Deron Lovaas

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Public policy innovator, thought leader and coalition-builder with 30 years of experience in energy, housing, and transportation issues and a track record of success at the federal and state levels.

***Professional Experience***

# Chief, Environment and Sustainable Transportation

# Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), Hanover, MD – 2023-Present

* Provide advice and analysis to the Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and Assistant Secretaries at MDOT regarding environment and sustainability issues and policy
* Lead a team of 20 people in the Secretary’s Office (TSO) in a new program focused on climate pollution mitigation and resilience, active transportation, vehicle electrification, and environmental compliance and innovation
* Collaborate with colleagues at TSO and across MDOT modal administrations to develop and implement policies, programs and initiatives including the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure program (NEVI), the Carbon Reduction Program, the Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) program, and the Kim Lamphier Bikeways Network Program
* Collaborate with colleagues at other state agencies on policy implementation and program issues related to the Moore-Miller State Plan as well as environment and sustainability issues
* Develop, analyze, and provide advice regarding MDOT’s position on legislation, regulations, and local policy
* Assist with identifying and securing federal funding for environmental and sustainability projects available pursuant to statutes including the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs and Inflation Reduction Acts
* Work with metropolitan planning organizations, local government staff, and non-governmental organizations as warranted to advance the Moore-Miller State Plan and MDOT’s mission and plans and programs
* Serve as chair of the Zero-Emissions Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council (ZEEVIC) and member of the Maryland Climate Change Commission Steering Committee

# Senior Policy Advocate, National Policy Team, People & Communities Program

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Washington, D.C. – 2021-2023

* Coached and led advocacy with junior NRDC colleagues as part of the national policy team, covering a portfolio of federal and state transportation, energy, and housing policies, for example:
  + first-ever proposed Federal Highway Administration rule requiring all state transportation departments and metropolitan planning organizations to measure and set targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions,
  + first-ever legislation establishing an annual energy savings target for low-income energy efficiency programs in Maryland, and
  + cross-programmatic advocacy and organizing to hold state transportation agencies accountable for climate-friendly and equitable implementation of the historic Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
* Developed and deployed advocacy tactics to implement NRDC’s climate strategy including state transportation policy reform and state public utility commission transformation
* Collaborated on policy analysis and advocacy with teammates across the institution including transportation and federal advocacy groups as well as NRDC’s utility affordability and consumer protections working group
* Helped drive national coalitions and networks including the National Campaign for Transit Justice, the Transportation Equity Caucus, and the Coalition Helping America Rebuild and Go Electric (CHARGE)
* Authored blogs and tweets frequently to push the debate in priority areas for NRDC
* Worked with NRDC colleagues and allies and partners such as the National Consumer Law Center in 2020 to quickly pivot Energy Efficiency for All’s short-term advocacy objectives to securing and extending electricity, gas, and water service shutoff moratoria, reasonable arrearage management and cost recovery plans post-moratoria, and transparent procedures for policymaking (<https://www.energyefficiencyforall.org/covid-19/>)

# Project Co-Director, Energy Efficiency for All (EEFA)

NRDC, Washington, D.C. – 2018-2020

* Co-led one of NRDC’s largest partnerships with the Energy Foundation, Elevate Energy, and the National Housing Trust to deliver energy efficiency and healthy home improvements to multifamily affordable housing
* Helped build a track record of success in delivering healthy materials and energy efficiency measures to affordable housing, collaborating to deliver nearly $500 million in investments with more than 200,000 renters benefiting
* Managed a $1.4-million annual budget and a team of 15 NRDC staff
* Co-developed and coordinated a team-driven structure of two executive teams, 5 issue leadership teams, and 12 in- state coalitions and a national social-impact network (Network for Energy, Water, and Health in Affordable Buildings or NEWHAB)
* Produced a project-wide *Collaboration Agreement* in 2019, shared NRDC budget decision-making with internal and external teams and coalitions, increased consistency of state strategy development and work-planning, prioritized racial equity including development of a set of tools for use by our coalitions and teams, and improved communications and trust across our teams
* Improved external communications about the project including a major redesign and launch of the EEFA web site (<https://www.energyefficiencyforall.org/>)

# Senior Policy Advocate, Urban Solutions Program

NRDC, Washington, D.C. – 2013-2017

* Served as senior team leader with both Urban Solutions and EEFA and co-led coalitions in Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Virginia
* Led the Maryland Energy Efficiency Advocates coalition in campaigns to deliver a historic EmPOWER Maryland Public Service Commission order (2015) and a new law codifying key provisions of that order (2017)
* Developed federal and state solutions and strategies for other new laws, administrative, regulatory policies, as well as litigation and helped deliver other major projects and advocacy tactics
* Researched, edited, and wrote technical documents submitted for Congressional hearings, federal rulemakings, state regulatory proceedings, and litigation

# Federal Transportation Policy Director, Energy and Transportation Program

### NRDC, Washington, D.C. – 2009-2012

* Served as advocacy and issue campaign strategist for major federal transportation law (Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century in 2012), testifying before Congress 6 times
* Conceived of, developed funding for and chaired the multi-agency steering committee for a million-dollar study,

[*Moving Cooler: An Analysis of Transportation Strategies for Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions*](https://www.transit.dot.gov/sites/fta.dot.gov/files/docs/MovingCoolerExecSummaryULI.pdf)(2009)

* Co-authored report on mobility choice as a means to tackle oil addiction ([mobilitychoice.org/takingthewheel.pdf](http://mobilitychoice.org/takingthewheel.pdf))
* Authored or co-authored book chapters in *Plug-In Electric Vehicles: What Role for Washington?* (Sandalow, 2009), *Energy Security Challenges for the 21st Century: A Reference Handbook* (Korin and Luft, 2009) and *Transport Beyond Oil: Policy Choices for a Multimodal Choice* (Renne and Fields, 2012)

# Vehicles Campaign Director, Air and Energy Program

NRDC, Washington, D.C. – 2005-2008

* Led advocacy to deliver historic clean vehicle provisions in the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act, testifying before Congress about light-duty vehicle technologies and fuels
* Designed and managed the Move America Beyond Oil campaign, building unusual bipartisan coalitions
* Created and co-authored annual series of scorecards from 2007-2012 ranking states on oil dependence and policy solutions to address it (Last in the series: <https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/Oil-Vulnerability-Nov-2012.pdf>)
* Analyzed, advocated for, and testified before Congress about policies to reduce emissions from aviation

# Smart Growth Project Deputy Director, Air and Energy Program

NRDC, Washington, D.C. – 2001-2004

* Performed policy analysis and led advocacy to improve planning and investment provisions in the 2005 transportation law, the Safe, Affordable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century – a Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), testifying before Congress about expedited transportation project delivery
* Conceived of and co-authored national reports on suburban sprawl and its effects on water scarcity and cuts to state smart growth programs due to budget shortfalls
* Wrote “Suburbanization and Energy” entry in Elsevier Press’ 2004 *Encyclopedia of Energy*
* Reviewed and contributed to multiple publications including EPA Smart Growth reports

# Challenge to Sprawl Campaign Representative

Sierra Club, Washington, D.C. – 1999-2001

* Directed and managed budget of “Challenge to Sprawl Campaign” (one of 4 national priority campaigns)
* Advocated for federal and state policies, collaborating with activists on reports, events and ballot measures
* Wrote, edited, and communicated about 3 major national reports as well as white papers and fact sheets
* Built new coalitions with energy transportation, planning, and community-development advocates

# Outreach Coordinator

Zero Population Growth (ZPG), Washington, D.C. – 1995-1998

* Coordinated “15 Cities” and “10 States” education campaigns, organizing events, speeches and media for land-use, family-planning, and environmental initiatives with Director and former Congressman Peter Kostmayer
* Coordinated ZPG’s anti-sprawl activities, including event organizing, public speeches, and media work
* Managed the “Campus Organizing Project” of thousands of students on hundreds of campuses
* Published pieces in *The Reporter* magazine, *Campus Organizer’s Newsletter*, and fact sheets

# Environmental Specialist

Maryland Department of the Environment, Baltimore, MD – 1993-1995

* Co-authored State Implementation Plans and official Responses to Comments
* Assessed projects and plans pursuant to Clean Air Act transportation conformity provisions
* Researched and designed strategies and tactics to increase usage of transportation alternatives
* Assisted in the design and implementation of innovative programs, including “Cash-for-Clippers” for consumers to trade gasoline lawn mowers for electric and reel mowers

# Office of Grassroots Action Intern

National Wildlife Federation (NWF), Washington, D.C. – 1992-1993

* Conceived of and authored the *Organizers Guide*, a 90-page handbook for field activists
* Organized events and trainings for 7 national organizers in the Office of Grassroots Action
* Wrote for *EnviroAction*, a bimonthly activist newsletter, and recorded NWF’s weekly Legislative Hotline

## Volunteer Experience

* Research Advisory Board Member, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (2017-Present)
* Board Member, Greenroads International (2015-2019)
* Board Member, 20/20 Vision (2005-2009)
* Judge, annual U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Awards (2008-Present)
* Advisory Committee, *2009 and 2013 Annual Attainment Reports* on Transportation System Performance for the Maryland Department of Transportation
* Member, Demand Task Group of National Petroleum Council report on the future of energy (<https://npchardtruthsreport.org/>, 2007)
* Chair, Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee for Washington Council of Governments (2009-2010)
* Chair, Committee for a Better Environment, City of College Park (2005-2009)
* Member, Silver Spring Transportation Management District Citizens Advisory Committee (2001)

## Education and Training

* Bachelor’s Degree, University of Virginia (1992)
* Management coaching (2012-13, 2018-19)
* Coursework in Environmental Law, Dispute Resolution, Legal Analysis, and Project Management at Graduate School USA (1994, 1999, 2001, 2014)
* Facilitation, *Multicultural Community Service*, Washington, D.C. (1998)
* Mediation*, Community Mediation Program*, Johns Hopkins University Safe and Smart Center (1995)
* Regulatory Development and Ethical Advocacy, State of Maryland (1993, 2019)