



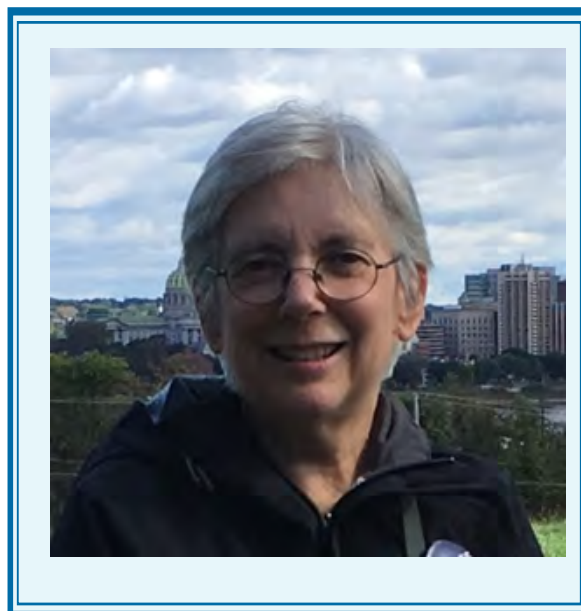
Montgomery County's Clean Energy & Air Quality Advisory Committee (CEAQAC)



The Climate, Energy, and Air Quality Advisory Committee (CEAQAC) is charged with advising the Montgomery County Executive and Council on issues related to energy and air quality. CEAQAC was established by Montgomery County Code Chapter 18A-5.

The Committee is comprised of 15 County residents appointed by the County Executive and approved by the County Council.

Michal Freedman's professional training and career have been as a lawyer and epidemiologist, most recently as a cancer epidemiologist at the National Cancer Institute. In 2017 she retired, primarily to contribute substantial volunteer hours to addressing climate change. Between 2014 and 2020, she served as Vice Chair of the Montgomery County Sierra Club, focusing on issues of energy efficiency and energy financing and I served as Buildings/Energy Efficiency Lead for the Group. During this time, she testified frequently on energy issues before the Council and participated in several different County stakeholder and other groups on energy matters. She reached out to sustainability managers across the country to learn about how other jurisdictions are addressing benchmarking, building performance standards, expansion of EV chargers, distributive energy and other climate and energy-related issues, and have frequently shared that information with councilmembers and County staff focused on sustainability issues. In 2019-2020, she participated in the Montgomery County Buildings Technical Workgroup as part of the county planning process.



Michal Freedman

CEAQAC Member since Sept 2019





A member of the committee since 2019, Linda Silverman is a clean energy and climate change expert, and a blogger. She retired from the U.S. Department of Energy in 2018 after working on clean energy and climate change for 30 years. Her last position was as Director of the Solar Decathlon, a widely known competition where student teams designed, built and competed in ten contests over a two-year period. Linda currently consults on clean energy and climate change for a range of clients. Her blog, Perspectives on a Career and Life, can be found on <https://lsinsights.com/blog>.

Linda Silverman

CEAQAC Member since Sept 2019

Roy Deitchman currently works as an environmental contractor at a federal agency in Washington, DC. He has previously served as Vice President for Environmental Health and Safety at Amtrak, as Environmental Counsel at NYNEX Corporation, as an industrial hygienist at Bell Laboratories and an industrial hygienist at Cal/OSHA. He has been a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) since 1980.

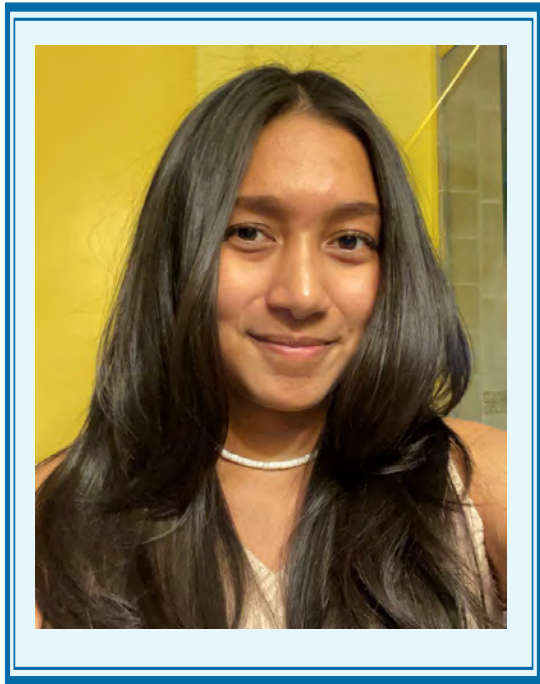
Roy has served on the Rockville Board of Appeals for 11 years. He also served for seven years on the Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX) Compliance Committee.

Roy has a bachelor's degree in earth science from Stony Brook University, a graduate degree in forestry from Yale University, a graduate degree in environment health from the Harvard University School of Public Health and a law degree from New York Law School.



Roy Deitchman

CEAQAC Member since Apr 2021



Teresa Doley

CEAQAC Member since Nov 2021

A new member of the committee as of 2021, Teresa Doley hopes to become an expert on energy policy and climate change. Teresa has an associate degree from Montgomery College in Environmental Science and Policy. She is also pursuing an associate degree in Mathematics and is working towards transferring to a 4-year institution to study mathematics to prepare her to create data-driven solutions to social issues.

While at MC, she was the president of the Climate Action Now Club as well as a member of her college's sustainability team. Outside of school, she is working on the MD campaign for Environmental Human Rights. Furthermore, she has been a Department of Energy intern since the summer of 2021 working in the Buildings Technologies Office and has contributed to the Efficient and Healthy Schools Campaign.

Maria Edisa Soppelsa is an economist focused on urban and environmental issues. Her work has combined statistical tools and spatial analysis to help answering policy-relevant questions. She worked for the World Bank on both urban and environmental topics. She has analyzed the effects of public policies on density and urban expansion, as well as the impact of pollution on city competitiveness. She has also focused on urban and rural land use, in particular how public policies can affect private decision of land conservation. She holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. In her spare time, she enjoys jazz dance, playing the keyboard (just a bit), and baking.



Maria Edisa Soppelsa

CEAQAC Member since Nov 2021



James S. Wang

CEAQAC Member since Apr 2021

A climate scientist by training and Montgomery County resident since 2011, James has worked in research and advocacy settings. In 2021, he joined the non-profit organization Environmental Defense Fund, where he is doing research on methane emissions from oil and gas production and on atmospheric CO2 removal technologies. As a Senior Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS in Potsdam, Germany during 2019-2020, he investigated the use of narratives to motivate societal sustainability transformations. Previously, he worked at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, conducting research on the global carbon cycle and its interactions with climate using atmospheric models and satellite observations of CO2 and methane. He has also held a National Research Council Senior Research Associateship, which allowed him to analyze trends in climate data at NOAA. Prior to that, he was a scientist at Environmental Defense Fund in New York, where he was involved in communication of scientific information to local, national, and international policymakers and the public, and climate and air quality policy development. James has served as a reviewer for the IPCC Fourth Assessment Report and on NASA proposal review panels. He received his PhD in Earth and Planetary Sciences from Harvard University and Bachelor's in Biological Sciences from Stanford University. James has been active in local sustainability efforts and has served on CEAQAC since 2021.



Karen Safer has an undergraduate degree in Architectural Studies and a Master's Degree in Public Affairs from the University of Texas. She has worked in the area of Housing Development Finance most of her career. She started out as budget analyst in the NYC Office of Management and Budget and then moved to work in a small Housing Authority and then a State Housing Finance Agency. She then worked for Bank of America in Community Development Lending for 2 years. She then decided to work as a housing developer in the Washington Metropolitan Area for 7 years. In 2008, she moved to work for HUD, then USDA Rural Development and now she works as a project manager for the Office of Economic Adjustment for the Department of Defense. She is very committed to the areas of Economic and Community Development and empowering people. She also loves to talk about continuous process improvement.



Karen Safer

CEAQAC Member since Apr 2021



Christopher Fang Brehm

CEAQAC Member since Apr 2021

Chris Fang Brehm became a member of the Climate, Energy and Air Quality Advisory Committee in 2021. He currently works for ICF on behalf of multiple Maryland utilities as a program manager implementing EmPOWER Maryland commercial incentive programs. His experience includes service provider outreach, recruitment and training, strategic program design, and program and project delivery. Prior to his work implementing programs, Chris worked as the COO for a small energy efficiency consulting and contracting firm designing and implementing efficiency projects for commercial and industrial customers and oversaw a residential weatherization team.

Chris earned his bachelor's degree in economics from Penn State University and his Master of Energy and Environmental Policy from the University of Delaware. He also spent three years teaching in South Korea.



Jennifer Helgeson

CEAQAC Member since Nov 2021

Jennifer joined the CEAQAC in 2021. She is a lifelong Montgomery County resident (with short stints abroad) and alumnae of the Montgomery Blair Magnet Program. At present, she is a Federal government employee; in that capacity she leads work on the “Economics of Community Resilience Planning” and is a member of the National Construction Safety Team (NCST). Her research interests are focused on survey assessments and economic analyses that consider behavioral aspects and approaches to dealing with environmental issues, especially for small- and medium-sized businesses. Her research revolves around resilience to hazards (shocks and stressors) in the built environment, with consideration for cost-effectiveness of community- scale mitigation and adaptation efforts; she has co-edited two books and multiple academic papers on these topics as well as developed software products.

In the past, Jennifer was a researcher at the Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research, Norway and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, France. Following the completion of her B.A. Degree in Economics at Brandeis University, she spent a year researching Environmental Economics issues on a Fulbright Grant to Norway. She earned her M.S. Degree in Environmental Change and Management with a focus on Environmental Economics at the University of Oxford, UK. Jennifer holds a Ph.D. in Environmental and Developmental Economics from the London School of Economics (LSE), where she was awarded a Grantham Institute for Climate Change Research Scholarship and was also supported by an NSF Graduate Research Fellowship. She enjoys hiking with her family and spending time with her dogs. Jennifer has also volunteered as a Court Appointed Special Advocate for foster youth in Montgomery County.



Karl worked during his professional career as a consultant on several federal environmental programs, including the development of national air pollutant emission standards, hazardous waste site cleanup regulations, and research on climate change vulnerability of coastal defense facilities due to rising sea levels and storm surge. Since retiring in 2017, he has focused as a volunteer on advocating for climate change action in Montgomery County. He is a member of The Climate Mobilization (TCM), Montgomery County chapter and participated in developing TCM's speaker webinar series in 2019 on how the county can best decarbonize its transportation sector, built environment, and electric grid. In 2018, Karl served on the county's Residential Green Building Incentives Stakeholder Work Group. He also participated in the Public Engagement and Education Advisory Workgroup in 2019, providing input for the county's climate action planning process. He received his BA in economics from the University of Michigan and Masters in Urban Planning from Harvard University.



Karl Held

CEAQAC Member since Apr 2021



Drake Starling

CEAQAC Member since Jan 2023

Joining the committee in 2023, Drake Starling is an Associate at Kearns & West working on renewable energy transitions throughout the Northeast and the West Coast with nearly 10 years experience working in the environmental and legal sectors. He holds a B.A in politics and French from nearby Catholic University as well as an M.A. in International Relations (Environmental) from the University of Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona. Drake is no stranger to dispute resolution as he worked at the World Bank on environmental arbitration cases involving national and local governments. He has a wealth of legal and environmental experience during his time at Freshfield Bruckhaus Deringer, USAID, the World Bank, and even at the Piedmont Environmental Council in Warrenton, Virginia where he participated in a fellowship focused on creating the next generation of conservation and environmental leaders. Recently, he participated in the Rising Organizers fellowship sharpening his community organizing skills in the DMV. Previously, Drake has worked on DOI and DOE projects focusing on mining reform, hydropower, and tribal engagement. Drake speaks English, Spanish, French, Hungarian, and some Russian. He has lived in five countries and is an avid tennis player in the DC scene.



Carlos Camacho

CEAQAC Member since Jan 2023

Carlos Camacho is a dedicated public servant who has worked on a wide array of issues including international export finance, education policy, and international development. He is currently a Community Outreach Manager for Baltimore City Recreation and Parks (BCRP) working to increase access to nature and high-quality recreational opportunities. Before working for BCRP, Carlos worked as a Legislative Analyst for the Montgomery County Council, providing the Council with policy, budgetary, and legislative recommendations on issues such as economic development, public safety, and government operations. Carlos is also a Returned Peace Corps Volunteer who served in Mozambique as a secondary school teacher. Carlos also worked on a USAID-funded early-grade literacy project implemented in Mozambique.

Carlos graduated from the University of Maryland with a bachelor's degree in Government and Politics and a Master of Public Policy. His environmental interests include regenerative agriculture, forest conservation, and learning more about how to deploy renewable energy at scale. Carlos has begun to explore these topics through his participation and completion of the Future Harvest Chesapeake Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture Beginner Farmer Program and BCRP's TreeKeeper Tree Planting and Stewardship program. Carlos also contributed to a collaborative effort with the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment to develop a report for the Human Rights Council that detailed environmental conservation and sustainability best practices for every UN member state.

Reid Detchon is Senior Advisor for Climate Solutions at the United Nations Foundation. He previously served as the Foundation's Vice President for Energy and Climate Strategy from 2006 to 2017. He also served as Executive Director of the Energy Future Coalition, a non-partisan domestic policy initiative.

Reid previously served as Director of Special Projects in Washington for the Turner Foundation; as a principal at Podesta Associates; as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Conservation and Renewable Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy from 1989 to 1993; as principal speechwriter for Vice President George H.W. Bush; as a staff member and legislative director for U.S. Senator John Danforth of Missouri; and as a reporter for the Columbia (MO) Daily Tribune and the Baltimore Evening Sun.

He is a graduate of Yale College and lives in Bethesda. He previously served as chair of the Environment Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, and in 2022 was appointed by Bishop Mariann Budde to a new Creation Care Task Force for the Diocese. He was also a founding board member of Interfaith Power & Light (DC.MD.NoVA).



Reid Detchon

CEAQAC Member since Jan 2023

