network. She has spearheaded program evaluations involving professional development training for underrepresented students in STEM fields; outreach and public education activities conducted by federal agencies; and organizational resilience-building initiatives. Campbell held advisory and leadership positions within the American Evaluation Association from 2014-2024. She holds BA and MA degrees in sociology from the University of Central Florida and a PhD in sociology from the University of Colorado Boulder.

Benjamin Preston

Member

Benjamin Preston (he/him/his) is a senior policy researcher at the RAND Corporation and director of Community Health and Environmental Policy, a program of RAND Social and Economic Well-Being. He is also a professor at Pardee RAND Graduate School. Preston's recent research efforts include advancing understanding of the implications of climate change and disasters on the delivery of infrastructure services, analyzing and communicating the environmental justice dimensions of climate change, scenario analysis for low-carbon technology pathways, and analysis of disaster recovery options and their implementation in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. From 2021 to 2023 Preston took a leave of absence from RAND to serve as the assistant director for Climate Services and Adaptation in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy. Previously, he held research positions with the Climate Change Science Institute at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the CSIRO's Division of Marine and Atmospheric Research, and the Pew Center on Global Climate Change. Preston received a Ph.D. in environmental biology from the Georgia Institute of Technology and a B.S. in biology from the College of William & Mary.

Suzanne Russo

Member

Suzanne Russo is a fellow at Resources for the Future and director of the Environmental Justice Initiative, focusing on equitable policy design for the climate transition. Prior to joining RFF, Russo spent five years as the CEO for Pecan Street Inc.—a nonprofit organization working to advance data and technology solutions for the climate crisis—and held several other roles during her tenure. While serving as CEO, Russo expanded Pecan Street’s focus from distributed energy resources to include transit decarbonization and climate-beneficial agriculture as well as founding the Center for Race, Energy & Climate Justice. She has PI’d research projects funded by DOE, NSF, USDA, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Previously, she served as Director of Sustainability for New York City’s Department of Housing Preservation & Development where she led the creation, financing, and implementation of comprehensive green building and retrofit policies for the city’s affordable housing stock. Russo has conducted research in Africa, China, and India exploring the effects of community input on policy design.

Hadia A. Sheerazi

Member

Hadia is a Manager at RMI (founded as the Rocky Mountain Institute) leading community engagement and equity-centered decarbonization work and thought-leadership for the highest emitting sectors in the Climate-Aligned Industries Program. Hadia has cross-sectoral experience in clean energy, climate adaptation and mitigation, and sustainability in the public, private, non-profit, intergovernmental (IGOs), and academic sectors. Prior to joining RMI, Hadia served as the Program Manager of the Carbon Management Research Initiative (CaMRI) at Columbia University's Climate School, and was as a contributing researcher and author on the New York City Panel on Climate Change (NPCC). Hadia has been internationally recognized for her research and contributions to energy equity, sustainability, women's and girls' empowerment, and inclusive adaptation and resilience in disaster-prone communities. She is the first global winner of the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) King Hamad Youth Empowerment Award to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), was named as one of the "50 Rising Stars in ESG'' in the Financial Times, and recognized as a "Rising Star," by Hydrogen Economist's 2024 "Women in Hydrogen 50," list. She holds a dual-MSc. in Sustainability Management and Conflict Resolution from Columbia University, and a BA in Government and Politics from St. John's University.