



DEQ ENERGY BUREAU TEAM BIOS

Ben Brouwer

Energy Bureau Chief

Energy Bureau, Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Ben manages the Energy Bureau at the Montana Department of Environmental Quality where he has worked since 2016. The Energy Bureau is Montana's federally recognized State Energy Office. Ben oversees a team of 15 staff engaged in state and federally funded programs, including energy emergency planning and response, electric vehicle planning and deployment, residential, commercial, and state-facility energy financing programs, wind and solar bonding and decommissioning, utility resource planning, and small business regulatory compliance assistance. Ben has previously worked as an Energy Resource Professional and Energy Planning Section Supervisor in the Energy Bureau and served as Policy Director of the Montana Renewable Energy Association prior to joining the Energy Bureau. Ben received a bachelor's degree in Geography and Environmental Studies from Middlebury College.

Ben will not be directly funded by CPRG, but with separate U.S. Department of Energy funding will provide program oversight and coordination of CPRG projects with the Energy Bureau and DEQ's implementation of multiple state and federally funded programs.

Neal Ullman

Energy Resource Professional

Energy Bureau, Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Neal has worked as the Clean Transportation Program manager at DEQ for over four years working with funds from the Volkswagen Diesel Emission Settlement and the EPA's Diesel Emission Reduction Act. During that time, Neal has managed 81 contracts funding school and transit buses, street sweepers, airport ground support equipment, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and technical assistance to schools for electric school buses. The funding opportunities used by the Energy Bureau for these projects will serve as the model for DEQ's CPRG Conversion of Fleet Vehicles to Cleaner Fuels measure. Neal represents the Energy Bureau on the board of directors for the Yellowstone-Teton Clean Cities Coalition and was recognized by the Coalition with an "Alternative Fuel Excellence Award." Neal and members of the Energy Bureau were awarded the Director's Challenge in 2023 by DEQ Director Chris Dorrington for their work on deploying cleaner school buses across Montana including the first-in-Montana electric school buses.

Neal has completed the following trainings:

- Montana Department of Administration & Procurement Academy as a certified Warranted Procurement Officer
- General Motors Battery Electric Vehicle First Responder Training
- UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute for Science of Fire and Explosion Hazards from Lithium-Ion Batteries
- UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute for Fire Service Considerations with Lithium-Ion Battery ESS
- National Volunteer Fire Council for EV Vehicle Safety: An Awareness Level Training

Kyla Maki

Energy Planning Section Supervisor
Energy Bureau, Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Kyla has worked with the Montana Department of Environmental Quality for eight years, serving as Energy Planning Section Supervisor for 6 months. During Kyla's tenure at DEQ she has developed state plans for administering funding opportunities, advised investor-owned utilities in resource planning processes, supported Energy Emergency tabletop exercises and energy emergency responses. Kyla has led the program to administer recently awarded Grid Resilience funding since September 2023. This funding will serve as the model for the CPRG Investment and Improvement of Grid Technology Measure.

Bonnie Rouse

Energy Resource Professional
Energy Bureau, Montana Department of Environmental Quality

Bonnie has over 20 years' experience working for the Montana Department of Environmental Quality with 15 years directly managing energy programs. Bonnie was lead on the design team for the SMART Schools Program (Saving Money and Resources Today) and currently oversees the State Buildings Energy Conservation Program and Energy Performance Contracting Program. Bonnie's core competencies include:

Personnel Management – 14-plus years of effectively managing a staff of 7 to 11 employees in five program areas including DEQ's Small Business Environmental Assistance Program (SBEAP) and the State Buildings Energy Conservation Program (SBECP).

Financial Administration – Responsible for developing and adhering to annual budgets between \$3.5M/year - \$20M/year. Funding sources include DOE/EPA grants, regulatory fees, state special revenue, state general fund, and utility Universal System Benefits funding.

Grant Administration – Responsible for the development and administration of DOE and EPA formula funding grants including compliance with grant requirements. Consistently achieves reports of "no findings" on grant audits. Submits required all reporting accurately and on time.