

Velma Smith
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As a member of the Government Relations team at the Pew Charitable Trusts, Velma Smith has worked on a range of environmental programs and initiatives, including protection of public lands, regulation and reform of hard rock mining, pollution and economic issues associated with industrial animal agriculture, and most recently a program focused on reforming federal flood insurance policies and promoting flood-resilient and environmental sound coastal policies.

Prior to coming to Pew, Velma was a senior advisor with the National Environmental Trust, where she worked on issues including water pollution, mining and hazardous wastes. She also worked as Executive Director of Friends of the Earth, land use planner with Loudoun County, Virginia, and legislative assistant for Congressman Rick Boucher, handling environmental, energy and science matters. Velma has been a member of the Environmental Protection Agency's National Drinking Water Advisory Committee, the National Research Council's Committee on Small Water Supply Systems, and the Office of Technology Assessment's Advisory Committee on Agrichemical Contamination of Groundwater. She also served on the Virginia State Water Control Board.

Velma has a master's degree in urban and regional planning from the University of Virginia and a BA in journalism from the University of Georgia.