

J. Cory Connolly

Experienced clean energy and climate leader dedicated to advancing clean energy goals and climate action. Successful policy strategist and advocate, clean energy finance executive, political organizer, public speaker, and Michigan-based climate and energy policy expert with a track-record of building and managing successful projects, campaigns, and organizations. A community builder and convener with a unique combination of relationships with clean energy businesses, organized labor, finance professionals, philanthropy, policymakers, climate activists, environmental justice advocates, and political organizers.

CONTACT

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Detroit, MI 48201

EDUCATION

International Relations
Bachelor of Arts

With honors

Michigan State Univ.

James Madison College

2006 - 2010

Clean Energy Project
Finance & Deployment
Certificate

Yale University

2019-2020

Public Narrative
Certificate

Harvard University

2022

LANGUAGE

Spanish

(intermediate/advanced)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Chief Climate Officer

January 2022 - Present

Office of Climate and Energy, State of Michigan, Lansing, Michigan

- Lead the Office of Climate and Energy, including development and implementation of Governor Whitmer's MI Healthy Climate Plan to reach carbon neutrality by 2050.
- Manage a team of 10 to deliver policy guidance, interface with stakeholders, and launch new initiatives to drive decarbonization.

Vice President

July 2018 - December 2021

Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council, Lansing, Michigan

- Developed and advocated for public policy solutions on behalf of approximately 140 companies in the clean energy industry in Michigan.
- Managed key partnerships and relationships with other nonprofits, policymakers, trade groups, philanthropy, and labor organizations.

Chief Operating Officer

2015 - June 2018

Levin Energy Partners/Lean & Green Michigan, Detroit, Michigan

- Led a team that enabled \$20 million in innovative financing for clean energy projects.
- Managed a key partnership with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and the National Electrical Contractors Association.

Senior Research Associate

2011 - 2014

Environmental Law Institute, Washington D.C.

- Co-created and organized the Mexico-U.S. Climate Law Network.
- Supported the Mexican government in the implementation of its 2012 Climate Change Law.

SELECT HONORS & VOLUNTEER ROLES

Notable Sustainability Leader, **Crain's Business Detroit**

2024

Fellow, **Change Collective, Civic Nation**

2023

Member, **Low-Income Energy Policy Board, State of Michigan**

2022-present

Member, **Governor Whitmer's Council on Future Mobility & Electrification**

2021

Liaison, **Governor Whitmer's Council on Climate Solutions**

2021

State Lead, **Clean Energy for Biden**

2020

40 Under 40, **Midwest Energy News**

2018

Founder & Director, **Michigan Clean Energy Leaders Project**

2017-2021

1 Hotels Fellow, **Natural Resources Defense Council**

2017

Detroit Fellow, **New Leaders Council**

2016

Clean Power Player, **Environmental Entrepreneurs**

2016

Climate Leader, **Young Climate Leaders Network**

2014

30 Under 30 for Law & Policy, **Forbes Magazine**

2012

Fellow '11/'12, **Roosevelt Institute**

2011

Carbon Offset Project Intern, **Fundación Biosfera**

2010

Climate Policy Intern, **US Department of State**

2009