

## AARON D. RAY

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2630 River Drive, Denver, CO 80211 | 202-558-8400 | aarondray@gmail.com

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, Denver, CO, 2023-Present

Assistant Director for Energy Innovation

- Leads the transition from traditional to renewable energy sources across all of DNR's divisions and plans for and addresses wildlife and recreation impacts of renewable energy development. Develops, negotiates, and communicates policy options on energy issues that reflect the priorities of the Department and its divisions.
- Represents the Department at congressional, legislative and general assembly hearings, in dealings with federal agencies, local governments and special districts in the region, and serves as liaison to the Governor and other state departments related to energy issues.
- Led DNR's engagement in the development of the State's GHG Reduction Roadmap and legislative initiatives related to energy and carbon management and renewable energy siting.
- Serves as ex officio member of Colorado Energy and Carbon Management Commission; represents DNR on the statewide Greening Government Leadership Council; expert reviewer for Colorado State Forest Service's Forest Restoration and Wildfire Risk Mitigation Grant Program.
- Counsels the Executive Director on the requirements, responsibilities, and opportunities of the Department under state and federal statutes pertaining to the development of oil and gas and renewable energy. Analyzes and interprets federal, state and local laws, regulations, planning documents and proposed legislation affecting natural resource issues.
- Supervises Colorado Produced Water Consortium staff and led the creation of the Consortium.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES, Denver, CO, 2021-2023

Associate Director, Environment, Energy and Transportation

- Led team of analysts specializing in state and federal energy policy and conducting legislative, statutory, and regulatory research and analysis on a wide range of energy policies that span legislative and executive action. Delivered energy policy expertise and nonpartisan research and analysis for state legislators, legislative staff, and stakeholders. Collaborated with an extensive network of state and Federal agencies, funders, private-sector partners, academia, and interest groups.
- Principal investigator on more than \$5 million in cooperative agreements with DOE offices. Areas of focus included: renewable energy; electricity regulation; oil, gas, and coal regulation and reclamation; transportation and building electrification; nuclear energy generation and waste management; energy markets and grid modernization, etc.

COLORADO GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF STATE PLANNING AND BUDGETING, Denver, CO, 2019-2021

Deputy Director for Policy

- Oversaw nine state agencies, including the Department of Natural Resources, Colorado Energy Office, and Department of Public Health and Environment with a total budget of more than \$16.5 billion. Former Deputy Director for Education, Workforce, and Environment.
- Led budget and policy development and supervised a team of analysts responsible for natural resources, energy, and environment, education, workforce, public safety, human services, and local government issues, including GHG emissions reduction, oil and gas permitting and compliance, state EV deployment, state park expansion, water infrastructure, PFAS testing and mitigation, wildfire mitigation and suppression, etc.

WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, Washington, DC, 2015-2019

Program Examiner, Interior Branch

- Formulated and executed policies, legislative proposals, regulations, and budgets for the Department of the Interior, including the U.S. Geological Survey, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, and Bureau of Indian Affairs energy, environment, and natural resources programs with a budget of more than \$5.2 billion.
- Led OMB policy development on federal science policy, research and development, tribal energy development, mining regulation, abandoned mine land reclamation, drought, natural hazards, critical minerals, ecosystem services, and Indian water rights settlements. Represented OMB on the NSTC Committee on Environment, National Drought Resilience Partnership, Federal Geographic Data Committee, and 3D Elevation Program Executive Forum.

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U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, Lakewood, CO, 2017

Associate Regional Director (Detail), Southwest Region

- Developed regional tribal engagement strategy, conducted science center reviews, and evaluated science mission related to mining activities near the Colorado River.

GEORGETOWN CLIMATE CENTER, Washington, DC, 2013-2015

Institute Associate

- Led collaboration with the Western Adaptation Alliance partner cities and the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators to identify strategies to mitigate climate impacts on water supply.
- Advised National Disaster Resilience Competition applicants as part of Rockefeller Foundation's West and Northeast Resilience Academies.
- Managed research team tracking implementation of state climate change adaptation plans; designed research methodology; coordinated outreach to states; supported development of public data portal.

STRATUS CONSULTING, Washington, DC, 2011-2013

Associate

- Authored briefs on climate adaptation for USAID, a report on adaptation technology needs in Asia for the Asian Development Bank, and a guidebook on adaptation finance published by UNEP's Risoe Center.

## EDUCATION & ACADEMIC SERVICE

UNIVERSITY OF DENVER, Denver, CO, 2020-Present

Adjunct Faculty, Environmental Policy and Management

- Teaches graduate Environmental Protection Law, Environmental Finance and Economics, Environmental Policy Analysis, Renewable and Alternative Energy, Nuclear and Hydrogen Energy, Environmental Foundations and Principles, and Environmental Values and Ethics courses.

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, Washington, DC, 2015

Doctor of Philosophy, Environmental Politics and Policy

- Lecturer, Environmental & Natural Resource Policy, Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies
- Assistant Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Science Policy & Governance
- Dissertation: "The Politics of Climate Adaptation"

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, McCourt School of Public Policy, Washington, DC, 2011

Master of Public Policy, Environmental and Regulatory Policy

LINFIELD COLLEGE, McMinnville, OR, 2001

Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy, Political Science, and Religion

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- *2022 Legislative Energy Trends*. National Conference of State Legislatures. February 2023.
- *2021 Legislative Energy Trends*. National Conference of State Legislatures. May 2022.
- *Extreme Weather Exposure and Support for Climate Change Adaptation*. Global Environmental Change. September 2017.
- *Austin, TX: Preparing for Water Scarcity and Drought*. Georgetown Climate Center. August 2015.
- *The Implementation of State Climate Change Adaptation Plans*. Michigan Journal of Sustainability: Special Edition on Climate Change Adaptation. May 2015.
- *Preparing Our Communities for Climate Impacts: Recommendations for Federal Action*. Georgetown Climate Center. August 2014.
- *The Value of Climate Services Across Economic and Public Sectors: A Review of the Relevant Literature*. USAID Technical Report. October 2013.
- *Private Sector Engagement in Climate Change Adaptation*. USAID Working Paper. August 2013.
- *Municipal Participation in Environmental Agreements*. Michigan Journal of Public Affairs. Spring 2013.
- *Accessing International Funding for Climate Change Adaptation: A Guidebook for Developing Countries*. UNEP. August 2012.