

Peter H. Wyckoff, Ph.D.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER

2023-present

Division of Energy Resources, Minnesota Department of Commerce

St. Paul, MN

- Work with the Governor Walz's Office and across state agencies to maximize the amount of climate and clean energy funding coming to Minnesota from the bipartisan infrastructure bill of 2021 and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022
- Lead the Office of Energy Development and the Office of Energy Affordability in the Division of Energy Resources at the Minnesota Department of Commerce
- Helping lead Minnesota's new "Green Bank", the Minnesota Climate Innovation Finance Authority

SENIOR POLICY ADVISOR

2018 - 2023

Office of Senator Tina Smith (D-MN)

Washington, DC

Worked collaboratively with Senator Smith to develop her climate, energy, and environmental portfolio. In only five years, she became a recognized climate and clean energy leader in Congress, and she is arguably the only Senate climate leader from a purple state. I led her "Green Team" from the time she arrived in Washington.

- See: [*"Behind the scenes in the Senate, this scientist never gave up on passing the Inflation Reduction Act. Now he's come home to Minnesota"*](#) Inside Climate News (16 Aug. 23); [*"Six congressional staffers who have played a key role in crafting climate policy"*](#) Washington Post (14 Feb 22); [*"These congressional staffers helped clinch the historic climate deal"*](#) Washington Post (11 Aug. 22)

Activities related to President Biden's Climate Agenda/ Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

- Lead staffer for the development of the Clean Electricity Performance Program (CEPP), the original climate centerpiece for President Biden's *Build Back Better* proposal
 - Coordinated with U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and White House staff, House and Senate leadership staff, and relevant House and Senate Committee staff; managed input from electric utilities, trade groups, labor, think tanks, and environmental and environmental justice stakeholders
 - Interacted with academic and government modelers and iteratively incorporated feedback to develop the legislative proposal
 - Presented overview and technical details of the proposal to fellow staffers and directly to dozens of Senators and Representatives
 - Held frequent background calls with trade press and general interest media, including *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Wash. Post*, *CNN*
- Senators Smith and Manchin could not reach an agreement to include the CEPP in the *IRA*, but the negotiations yielded improvements to the final bill and I was involved until the bill's eventual passage as the Inflation Reduction Act. Portions of the *IRA* that most closely followed from my work:
 - Strong clean energy grant and loan programs at the DOE and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
 - Compromise language on a tax credit for carbon capture and storage
 - "Direct pay" so that non-taxed entities including, municipalities, non-profits, and rural electric cooperatives can utilize clean energy tax credits

- A large increase to the popular *Rural Energy for America (REAP)* program

Other legislative activities

- Served as staff for U.S. Senate Democrats' Special Committee on the Climate Crisis (2019-2020); organized hearings and meetings with labor leaders, environmental groups, environmental justice advocates, and former Obama Administration officials; authored electric sector chapter, co-authored industrial and labor chapters for the committee's final report, *The Case for Climate Action* (August 2020)
 - *Final document represented a consensus Democratic caucus vision negotiated with Democratic staff from Senate committees and member offices*
- Led development of S. 1359: *Clean Energy Standard Act*, the only federal clean electricity standard proposal in the U.S. Senate
 - *Worked closely with stakeholders to gain endorsements from labor unions, environmental groups, energy think tanks, and electric utilities*
- Led development of several additional energy bills, including S. 2288: *American Energy Efficiency Act*, S. 1593: *Promoting Grid Storage Act*, S. 2660: *Wind Energy Research and Development Act*, S. 4060: *Open Back Better Act*, S. 986: *Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage Tax Credit Amendments Act*, S. 2243: *Rural Energy for America (REAP) Improvement Act*; S. 1776: *Agriculture Energy Programs Reauthorization Act* and a bill to reauthorize and improve the DOE Tribal Loan Guarantee Program and the Office of Indian Energy
 - *Seven bipartisan Smith "Green Team"-led bills became law as provisions in the 2018 Farm Bill, the Energy Act of 2020, and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022*

FELLOW

2017–2018

Department of Energy, Climate and Environmental Science Division

Washington DC

Worked directly for the Division Director; assigned to support division collaboration with US Global Change Research Program (USGCRP)

FELLOW

2016– 2017

Office of Senator Al Franken (D-MN)

Washington, DC

Served as part of the legislative team managing environment, energy, climate change, and agriculture portfolio; prepared and staffed the Senator for hearings and meetings of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

- *Wrote script for two exchanges with DOE Sec. Perry that went viral, [viewed more than 12 million times across social media platforms](#)*

PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

2001–2016

University of Minnesota, Morris (UMM)

Morris, MN

Tenured in 2004, promoted to Full Professor in 2014, granted Emeritus status in 2018

Was a leader as UMM emerged as a national model for campus and community sustainability.

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Forest Ecology • 1999 • Duke University, Durham, NC

NSF Pre-doctoral Fellow, NSF Doctoral Dissertation Grant

B.A., Political Science/Biology • 1994 • Drew University, Madison, NJ

Student body president, Board of Trustees (student member), semester at the United Nations, study abroad in Cairo and Tel Aviv