

MARISSA AHO, AICP

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Director, Executive Climate Office (ECO), July 2023 – present

Office of Executive Dow Constantine, King County, Seattle, Washington

- Serve on the Executive's Cabinet and lead the Executive's Climate Cabinet.
- Grew ECO from three staff to 12+ in the first six months.
- Lead and support Program Managers focused on Building Decarbonization, Clean Energy, Climate Equity, Climate Preparedness, Climate and Workforce Development, Electric Vehicle Planning, and Greenhouse Gas Mitigation working to make King County more resilient, equitable and sustainable.
- Lead countywide efforts to align and amplify climate communications and climate focused Federal, State, and private/philanthropic grant opportunities.
- Work with Department Directors, Climate Leads and other leadership to coordinate climate actions let by King County Metro Transit, the Department of Natural Resources and Parks, the Department of Executive Services, the Department of Local Services, the King County Sheriff's Office and Public Health - Seattle & King County.
- Assist with implementation of the County's Strategic Climate Action Plan, Green Jobs Strategy, Wildfire Risk Reduction Strategy and other climate related plans, reports, and policies.

Policy Director/Chief Resilience Officer, July 2021 – July 2023

Washington State Department of Natural Resources, Olympia, Washington

- Represented the Commissioner on the Governor's Natural Resources Subcabinet and was the Commissioner's designee for the Salmon Recovery and State Efficiency and Environmental Performance interagency groups.
- Hired the first Director of Equity & Environmental Justice, the first Executive Grants Director, and four Policy Advisors, within the first year.
- Helped to develop new agency positions including Director of Equity & Environmental Justice, Grants Director, Outdoor Education and Training Manager, Watershed Steward, and Boards and Commission Manager.
- Led agency initiatives including Sustainable Forestry project with Finnish Embassy.
- Led the policy team to develop 10 agency budget requests and 3 agency request legislation.
- Developed and implemented agency plans and policies focused on climate action.
- Co-led and supported the environmental justice team on implementation of the HEAL Act.
- Supported the agency to develop the 2023-2025 Strategic Plan to center environmental justice.
- Developed the first Tribal Consultation Policy for DNR, including significant Tribal input.

Chief Resilience Officer, February 2019 – July 2021

Office of Mayor Sylvester Turner, City of Houston, Houston, Texas

- Served as Senior Advisor to the Mayor and member of the leadership team met with Mayor Turner weekly.
- Advised Mayor Turner in his Chair roles for Resilient Cities Network and Climate Mayors.
- 100 Resilient Cities/Resilient Cities Network: Led the development of the Mayor's Resilient Houston strategy.
- Raised \$2M+ in private and philanthropic sector funds to implement Resilient Houston in the first year.
- Led the development of Houston's first Climate Impact Assessment.
- Co-led the development of Houston racial equity training for city leadership and department directors.
- Planned and executed a 320 square mile urban heat island mapping campaign with 80+ volunteers during COVID.
- Led the development of Houston's Living with Water Houston report, released January 2020, as part of Houston's "dutch dialogues" focused on citywide and historically underserved neighborhood recommendations.
- Secured funding from the EPA for the Houston Inspira Public Health Storytelling Campaign.
- Initiated Houston's LEED for Cities program, where they earned LEED Gold.
- Led the city's COVID Response Task Force's at-risk and vulnerable populations subcommittee.
- Co-led the Mayor's Health Equity Response (H.E.R.) Taskforce focused on providing public health information and supplies including the Mask Up! Campaign, primarily focused on 22 "priority" neighborhoods.
- Led the development and implementation of the \$8.5M Houston Eats Restaurant Support (H.E.R.S) program to have minority-owned small restaurants serve free meals to populations disproportionately affected by COVID-19.
- Led the development and implementation of multiple childcare access programs supporting essential employees and using \$3M to provide assistance for 100+ facilities.

Adjunct Instructor, August 2017 – December 2018

University of Southern California, Sol Price School of Public Policy, Los Angeles, California

Developed and taught PPD 573 Resilience Studio, a 15 week course in the Master of Planning program.

Chief Resilience Officer, May 2015 – February 2019

Office of Mayor Eric Garcetti, City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California

- Appointed the first Chief Resilience Officer for Los Angeles.
- 100 Resilient Cities: Led the development of the Resilient Los Angeles strategy focused on disaster resilience, climate adaptation, infrastructure modernization, economic security, and leadership and engagement.
- Resilience by Design: Led the implementation of approximately 17 seismic resilient recommendations focused on buildings, water and telecommunication infrastructure.
 - o Led implementation of the mandatory seismic retrofits of 13,500+ buildings.
 - o Led the development of the first publicly accessible Earthquake Early Warning App.
- Mayor's Annual Retrofit Resource Fair: Led the development of an annual seismic retrofit resource fair with approximately 2,000 annual participants and 85 exhibitors in the engineering, construction, and finance fields.
- Developed and led the citywide resilience outreach strategy. Developed and conducted surveys, focus groups, steering committee, and working groups meetings. Planned and facilitated workshops on various resilience topics. Represented Mayor Garcetti at events, presentations, and conferences, including the 2016 West Coast Mayors Summit, and the 2018 Southern California Earthquake Conference.

Senior Associate, August 2012 – May 2015

PlaceWorks, Los Angeles, California

Senior Planning Associate, January 2012 – August 2012**Planning Associate, July 2006 – January 2012**

Rosenheim & Associates, Inc., Woodland Hills, California

EDUCATION**University of Southern California, Sol Price School of Public Policy, Los Angeles, California (2004-2006)**

Master of Planning, with a concentration in social and community development. Associated Students of Planning and Development Chair, 2005-2006.

The American University, School of Public Affairs, Washington, D.C. (1998-2002)

Bachelor of Arts Political Science and Interdisciplinary Studies: Communications, Legal Institutions, Economics & Government. Certificate in Leadership.

SELECT AWARDS

June 30th 2021 was named Chief Resilience Officer Marissa Aho Day in the City of Houston by Mayor Sylvester Turner

Environmental Stewardship Award, Texas American Society of Landscape Architects (2020)

Award of Excellence in Resilience Planning for Resilient Houston, Texas American Planning Association (2020)

Named one of 90 Price Pioneers, Sol Price School of Public Policy, USC (2019)

Honorary Member, Structural Engineers Association of Southern California (2019)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND LEADERSHIP

Review Committee Member, 5th National Climate Assessment, National Academies (2022-2023)

Founder and Co-facilitator, Resilience 21 (2020-present)

Racial Equity through Resilience Community of Practice Founding Member (2020-present)

Global Chief Resilience Officer Steering Committee, Representing North America, Resilient Cities Network (2019-2021)

Advisor, Dr. Lucy Jones Center for Science and Society (2017 – present)

Board Member, USC Price School of Policy Alumni Association (2012 – 2019)

Member, Urban Land Institute (off and on 2006-present)

American Planning Association (APA) Leadership

Chair, 2022 National Planning Conference

Commissioner, Region VI, American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) (2014 – 2019)

Member, AICP Professional Certification Achieved (2008 – present), Member, APA (2004 – present)

Board Member, APA, California Chapter (2012 – 2019), Board Member, APA, Los Angeles Section (2007 – 2016)