



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.

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



Juan A. Argüelles Ortiz
CEAQAC Member since Jul 2024

Juan A. Argüelles Ortiz is a seasoned professional in ESG and sustainability with extensive experience in project management and consulting. He has expertise in various ESG reporting frameworks and data analysis, including GRI, SASB, TCFD, and CDP. His background includes roles in ESG strategy, reporting, and compliance, where he has developed and executed sustainability programs and managed complex projects. He is dedicated to advancing sustainability practices and continuously seeks to expand his knowledge and skills in the field.



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Karl Held

CEAQAC Member since Apr 2021

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.

Ali Khademian began his career in affordable housing in 2017 at the Housing Opportunities Commission of Montgomery County (HOC). While at HOC, Ali worked within the Office of Legislative and Public Affairs, Property Management, and the Housing Resources Division. He cares deeply about the role that affordable housing plays within Montgomery County and is a strong advocate for everyone to have a decent, clean, affordable, and safe place to call home.

Ali currently works as the Sustainability Program Manager at the Montgomery Housing Partnership (MHP), a leading nonprofit affordable housing developer. At MHP, he oversees the efforts to implement energy saving and sustainability measures for over 30 properties throughout Montgomery County. In addition, he oversees the Apartment Assistance Program whereby landlords who own less than 50 units can receive a myriad of assistance resources.

He earned his bachelor's degree in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland - College Park, and his Juris Doctor from Cooley Law School where he was class valedictorian. In his spare time, Ali loves to play soccer, travel, and spend time with his family.



Ali Khademian

Co-Chair

CEAQAC Member since Jul 2024



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James 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.

Robera is a long-time resident and dedicated member of the Montgomery County Climate and Energy Advisory Board, with a strong interest in regional collaboration to drive impactful climate action, particularly at the nexus of land use and climate mitigation. He began his career as an EHS Engineer, initially focusing on industrial environmental management before transitioning to climate and energy policy. His experience encompasses pollution prevention, greenhouse gas reduction, transportation electrification, and clean energy adoption. Robera currently works at the DC Department of Energy and Environment, where he implements key climate and energy projects that contribute to the District's sustainable growth and resilience. He also previously served on the Countywide Recreation & Parks Advisory Board, representing East County. Robera holds a Bachelor's in Environmental Sustainability from the Rochester Institute of Technology and a Master's in Sustainable Urban Planning from George Washington University.



Robera Tasissa

CEAQAC Member since Jul 2024



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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 nonpartisan domestic policy initiative.

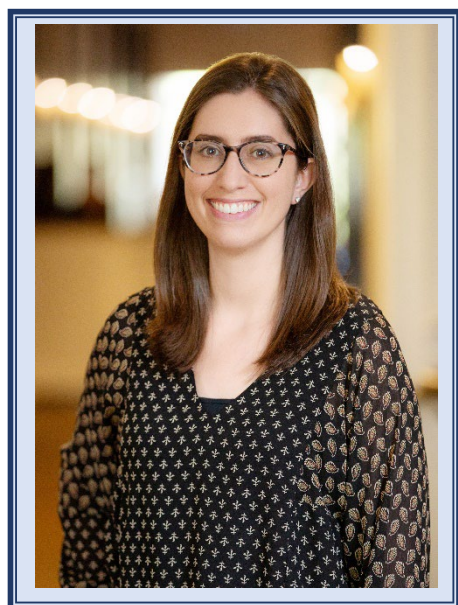
Reid previously served as Director of Special Projects in Washington for the Turner Foundation; as a principal at Podesta Associates; as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Conservation and Renewable Energy at the U.S. Department of Energy from 1989 to 1993; as principal speechwriter for Vice President 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
Co-Chair

CEAQAC Member since Jan 2023



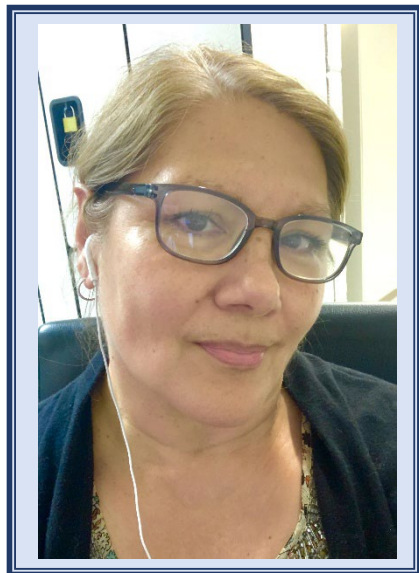
Tacy Lambiase

CEAQAC Member since Jul 2024

Tacy Lambiase aspires to help individuals and communities understand, prepare for, and resiliently face a world impacted by climate change. Currently, she manages climate action planning and implementation projects at Kim Lundgren Associates, Inc. (KLA), a small, woman-owned consulting firm that partners with local governments across the country. As a member of the KLA team, Tacy has worked with 20+ local governments – from 9,000 residents to 2.3 million residents – to guide them through the process of developing climate action plans and/or implementation tools, from facilitating advisory groups and conducting equitable community engagement to identifying strategies and actions to reduce emissions and enhance resilience. Previously, Tacy supported sustainability initiatives at American University and the University of Maryland, and employee engagement and internal communications at the Urban Institute. She holds a master's degree in Sustainability Management from American University's Kogod School of Business.



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Marcela Samuels
CEAQAC Member since Jul 2024

Marcela Samuels brings 24 years of experience in the Federal Government and a strong commitment to community service. Originally from Washington, D.C., she moved to Kensington, MD, in 2014. A proud graduate of Georgetown University, Marcela is dedicated to making a positive impact in Montgomery County.

Her extensive board experience includes serving as a director and vice president of her condominium association since 2020, where she has actively contributed to community governance and initiatives. Additionally, she was a member of the Montgomery County Charter Review Commission (2023-2024) and now will be serving on the Climate, Energy, and Air Quality Advisory Committee (2024-present). Through these roles, Marcela is committed to enhancing the quality of life for residents and fostering sustainable practices within the community.

Marcela prioritizes environmental protection and believes that safeguarding our planet is essential for future generations. She views environmental issues as universal concerns that should unite all residents, regardless of political affiliation. Her mission is to advocate for policies that promote sustainability and resilience, ensuring that Montgomery County remains a healthy and thriving place to live.

In her spare time, Marcela enjoys taking her dog for walks, playing with her cats, and unwinding with an episode of Chicago P.D. or true crime. She looks forward to continuing her work in Montgomery County, learning from her experiences, and making a tangible difference for both the community and the environment.



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John M. Willis
CEAQAC Member since Jul 2024

John M. Willis brings a wealth of experience to the Climate, Energy, and Air Quality Advisory Committee. He is actively involved in various technical and environmental organizations, including ASHRAE Technical Committees, ASTM Committee E60 on Sustainability, City of Gaithersburg Environmental Affairs Committee, International Union for Conservation of Nature Commission on Environmental Economic and Social Policy, and the North American Passive House Network DC Chapter.

John holds certifications that underscore his commitment to sustainability, including Sustainability and Climate Risk (SCR) Certified from the Global Association of Risk Professionals and Certified Sustainability Professional from the Global Reporting Initiative. He has also completed the Circular Economy and Sustainability Strategies program from the University of Cambridge.

John's educational background includes an MS in Sustainable Development from the University of Sussex and executive programs from The Wharton School and the University of Oxford Said Business School.

Professionally, John has held significant roles including Founder and Chief Risk Officer at Turnaround Security. His expertise spans strategic planning, risk management, and sustainability practices. John is also dedicated to sustainability and environmental advocacy, contributing to projects like Zero Net Energy Homes, advising on the City of Gaithersburg Climate Action Plan, and participating in international sustainability forums.