

## **Municipal Empowerment for Clean Energy and Conservation Team Bios**

### **Cuyahoga County (Lead Applicant)**

- **Mike Foley**

Mike was appointed Administrator of Cuyahoga Green Energy in January of 2024, after serving for eight years as the Director of Sustainability for Cuyahoga County. Prior to joining the County, Mike served in the Ohio General Assembly as the State Representative for the 14<sup>th</sup> House District. In this role, he focused his efforts on energy and climate related issues.

Mike is an attorney and has been the program lead for the 4MW landfill solar project, the roof-top solar procurement project for local governments, and the residential solar co-op program. Additionally, Mike has led the effort for Cuyahoga County to develop its own utility authority and to begin the process of creating industrial microgrid districts throughout the region.

For almost 10 years, Mike was Director of the Cleveland Tenants Organization, working as a tenant organizer in low-income housing communities. His leadership led to the complete redevelopment of two dilapidated Section 8 Apartment Buildings in Cleveland which helped reinvest \$110m into the local economy and saved the homes of over 1,100 families, preventing them from displacement.

Mike was named Legislator the Year by the Alcohol, Drugs, and Mental Health Board in 2013. He received a Lifetime Achievement award from the Northeast Ohio Coalition for the Homeless in 2006. In 2010 he was chosen to be an International Election monitor by Democracy International. In 2023 he was honored by the Ohio Environmental Council as the state Sustainability Champion. Additionally, Mike is an immediate past co-Chair of the Great Lakes Climate Adaptation Network, a regional network of communities focused on energy and resiliency.

- **Valerie Katz**

Valerie serves as the Interim Director of Sustainability for Cuyahoga County. In this role, she administers solar energy projects and is part of the team working to establish the newly formed County Utility, focusing on deploying microgrid infrastructure throughout the region. Valerie is a member of the Natural Resources Assistance Council, a Cuyahoga County Healthy Urban Tree Canopy Program committee member, and a Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District board member (serving as the County Executive's alternate).

Prior to joining the Department of Sustainability, Valerie worked for the nonprofit advocacy organization Solar United Neighbors. As part of the Go Solar Team, she conducted solar productivity evaluations, reviewed solar proposals, reviewed installer bid information, and reviewed pricing and financing information.

Valerie is also a former high school biology and environmental science teacher. Within her classes, she delivered lessons on air quality, water quality, global climate change, resource utilization, land use, and renewable energy.

## **The City of Cleveland**

In 1906, the City of Cleveland created the Cleveland Municipal Light Plant to give City residents the choice of reliable power at an affordable cost. In 1979 a “Save Muny Light” campaign was launched by Mayor Dennis Kucinich to fight the acquisition of the utility, by an investor-owned electric utility (First Energy). Mayor Kucinich led the defeat of the takeover and in 1983 Muny Light and Power officially became Cleveland Public Power (CPP). Today, CPP is Ohio’s largest municipal electric power provider and ranks 35 out of 2000 publicly-owned electric utilities in the country. CPP currently delivers power to approximately 70,000 residential and commercial customers in and around Cleveland, Ohio.

- **Sarah O’Keeffe, Director of Sustainability & Climate Justice at the City of Cleveland**

Sarah O’Keeffe is Director of Sustainability & Climate Justice at the City of Cleveland, leading sustainability and climate justice initiatives and a staff of passionate change makers. As a part of Mayor Bibb’s cabinet, Sarah works with peers to pursue equitable solutions to climate change and other environmental issues facing the Greater Cleveland community, specifically in the areas of circular economy, energy, sustainable transportation, land use and the transformation of other resource-intensive systems at the local and regional levels.

Director O’Keeffe and the Mayor’s Office of Sustainability work collaboratively with a number of community based groups, non-profit organizations, universities and governmental agencies on climate action and environmental sustainability initiatives. Sarah formerly led sustainability programs at the MetroHealth System and University Hospitals, based in Cleveland, OH, earned an MBA focused in sustainability and non-profit management from Case Western Reserve University and holds bachelor degrees in English Literature and Aeronautical Studies from Kent State University.

- **Ammon Danielson, Commissioner, Cleveland Public Power**

Danielson comes to Cleveland Public Power from the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), one of four power marketing administrations within the U.S. Department of Energy. WAPA markets and transmits wholesale electricity from multi-use water projects in a 15-state region. While at WAPA, Danielson served as Program Director and Regulatory Advisor. He is a recognized Subject Matter Expert (SME) in formulating strategic priorities and business initiatives to modernize and drive sustainable organizational growth. As the Transmission Construction & Maintenance Program Manager with Wyandotte Services, Danielson led the development and implementation of region-wide projects, including for maintenance, rehabilitation, and construction of high-voltage electric transmission assets.

- **Elizabeth Lehman, Airport Sustainability Coordinator**

Elizabeth Lehman is the Airport Sustainability Coordinator for the City of Cleveland's Department of Port Control. Having worked within Cleveland's Mayor's Office of Sustainability previously for five years, she has experience as an energy analyst, and as a project manager for built environment and clean transportation projects before transitioning to the airport in 2023. Prior to joining the City, Elizabeth worked on renewable energy project development, process controls manufacturing engineering, and as a bicycle mechanic. At Cleveland Hopkins, she is leading the airport's inaugural sustainability program, including the development and implementation of a

greenhouse gas emissions-centered sustainability management plan to guide airport operations and capital projects. Elizabeth has a Bachelor's of Science in Chemical Engineering, with a concentration in Environmental Engineering from Case Western Reserve Engineering.

### **The City of Painesville**

Painesville Municipal Electric (PME) is a public power utility created in 1888. Its mission is to provide reliable and economical power to its customers. PME currently serves the City of Painesville, Painesville Township, Perry Township, North Perry Village and Concord Township. Painesville Municipal Electric currently serves 12,500 residential and commercial customers.

- **Jeff McHugh, Superintendent at City of Painesville Electric Department**

McHugh brings almost 45 years of Public Power experience to the table having spent 33 years with the City of Cuyahoga Falls Electric Department and is currently at 11 ½ years with the City of Painesville Electric Department. With Cuyahoga Falls Electric, McHugh started as a Substation Electrician where he became proficient with relaying, switching, testing and maintenance of high voltage switchgear and substation class transformers. He advanced to Substation Foreman where he was responsible for the oversight of the system's thirteen transmission and distribution substations. He then advanced to Assistant Superintendent of the Department. At this level, his duties expanded to include system mapping, SCADA, purchasing, project management, Department budgeting, and Department representative to City Council and Administration. In September of 2012, McHugh was hired as the Superintendent for the Painesville Municipal Electric Department. At Painesville Electric, he has oversight and responsibility for the Generation and Distribution divisions of the Department. This position brought additional duties of dealing with regulatory agencies like EPA at both the state and federal levels, as well as RTOs like PJM. All this was in addition to the core mission of keeping the lights on.

Under Jeff's supervision, The City of Painesville was honored for its achievements throughout 2022 at the 2023 American Municipal Power (AMP) Annual Conference. Painesville Municipal Electric received a Safety Commendation in the Transmission and Distribution category in recognition of having less than one percent time lost due to reportable accidents.

### **West Creek Conservancy:**

West Creek Conservancy is a critical project partner for the Painesville solar site, and the implementer for the proposed lakefront preserve and ecological restoration of the 1,100 brownfield site. West Creek Conservancy has been involved in land protection and stewardship for over 25 years. The organization is responsible for the maintenance, monitoring and long-term stewardship of thousands of acres of critical habitat across Northeast Ohio, and has contributed to the creation or expansion of over 45 nature preserves across 12 counties. West Creek has successfully raised over \$300M to advance this mission. West Creek Conservancy has extensive experience with acquisition and redevelopment of brownfield sites, with five brownfield cleanup and restoration projects in its portfolio to date. This project will be primarily supported by Derek Schafer, West Creek Conservancy's Executive Director, and Brett Rodstrom, West Creek Conservancy's Director of Conservation.

- **Derek Schafer:**

Derek has been with West Creek since 2004 and has served as the Executive Director since 2013. He earned his bachelor's degree in Environmental Policy and Analysis with a specialization in Natural Resource Management from Bowling Green State University. Derek leads the organization's mission to protect land and water resources, implement park, trail development as well as habitat restoration initiatives and strategic watershed planning. Under Derek's leadership, West Creek Conservancy's footprint has expanded from Cuyahoga County to sixteen counties in Northeast Ohio.

- **Brett Rodstrom**

Brett brings more than 20 years of conservation experience to the project. Brett has worked to protect and restore more than 15,000 acres, created dozens of publicly accessible parks, and has led teams to raise millions of dollars for conservation and restoration projects in Northeast Ohio. As Director of Conservation for West Creek Conservancy, Brett develops conservation projects focused on water quality and natural-resource based initiatives through strategic regional partnerships in support of community specific conservation priorities. Brett grew up in Lake County and is extensively familiar with the history of the former Diamond Shamrock property.

### **Go Sustainable Energy**

Since 2012, Go has provided accurate, unbiased information on energy to four Ohio municipal utilities , performing services such as renewable energy procurement, technical and economic feasibility studies, energy efficiency programming, grid capacity mapping, utility cost modeling and forecasting, and microgrid development.

- **Wyatt Elbin**

Wyatt is a member of Go Sustainable Energy's (Go) Distributed Energy Resources team, working with renewable energy, demand response, energy storage and grid interactive technologies. He helps Go's clients understand the technical and economic feasibility for energy projects, assists with market engagement, and helps them navigate the complex world of renewable energy procurement for both on-site and off-site opportunities. Wyatt also supports Go's regulatory and policy consulting services for clients like the Ohio Manufacturers' Association.

Since 2012, Go has provided accurate, unbiased information on energy to four Ohio municipal utilities , performing services such as renewable energy procurement, technical and economic feasibility studies, energy efficiency programming, grid capacity mapping, utility cost modeling and forecasting, and microgrid development. As part of this, Wyatt has supported the Cuyahoga County team since 2022, helping to develop and stand up their distribution utility, CGE.

Wyatt has a diverse engineering and project management background, with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering and a Master of Science in Renewable and Clean Energy from the University of Dayton (UD). He has held corporate energy management roles, where he performed energy purchasing, participated in regulatory processes through various industrial energy groups, and managed renewable energy assets and corporate sustainability strategies.

## **Manufacturing Works**

- **Adam Artman**

President and Executive Director, MBA from Baldwin Wallace University, BA from The College of Wooster and Case Western Reserve Treu-Mart Fellow. During Adam's 15 years of experience in workforce development, he has demonstrated a capacity for leading complex and multifaceted initiatives. As President and Executive Director at Manufacturing Works, he engages broad stakeholder groups to build industry-informed workforce solutions . Adam is an adept navigator of braiding diverse Federal, State and local funding streams while ensuring project compliance and creating shared purpose across community partnerships. Serving on the Cuyahoga County Workforce Strategic Functions Committee, Adam has shown a commitment to sharing best practices and leveraging his networks to create high-quality and in-demand career pathways.