

Charles Alan Hernick

BIO

Charles Hernick is the Vice President of Policy and Advocacy at Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions Forum in Washington, DC. Charles leads CRES Forum's policy work and executes strategies to advance clean energy solutions and innovative approaches to reducing carbon emissions. Charles is an energy expert who understands emerging clean technologies, market barriers, and policies and regulations. For over a decade he has worked at the crossroads of economic development, energy, and natural resource management across the U.S. and on the ground in over a dozen countries in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean. He is also a climate change expert who has integrated climate change considerations into U.S. government programs and policies and has authored climate mitigation and adaptation best practice guidelines for over a dozen development sectors. Charles is a proud appointed member of the Maryland Clean Energy Center Advisory Council.

CV

Charles is a proven leader at the crossroads of economic development, energy, and natural resource management. He takes on challenging tasks and seemingly unsolvable problems associated with sustainability and climate change. By managing to his team's strengths and incorporating diverse perspectives and complementary skills he achieves timely results. He utilizes his extensive contacts in the energy, renewable power, utility, oil and gas, environmental, and conservation sectors, and in media to gather information and influence outcomes. Charles takes calculated risks, learns through incremental progress, and engineers success.

- *Outcome oriented sustainability professional.* Authored the Growing Climate Solutions Act (S. 1251), a carbon offsets and carbon trading bill, which passed the U.S. Senate (92-8). He has advised members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives and their staff, as well as executive-level decision-makers in the White House, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and U.S. Agency for International Development. He has developed and implemented policy across the U.S. and on the ground in over a dozen countries in Africa, the Americas, and Europe.
- *Exceptional writer, verbal communicator, and advocate.* Delivered oral and written testimony to the U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee on "The Business Case for Climate Solutions." Authored [50+ articles](#) in publications including USA Today, The Hill, and Bloomberg identifying actionable steps to achieve environmental sustainability. Charles is a frequent guest on podcasts, radio shows, in university classrooms, and at international conferences. He is bilingual: English and Spanish.

Experience

- *Management and growth*
 - Grew advocacy team from 3 to 15 people and an annual budget from \$1 million to over \$12 million per year from philanthropic donors.
 - Grew international consulting practice from 5 to 25 people and won a 5-year, \$40 million USAID contract.
 - Hired/managed staff and developed internal policies and protocols to manage corporate growth.

- *Sustainability*
 - Developed and advanced legislation in support of clean energy, natural climate solutions, and voluntary disclosure with government relations team / lobbyists.
 - Led environmental impact assessments for large, complex multimillion dollar infrastructure projects consistent with NEPA, 22 CFR 216, and multilateral development bank standards.
 - Led and facilitated 200+ stakeholder consultations on contentious issues requiring complex negotiations and political savvy, communicating to non-technical audiences and decision-makers.
 - Supported the formation of the U.S. House of Representatives Conservative Climate Caucus.
 - Trained 300+ U.S. government staff and partners representing 30+ countries.
- *Clean air, energy, and climate change*
 - Identified specific opportunities for U.S. government programs to reduce greenhouse gas emission and adapt to climate change; authored climate mitigation and adaptation best practices for 19 development sectors used in 100+ countries worldwide.
 - Wrote the financial responsibility/assurance component of U.S. EPA's geologic sequestration rule to support carbon dioxide capture and storage (40 CFR 146.85).
 - Established and grew national advocacy campaigns, including National Clean Energy Week a \$6 million-dollar conference by bringing together businesses, advocates, and decision-makers.
 - Established and led successful coalitions with partisan, non-partisan, and trade organizations to advance federal and state-level clean energy policy.
 - Moderated 40+ policy briefings on clean energy and climate change solutions.
- *Clean water*
 - Authored clean energy investment guidelines for U.S. EPA's multi-million-dollar revolving funds.
 - Improved sustainability outcomes for drinking water and wastewater systems by identifying financial and environmental risks and opportunities for projects, renewable energy projects.
- *Conservation*
 - Identified conservation and sustainable development opportunities in five countries through tropical forestry and biodiversity assessments (FAA 118/119).
 - Led citizens science campaigns and developed educational materials on aquatic invasive species.

Recent Influential Media

Article in Power Magazine. "[Competition for Cleaner Energy Will Pay Dividends for Climate and the Economy.](#)" September 1, 2021.

Opinion in Morning Consult. "[The Year Clean Energy Proved Unstoppable.](#)" March 23, 2021.

Opinion in USA Today. "[A way forward on climate change: Focus on reducing heavy industry's carbon emissions.](#)" December 28, 2020.

Article in Real Clear Energy. "[A Consensus Climate Solution Grown on the Farm.](#)" June 24, 2020.

Guest co-host on Political Climate. [“What Conservatives and Climate Hawks Learned From the CNN Climate Town Hall.”](#) September 11, 2019.

Guest on BBC World Service. [“Is capitalism killing our planet, or is it our only hope?”](#) February 15, 2019.

Journal article in The Environmental Forum. [“A voluntary federal framework.”](#) November 1, 2018

Work History

Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions (CRES) Forum	Washington, DC
Vice President of Policy and Advocacy	May 2020-present
Director of Policy and Advocacy	2017—2020
Candidate for U.S. House of Representatives	Virginia’s 8th Congressional District
Won Republican nomination: May 2016 -- Lost general election: November 2016	
The Cadmus Group, Inc.	Arlington, VA and Boston, MA
Senior Associate & International Practice Lead	2014—2017
Associate (International Development)	2012—2014
Associate (Environmental Policy and Economics)	2008—2012
Senior Analyst (Infrastructure and Economics)	2007—2008
Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management	Boston, MA
Invasive Species Specialist	2006—2007
Boston University	Boston, MA
Teacher: Political Geography	2004—2006
Harvard University	Cambridge, MA
Teacher: Energy Policy for Mexico	2005
University of Minnesota	St. Paul, MN
Plant Biology Laboratory Manager	2003-2004

Education

M.A., International Relations & Environmental Policy, Boston University, 2006

Thesis: *Environmental Implications of U.S.-Andean Trade: An Econometric Analysis*

B.S., Ecology, Evolution & Behavior; Minor, Political Science; University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, 2003

Volunteerism

Eastport Civic Association: President 2021, Treasurer 2020