

PROFILE

More than twenty years of experience at state and federal levels in policy development, advocacy and analysis in a range of areas, including climate, clean energy, and economic and workforce development. Extensive experience organizing and leading diverse, multi-stakeholder coalitions and partnerships, and developing aligned communications and legislative strategies to win policy victories. Leadership and management experience in high pressure roles that require rapid response, creativity and teamwork.

EXPERIENCE

Executive Director: BlueGreen Alliance (BGA) / President: BlueGreen Alliance Foundation (BGAF) (2019-Present)

- Provides overall leadership and strategic direction to BGA (a 501c4) and BGAF (a 501c3), a partnership of some of the country's largest and most influential labor unions, representing millions of Americans, that works on a range a public policy issues and federal and state levels, including climate, clean energy, just transition, infrastructure and worker health and safety issues.
- Manages a staff of 38 and a combined budget of ~\$7.5 million and leads organizational fundraising efforts, with a focus on philanthropic donors.
- Principal spokesperson for BGA with the press, communicating regularly with reporters and other media about policy issues within BGA's purview.
- Educates and advocates with Members of Congress on federal legislation, including as a frequent witness at Congressional committee hearings.
- Reports to and meets regularly with BGA's Board of Directors, chaired by Leo Gerard (President Emeritus, USW) and Michael Brune (Executive Director, Sierra Club).

Independent Consultant (2017-2019)

- Provided consulting services including development of legislation, lobbying, research and analysis, and issue campaign strategy development and execution for a diverse range of public interest organizations on issues related to climate, clean energy, coal community and worker transition, infrastructure, abandoned mine land reclamation, black lung disease, and other policies.
- Clients included the BlueGreen Alliance, Third Way, Appalachian Citizens' Law Center, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Energy Foundation, the Environmental and Energy Study Institute, and the National Cooperative Business Association.

Senior Policy Advisor: Executive Office of the President/The White House (2014-2017)

- Led development of the POWER+ Plan, a ~\$9 billion suite of investments in coal communities, workers and technology included in President Obama's FY 2016 and 2017 budgets. Helped lead Administration efforts to advocate for the Plan with Congress and to engage with stakeholders and the media about the Plan
- Organized and coordinated the POWER Initiative, a collaboration of ten federal agencies that aligned, leveraged and targeted federal economic and workforce development assistance to coal communities and workers. As part of POWER, led development of coordinated multi-agency Federal Funding Opportunities in 2015 and 2016 that invested ~\$115 million in projects in fifteen states that are growing sustainable regional economies and training workers for family-supporting jobs.

- Part of White House climate and energy team that worked closely with the U.S. EPA in policy development and stakeholder engagement related to the Clean Power Plan (CPP). Led White House engagement with labor unions on the CPP.
- Policy lead within White House climate and energy team on Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) and nuclear power.

Director of Strategic Programs and Senior Advisor: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (2012-2014)

- Oversaw an annual budget of \$20 million and federal staff, fellow, and contractor workforce of ~70 individuals.
- Advised the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy and the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary on the strategic direction and management of EERE and led the development of EERE's 5-year strategic plan.
- Directed EERE's external engagement efforts with a broad range of stakeholders, the media, and Members of Congress. These efforts focused on clearly demonstrating the value and importance of EERE's work and responding to all manner of requests.
- Guided EERE's policy and analysis work, which included return on investment and other program evaluation activities, relevant market studies, national-level modeling retrospective, prospective, and competitive assessments and analyses relevant to EERE technologies, and analyses on technology, regulatory, and market challenges to greater deployment of EERE technologies.
- Oversaw EERE's commercialization, education and workforce, international, and other high-visibility efforts among EERE, DOE, private industry, academia, international government officials, and other entities.

Director of Policy and Strategic Partnerships: BlueGreen Alliance (2010-2011)

- Identified and developed policies that maximized both high-quality job creation and environmental protection while mobilizing BGA's union and environmental partners.
- Advocated for policies aimed at stimulating clean energy manufacturing growth in the U.S.
- Developed BGA's policy agenda on waste reduction, reuse and recycling
- Convened BGA's Corporate Advisory Council, a diverse group of businesses that participate in the green economy and support clean energy and climate protection policies.
- Participated in design of annual *Good Jobs, Green Jobs* Conference, the largest convening of green economy leaders in the country.
- Participated in leadership team that guided BGA's strategic direction.

National Policy Director: Green For All (2008-2010)

- Developed and advocated for the organization's federal legislative priorities with Congress and the Administration, resulting in several legislative victories.
- Founded and convened the Climate Equity Alliance, a multi-stakeholder coalition of national organizations advocating for climate policy that protects and provides opportunity for low-income workers and communities.
- Analyzed, wrote, and contributed to reports on green job, clean energy, and workforce development policies and related best practices.
- Spoke publicly and made presentations at national conferences and other public forums.
- Advised state policymakers on the development of green job policies.
- Supervised policy staff team and managed consultants.

State Policy Director: The Workforce Alliance (2005-2008)

- Worked with state partners to organize multi-stakeholder coalitions and develop state-specific proposals re: workforce development and related policy areas.
- Researched and wrote materials on states' workforce challenges and potential policy solutions.
- Developed and helped implement advocacy strategies targeted at state legislatures.

- Provided technical assistance to state administrators to help improve existing programs or to develop new policy initiatives.
- Developed and implemented press strategies to support policy goals in targeted states.

Director of Field Operations: The Workforce Alliance (2001-2005)

- Organized and coordinated TWA's multi-stakeholder members and network of allies across 25 targeted states.
- Advocated with Members of Congress and their staff on federal workforce, welfare and higher education policies.
- Assisted local stakeholders to directly engage federal policymakers, both in Washington and in-district.
- Directed strategic media communications to lift the profile of workforce development policies and influence key policymakers.
- Analyzed federal workforce development policies and state and local implementation.
- Presented to a wide variety of audiences on federal legislation, policy best practices, and advocacy strategies.
- Educated 2004 Presidential Campaigns about workforce development policies

Director: Affirmative Options Coalition, St. Paul, MN (1997-2001)

- Coordinated more than 65 organizations in statewide Minnesota coalition focused on public policy and advocacy with welfare-to-work, workforce development and other economic security issues affecting low-income people.
- Raised funds, hired and supervised staff and consultants, and monitored the budget with the Coalition's fiscal agent.
- Lobbied the Minnesota State Legislature, state agencies, local governments, and federal government on policy formation and implementation.
- Organized broad-based constituencies in support of Coalition's legislative agenda.
- Educated members and other constituencies about policy issues.
- Communicated extensively with and through media via Op-Ed, press conference, press release and editorial board meetings.

Organizer: UNITE! (1997)

- Lead organizer in campaign to organize 4,000 Latino immigrant garment workers in 50 Los Angeles sweatshops.
- Coordinated 80 plaintiffs in class action lawsuit brought by garment workers against garment manufacturers.
- Liaisoned with U.S. Department of Labor and CA Labor Commission in investigations of wage and hour violations in Los Angeles garment industry.
- Assisted in organizing nation-wide boycott of Guess?, Inc. clothing.

Organizer: Local 113 (MN), Service Employees International Union (1996-1997)

- Led winning organizing campaign at Beverly Enterprises-owned nursing home.
- Developed campaign strategy, recruited organizing committee, house-called all employees, conducted regular committee meetings and produced campaign literature.
- Assisted in organizing broader Twin Cities Nursing Home Workers Campaign, a region-wide, community-based campaign to unionize the Twin Cities nursing home industry.

Policy Fellow/Constituent Advocate: Office of U.S. Senator Paul Wellstone, St. Paul, MN (1993-1994):

- Evaluated proposed reforms of federal welfare system and wrote policy position paper for Senator Wellstone.
- Conducted outreach, organized and led meetings with constituents and constituent organizations in regard to relevant legislation and bill reauthorizations.

- Advocated for constituents of Senator Wellstone with federal agencies.

PUBLICATIONS

Third Way, AFL-CIO, and Council on Competitiveness (2018), [*Industry Matters: Smarter Energy Use is Key for U.S. Competitiveness, Jobs, and Climate Efforts*](#) (co-authored with Ryan Fitzpatrick and Mykael Goodsell-SooTho)

Reuters (2018) [*Commentary: Coal Jobs Won't Come Back—But There Are Other Ways to Help Coal Country*](#)

Center for American Progress (2017), [*The Trump Budget Cuts Hit Coal Communities and Workers Where It Hurts*](#) (co-authored with Luke Bassett)

Center for American Progress (2012), [*Taking Action on Clean Energy and Climate Protection in 2012: A Menu of Effective and Feasible Solutions*](#) (co-authored with Kate Gordon)

Green For All, Economic Policy Institute, and American Rivers (2011), [*Water Works: Rebuilding Infrastructure, Creating Jobs, and Greening the Environment*](#) (co-authored with Emily Gordon, Jeremy Hays, Ethan Pollack, and Daniel Sanchez)

BlueGreen Alliance and Economic Policy Institute (2011), [*Rebuilding Green: The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the Green Economy*](#) (co-authored with Josh Bivens and Ethan Pollack)

BlueGreen Alliance, American Wind Energy Association and United Steelworkers Union (2010), [*Winds of Change: A Manufacturing Blueprint for the Wind Industry*](#) (co-authored with Jessica Isaacs and Elizabeth Salerno)

BlueGreen Alliance and Economic Policy Institute (2010), [*Full Speed Ahead: Creating Green Jobs Through Freight Rail Expansion*](#) (co-authored with Rob McCulloch and Ethan Pollack)

Green For All and PolicyLink (2009), [*Bringing Home the Green Recovery: A User's Guide to the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*](#) (co-authored with Radhika Fox and Shawn Fremstad)

Green For All, Center on Wisconsin Strategy, Center for American Progress Action Fund and Center for Economic and Policy Research (2008) [*Clean Energy Corps: Jobs, Service and Opportunity in America's Clean Energy Economy*](#) (co-authored with Lisbeth Shepherd, Joel Rogers, Dean Baker, Bracken Hendricks, and Benjamin Goldstein)

Center on Wisconsin Strategy and The Workforce Alliance (2008) [*Greener Pathways: Jobs and Workforce Development in the Clean Energy Economy*](#) (co-authored with Sarah White)

EDUCATION & TRAINING

1997: **Graduate of AFL-CIO Organizing Institute**

1996: **M.A. from the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota**

1992: **B.A. from the University of Washington**

