

Heidi VanGenderen

*Chief Sustainability Officer  
University of Colorado Boulder*

Heidi is currently University of Colorado Boulder's (CU Boulder) first Chief Sustainability Officer where she is in charge of "driving a campus-wide vision for sustainability in support of the university's aspiration of becoming a national model of excellence in this arena." She has worked on energy, climate and sustainability issues in the non-profit, public, academic, and private sectors as an organizer, writer, and researcher for the majority of her professional career.

She returned home to Colorado in 2017 from Washington, DC where she served as the Director of Public Engagement at the U.S. Department of Energy as presidential appointee in the Obama Administration.

Prior, Heidi was Director of National Outreach for the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE) and Senior Energy Advisor for the Worldwatch Institute.

Heidi served as Colorado's first gubernatorial climate advisor for former Governor Bill Ritter where she oversaw the creation of the state's first Climate Action Plan. Following, she worked briefly for a U.K.-based carbon trading and accounting company, Camco, prior to participating as a Chevening Fellow at the University of Edinburgh with a focus on finance and investment in a low carbon economy.

She has served as senior associate of the Wirth Chair in Sustainability at CU Denver, as Deputy Director of the Presidential Climate Action Project, and as the first Executive Director of the statewide conservation coalition, now known as Conservation Colorado. She is an alumnae of Carleton College.