

SCDN POLICY CONNECTION: UNLOCKING SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT STRATEGIES



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



Sustainable PGH

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2024
12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

Speaker Bios *(listed alphabetically)*

April 2, 2024

Presenter:



Jennifer Barnes (she/her) **Supplier Diversity & Sustainability Manager** **University of Pittsburgh**

As the University of Pittsburgh's Supplier Diversity and Sustainability Manager, Jennifer Barnes works with the Strategic Sourcing procurement team in Purchasing Services, helping advance socially and environmentally responsible purchasing. In her role, Barnes collaborates with university departments and major contracted suppliers to track, analyze, and increase diverse and sustainable spending. She is also a member of the University's Chancellor's Advisory Council on Sustainability and Carbon Commitment Committee. Her contributions at Pitt and within the community have garnered her prestigious recognition, including being named among *Pittsburgh Magazine's* 40 Under 40 (2022) and the *Pittsburgh Courier's* FAB 40 (2022).

Trained as a city planner, Barnes has a background in community, workforce, and economic development. She has worked on several collaborative historical, planning, and research efforts with non-profit institutions, community groups, and public agencies in Chicago, Oakland, New Orleans, and Pittsburgh.

A California native, Barnes received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Chicago and a Master of City Planning degree from the University of California at Berkeley.

Presenter:



Lindsey Berger (she/her) **Director, Business Operations** **3R Sustainability**

Lindsey Berger serves as Director of Business Operations at 3R Sustainability and supports the 3R team across sustainability consulting projects. Fueled by a passion for the natural environment and the role it plays in human health, Berger's background in biology led her to obtain a master's degree in sustainability from Chatham University's Falk School of Sustainability. With a heightened focus on business' impact on our environmental and social systems, she works with clients to identify their material impacts, define what success looks like in these areas, set goals and define plans to achieve them. Partnering with companies to establish their sustainability management systems and communicate their progress through globally recognized reporting frameworks and standards, Berger's goal is to help companies integrate sustainability into everyday business decisions.

Presenter:



Matt Mahoney (he/him) **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:



Jaymes Progar (he/him)
Assistant Township Manager
Ferguson Township

Jaymes Progar serves as Assistant Township Manager for Ferguson Township, a municipality of 19,000 residents in Centre County, Pennsylvania. Progar holds a post baccalaureate certificate in GIS and a master's degree in Geodesign from Pennsylvania State University. Progar's articles have been featured in publications such as the *Journal of Digital Landscape Architecture* and *Hyphen Architecture Journal*.

Presenter:



Sawyer Sidelinger (they/them) **Program Manager & 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. Their passion for nutrition, wellness, and social justice, allowed them 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.