

Dr. Karen Wayland is the interim CEO of GridWise Alliance and a recognized expert in national energy and environmental policy. Through her consulting firm, kW Energy Strategies, she works with major companies on grid modernization, cybersecurity and clean energy policy. She served in leadership positions at the highest levels of government and nonprofit organizations, including as advisor to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and Senator Harry Reid. She worked at the U.S. Department of Energy in the Obama Administration, where she established a team for Secretary Ernest Moniz to develop strategies for DOE's work with states and served as Senior Advisor for Domestic Energy Policy to Deputy Secretary Liz Sherwood Randall.

Dr. Wayland has extensive experience working with nonprofit and academic organizations. She was the Executive Director of the Clean Energy Project and Legislative Director at the Natural Resources Defense Council, where she oversaw the organization's federal initiatives and chaired the national environmental community's climate and energy coalition. She directed the Earth and Marine Sciences Program at Earthwatch, a nonprofit that funds scientific research through support from paying volunteers. She is on the Board of the Center for Sustainable Energy, a Distinguished Associate at the Energy Futures Initiative, a Senior Fellow with Boston University's Institute for Sustainable Energy, and on the Board of Directors for the Desert Research Institute Foundation..

She holds an M.S. from the University of Connecticut and a Dual Ph.D. in the fields of geochemistry and resource development from Michigan State University.