

SCDN POLICY CONNECTION: ACTIVATING MUNICIPAL SUSTAINABILITY TEAMS TO ATTRACT FUNDING



— SUSTAINABLE —
**COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**
— NETWORK —
of Southwestern Pennsylvania



Sustainable PGH

JULY 25, 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Speaker Bios

(listed alphabetically)

July 25, 2023

Presenter:



Mark Hand **Director** **GreenGov Council**

Mark Hand serves as the Director of Pennsylvania’s GreenGov Council within the Department of General Services. The GreenGov Council was established by the direction of Governor Wolf’s Executive Order (EO 2019-01) on “Commonwealth leadership in Addressing Climate Change and Promoting Energy Conservation and Sustainable Governance.” The mission of GreenGov is to incorporate sustainable practices into Commonwealth government’s policy, planning, operations, procurement, and regulatory functions, and to strive for continuous improvement in efficiency and performance. EO 2019-01 has a specific focus on reducing energy consumption, purchasing electric vehicles and renewable energy, and constructing new buildings and major renovations to green standards.

Prior to GreenGov, Hand worked for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for almost 19 years. He spent most of his time at the DEP within the Energy Programs Office, which is involved in supporting, designing and implementing energy-focused programs to encourage the development and deployment of energy efficiency and alternative energy projects in Pennsylvania. In that time, Hand worked on various programs and initiatives such as Drive Electric PA Coalition, the Alternative Fuels Incentive Grant Program, Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority grants, and many others.

Hand graduated from Juniata College and now lives in Halifax, Pennsylvania, which is also his hometown.

Presenter:



Matt Mahoney **Director of Government Affairs** **Sustainable Pittsburgh**

Matt Mahoney is the Director of Government Affairs for Sustainable Pittsburgh. Before joining Sustainable Pittsburgh, Mahoney worked with Plug Smart, a regional energy services and building automation company, to develop Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) opportunities throughout the Midwest. Prior to Plug Smart, Mahoney served as the Western Pennsylvania Program Manager for the Keystone Energy Efficiency Alliance (KEEA), a Pennsylvania-based trade association for the energy efficiency industry. During his time with KEEA, he successfully advocated for the adoption of C-PACE among county governments in Western Pennsylvania. Before KEEA, Mahoney worked with the Center for Responsible Shale Development where he served the inaugural President and Board of Directors to mitigate air emissions and protect water systems related to natural gas development in the Appalachian Basin.

Mahoney earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Anthropology from Slippery Rock University and a master's degree in Renewable Energy and Sustainability Systems from Penn State University. Mahoney is also an adjunct professor teaching Energy Policy at Chatham University, a military veteran that served honorably, and a proud husband and father of two.

Presenter:



Christopher Nafe

Energy Program Specialist

**Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection,
Energy Programs Office**

Christopher Nafe is an Energy Program Specialist with the Energy Programs Office of the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. He manages the local climate action programs for the Energy Programs Office, assisting local governments to complete greenhouse gas inventories and climate action plans to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Prior to working for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Nafe worked as the Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Harrisburg. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology and Environmental Studies from Washington and Jefferson College in 2004, a Master of Arts in Community Psychology and Social Change with a focus on Environmental Issues in 2012, and is currently working on a Ph.D. in Environmental Social Science at Arizona State University.

Presenter:



Theodore Ritsick

**Local Government Policy Specialist
Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic
Development, Governor's Center for Local Government Services**

Ted Ritsick is a planner for the PA Department of Community and Economic Development serving Northeastern Pennsylvania. Ritsick is a certified planner with the American Institute of Certified Planners and promotes municipal capacity building, quality of life improvements, sound municipal land use practices and multi-municipal cooperation throughout Pennsylvania.

Ritsick is a lifelong resident of his hometown of Forty Fort, in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania where he has previously served on borough council. He has a Master of Professional Studies in Community and Economic Development from Penn State University and has previously worked as a District Constituent Outreach Specialist for the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

Presenter:



Sawyer Sidelinger

Systems Administrator
Sustainable Pittsburgh

Sawyer Sidelinger is Systems Administrator at Sustainable Pittsburgh. Before coming to Sustainable Pittsburgh, Sidelinger worked to integrate sustainable systems into contract food service at both the elementary and university level. His passion for nutrition, wellness, and social justice, allowed him to develop impactful sustainability programs that aimed to provide a low impact, nutritionally balanced, and socially equitable meal service.

Sidelinger earned a master's degree in Sustainability and a Master of Business Administration degree from Chatham University. They also earned the LEED GA credential expanding their experience into built spaces.

Sidelinger works to support organizations and individuals to help bring lasting systemic change that uplifts communities with the hope of achieving a sustainable future for all.