

Speaker Bios
Tribal Energy Solutions to Climate Change Workshop

Thelma Antonio

Thelma Antonio is a utility planner with the Pueblo of Laguna.

Sharon Buccino

Sharon Buccino is a Senior Attorney and Director of the Land & Wildlife program at the Natural Resources Defense Council, a non-profit organization dedicated to protection of the environment and public health. Ms. Buccino has worked in NRDC's Washington, DC, office since 1993. She represents NRDC in court, before Congress and federal agencies. Her current work focuses on energy policy, the National Environmental Policy Act, and open government. She worked on the Indian Energy title in the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Prior to joining NRDC, Ms. Buccino practiced environmental and administrative law with a private firm in Washington, DC. She also served as a law clerk for the Alaska Supreme Court. Ms. Buccino earned her J.D. from Stanford Law School and her B.A. from Yale University.

Michael Connolly Miskwish – Campo Kumeyaay Nation

Michael Connolly Miskwish is an adjunct professor at San Diego State University and a professor at Kumeyaay Community College. For 8 years he served in Senior Manufacturing/Industrial Engineering and Supervisory positions in the aerospace industry. He also served 18 years in the environmental field including 12 years as President & CEO of Connolly & Associates and Laguna Resource Services, Inc., an environmental consulting company. He is a former board member of Rural Community Assistance Corporation; National Tribal Environmental Council; Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center; Campo Environmental Protection Agency; Southern Indian Health Council; NAFTA Government Advisory Committee and EPA Tribal Operations Committee.

Mr. Connolly Miskwish has published several papers on history, economics and environment. He also is the author of two books on Kumeyaay history and a contributing author to a book on sustainable economics. His education includes a B.S. in Manufacturing Engineering.

Margaret Cook

Margaret Cook is the Executive Director of the Gila River Indian Community, Department of Environmental Quality. Prior to taking this position, Margaret held the position of Senior Environmental Planner and Policy Analyst for the Gila River Indian Community for approximately 7 years and worked as an active member of all the media teams within the Department of Environmental Quality.

Prior to joining Gila River Indian Community, Department of Environmental Quality, Margaret was the Environmental Programs Coordinator for the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona for approximately 7 years. Margaret holds an MBA with a directed focus on global management.

Margaret has been appointed to the Climate Change Advisory Committee to Governor Janet Napolitano, Governor of Arizona. Climate change has been an issue of great concern to Margaret since the early 1980's when she was involved in Planet Earth, a climate change program operated from the United Nations.

Jackie Francke (Navajo Nation)

Jackie Francke is President and Principal Engineer of Geotechnika, Inc., a Native American owned business located in Longmont, Colorado. She provides technical consulting services in the areas of energy efficiency, strategic planning, training, and other areas required in implementing renewable energy projects on Tribal Lands that lead to community and economic Tribal development. With a background in engineering and

business, she believes that developing the foundation for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects through planning, processes, and documentation are keys to successful energy projects in Tribal communities.

She has provided energy efficiency assessments on Tribal buildings and residential homes, works with Tribal communities in developing training efforts in renewable energy and strategic energy planning. Prior to starting her business in 1999, she worked as a Mining Engineer in underground salt and potash mines, and surface coal mines. She is an enrolled tribal member of the Navajo Nation, a member of the Black Streak People Clan, and One Who Walks Around One Clan.

Joe Garcia

Joe Garcia, born and raised in Ohkay Owingeh has served his community in numerous positions, such as; School Board Chairman, President of TSAY Corporation, a tribally owned business, 2 terms as Lt Governor, 3 terms as Governor, and is a lifetime Tribal Councilman. He is an electrical engineer by profession, with an Electrical Engineering Bachelors of Science Degree from the University of New Mexico and was employed by Los Alamos National Laboratory for over 25 years. He has taught numerous courses in computers, electronics, lasers, and math at the Northern New Mexico Community College since 1979. In 2003 he was re-elected for a two-year term as the 1st Vice President of the National Congress of American Indians and he now serves as the organization's President. Garcia was recently elected as chairman of the All Indian Pueblo Council. Garcia retired from Los Alamos National Lab in June of 2003 and started his firm, MistyLake Consulting Services. He was a major player in developing NAHASDA rules and regulations and continues to be a prime supporter of Indian Housing initiatives.

Joe and his wife Oneva, have three children, Melissa, Nathan, and Morning Star and 3 grand daughters, Kaelynn Garcia, I-Rey Quintana, and Marcela Reyes.

Bob Gough

Bob Gough is an attorney with graduate degrees in sociology and cultural ecology, with over 30 years experience and two fellowships on tribal cultural and natural resource issues. The first director and now a consultant to the Rosebud Sioux Tribal Utility Commission, Gough participated in WAPA negotiations for tribal allocations of federal hydroelectric power. He is the secretary of the Intertribal Council On Utility Policy, an organization composed of federally recognized Indian tribes in the Northern Great Plains providing a forum on rights and resources for utility services on tribal lands, and co-chaired the national assessment's Native Peoples/Native Homelands Climate Change Workshop.

Mr. Gough contracts with the DOE -Wind Powering America program's Wind Powering Native America Initiative, and co-directs the NativeWind.org and EnergyIndependenceDay.org campaigns supporting partnerships between ICLEI-Cities for Climate Protection and the Intertribal COUP tribes interested in building sustainable homeland economies based upon renewable energy.

Thomas Hand

Thomas joined *NativeEnergy* in July, 2006 shortly after graduating from Middlebury College and taking a brief vacation to climb Denali in Alaska. During college Thomas worked on a number of energy efficiency and carbon reduction initiatives. Of these the most exciting was Project BioBus, which traveled the USA in the fall of 2004 teaching high school and college students about renewable energy. He graduated with a degree in Economics but most of his work outside the classroom was focused around greenhouse gas reductions at the college and in the local community.

Thomas grew up in Dorset, Vermont and enjoys rock climbing, hiking, skiing, soccer and mountaineering.

Louie Hena, Tesuque Pueblo

Louie Hena is a permaculture design consultant, river guide on the Rio Grande and Rio Chama rivers in New Mexico, and educator on traditional land management systems. A native of Tesuque Pueblo, he has been involved in permaculture all his life: respect, caring, and sharing - the ethics of permaculture - is the way of life for his community.

Hena helped organize the Traditional Native American Farmer Association and the New Mexico Acequia Association in the Indigenous Food and Seed Sovereignty Alliance and the Seed Sovereignty Declaration to protect native seeds, crops, heritage fruits, animals, fish, and wild plants from genetic engineering. He is co-founder of the Traditional Native American Farmers Association's two-week accredited Permaculture Design course, which attracts participants from U.S., Canadian, Mexican, and Central and South American indigenous nations. He developed tribal environmental programs in three communities, and was a representative for the New Mexico tribes on the Environmental Protection Agency's Regional and National Tribal Operations Committee. He is the co-author of "A Tradition of Farming: Northern Rio Grande Pueblo Lessons of Land Stewardship and Sustainable Agriculture" and "Living On The Edge."

In collaboration with Los Rios River Runners, Inc., New Mexico's oldest rafting company, he has developed the Native Cultures Feast and Float, an educational tourism experience unique in the U.S. Visit www.losriosriverrunners.com/native_cultures.html to reenergize yourself!

Tracey A. LeBeau (Cheyenne River Sioux)

Tracey is a Red Mountain Tribal Energy (RMTE) Partner and has more than a dozen years of energy industry experience. She has a strong background in energy and infrastructure project visioning, oil and gas development, renewable energy development and regulation, and right-of-way issues. Prior to co-founding RMTE, Tracey managed project development activities for several commercial energy projects as well as provided project structuring and regulatory expertise to institutional investment and Tribal clients in North America. Tracey previously served as Vice President for Earth Energy Environment, LLC (E3) and E3 Canada Corporation, project development companies which develop, finance, own and operate energy projects and partnerships in the U.S. and internationally. Previous to this, Tracey was a Director at Kansas Pipeline Company, lending midstream project development expertise on various projects in the U.S. In the energy marketing sector, Tracey was formerly a Director for American Energy Solutions, Inc., a national natural gas and electricity marketing firm based in Kansas City, Missouri. Early in her career, Tracey served in various capacities at the Council of Energy Resource Tribes (CERT). Tracey received her undergraduate degree from Stanford University and her Juris Doctor from the University of Iowa, specializing in international and domestic environmental law as well as federal Indian law.

Ken Lomayestewa (Hopi Tribe)

Sandy McCardell

Sandra McCardell is President and founder of Current-C Energy Systems, Inc. Since 1996, Current-C's purpose has been to assist clients of all kinds in meeting their internal goals by reducing their impact on the natural environment. The path Current-C takes to reach this goal is through appropriate resource production and use. Sandy focuses her efforts on reducing the environmental effects of energy use, while saving clients money and improving their facilities. She believes strongly in using energy efficiency and renewable energy strategies to improve communities, and has a tendency to find "resources" where others see "waste". With a background in business and non-profit management, international experience and a community focus, she has built a company that is effective at creating partnerships and moving projects forward in a variety of different cultures and countries, preferably in "underserved" communities or organizations. Sandy holds an MBA from the University of Chicago, and an MA in International Administration (focusing on non-profit management and inter-cultural communication) from the School for International Training in VT. She is also an Accredited Professional under the US Green Building Council's LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) program, and was certified by the Zero Emissions Research Initiative (ZERI) in

2005.

Over the past 3 years, Sandy has particularly enjoyed her work in Tribal communities and in other countries, whether the projects include strategic planning, energy audits, “green building”, renewable energy assessments, or general environmentally appropriate community development activities. She looks forward to much more of the same!

Jess Sixkiller (Cherokee)

Jess Sixkiller serves as the Chairman of the Native First Capital Markets Group) and is a board member of the Gila River Indian Community Utility Authority. He has served on the Board since 1999 and as Vice Chairman until 2008. The Authority started with only a tribal resolution to manage the utilities on the reservation. They deliver up to 8 MWs of power and within the next two to three years should be delivering somewhere around 80+ MWs.

Carolyn Stewart

Carolyn is a Red Mountain Tribal Energy (RMTE) Partner, and brings more than twenty-five years of energy industry and consulting experience in conventional and renewable energy development, and gas distribution and electric distribution operations. Today, Carolyn focuses on Tribal energy operations, utility formation, energy efficiency, renewable energy feasibility and development, energy strategy development, and right-of-way negotiation support for Tribes primarily in the Southwest. She has helped numerous Tribes identify and access funding to pursue energy-related studies and projects. Prior to co-founding RMTE, Carolyn headed Navigant Consulting, Inc.'s tribal energy activities and worked with numerous Indian Tribes, investor-owned and municipal utilities, and independent renewable and conventional power developers and producers on a wide variety of energy development, regulatory and strategic planning efforts. Prior to joining Navigant Consulting, she held various financial, management and operating positions at Nicor Gas, a large gas distribution and energy firm based in the Midwest, over a 20+ year career. She received her undergraduate degree in Finance from the University of Illinois and earned an MBA from the University of Chicago, Graduate School of Business, specializing in Finance.

Jonny Bearcub Stiffarm

Jonny Bearcub Stiffarm, an enrolled member of the Fort Peck Assiniboine & Sioux Nation, is the Business Development Manager for *NativeEnergy*. She brings a wealth of experience in negotiation, small business development, contracts, and leadership. She served in Mayor Wellington Webb's administration as the Deputy Director of the Mayor's Office of Contract Compliance for both the City and Denver International Airport and his Native American Indian Liaison to the local, regional and national Indian Nation entities. She received her undergraduate from Brigham Young University and a juris doctorate from the University of Minnesota School of Law.

Dean Suagee (Cherokee Nation)

Mr. Suagee an enrolled member of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, joined the law firm of Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker in 1988 as an associate, and has been Of Counsel since 1993. He specializes in environmental and natural resources law and cultural heritage preservation. He has worked with many tribes in building environmental and cultural resource regulatory programs, both within the overall framework of federal law authorizing tribes to administer programs comparable to those of the states and pursuant to inherent tribal sovereignty. He has also been involved in the enactment of federal legislation in these subjects. Mr. Suagee is the author of more than a dozen law journal articles and several chapters in books on various aspects of Indian country environmental and cultural resources law.

From 1998 through 2002 he served as Director of the First Nations Environmental Law Program at Vermont Law School, where he taught Indian country environmental law and directed a legal clinic. Mr. Suagee

received his J.D. degree from the University of North Carolina in 1976 and an LL.M. degree in International Legal Studies from the American University Washington College of Law in 1989. He received his B.A. degree (with high honors) from the University of Arizona in 1972. He is a member of the District of Columbia bar.

Steve Torbit

Stephen C. Torbit, Ph.D., is the Director of NWF's Rocky Mountain Natural Resource Center and the Tribal Lands Conservation Program. Dr. Torbit earned his Ph.D. in wildlife ecology from Colorado State University and specialized in ungulate nutritional ecology. He has assisted with reintroduction of black-footed ferrets on the Ft. Belknap and Cheyenne River Sioux Reservations and with the management of wolves by the Nez Perce Tribe in Idaho. He works with tribes throughout the U.S. on natural resource conservation.

Garrit Voggeser

Garrit Voggeser is the Senior Manager of NWF's Tribal Lands Conservation Program based in Boulder, Colorado. Dr. Voggeser received his Ph.D. in history, with a focus on American Indian and environmental history, from the University of Oklahoma. Voggeser works on a variety of ecosystem protection, climate change, wildlife, habitat, and water quantity and quality issues with tribes throughout the nation. He has also served as NWF's Bison Team Associate Coordinator and held internships with NWF and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Tim Warman

Tim Warman is the Global Warming Campaign Director for National Wildlife Federation. He has worked on natural resource conservation issues for the past 25 years, especially in the area of land, soil and water conservation. His experience includes working directly with farmers and landowners to implement on the ground conservation projects and with state and federal agriculture and natural resource management agencies to implement programs such as the Conservation Reserve Program and the Wetlands Reserve Program successfully. In the mid-1990s he led American Farmland Trust's successful initiative to convince Congress to create a national farmland protection program in 1996 and to expand the program in 2002. Tim joined NWF in December 2005. His responsibilities include managing the Global Warming Campaign Team and leading the Mobilizing Hunters and Anglers to combat global warming and the Global Warming Solutions Initiatives. He holds M.S. and B.S. degrees from the University of Maryland's College of Agriculture.

Myra Wilensky

Myra is the Tribal Global Warming Outreach Manager for National Wildlife Federation and is responsible for working with tribes on addressing global warming through renewable energy. Previously she served as the coordinator for NWF's "Hunters and Anglers Confronting Climate Change" program and as a regional representative to NWF affiliates in the Midwest and western states. Prior to working at NWF, Myra served as legislative staff to the Colorado General Assembly on natural resources, energy and transportation issues. She holds a Master's Degree in Environmental Policy and Management from the University of Denver and a B.A. in Human Development and Communications from Colorado State University.