



Greater Reno-Tahoe Experts & Spokespeople for Clean Energy Topics

For more information on these individuals or to inquire about interviews, please contact Julie Ardito at julie@arditopr.com / 775-846-8445 or Steve Duncan at steve.duncan@aboutdci.com / 303-284-1011.

Clean Energy

- **Thomas R. Fair**
Executive, Renewable Energy, NV Energy

Fair is responsible for the procurement and development of renewable energy – green power sources such as geothermal, solar and wind for NV Energy. In addition, Fair has spent five years developing wind energy projects and was responsible for various stages of the development of more than 400 megawatts of wind projects now in operation.

- **Jason Geddes, Ph.D.**
Environmental Services Administrator, City of Reno

Dr. Geddes, the clean energy industry advisor for Greater Reno-Tahoe, currently heads up energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives for the City of Reno and previously served as chair of the Nevada Renewable Energy & Energy Conservation Task Force. He has held various positions at the Nevada Department of Agriculture, including senior petroleum chemist in which he assisted with the preparation of a department and state energy plan, and was the director of operations at the Nevada Environmental Laboratories.

- **Chuck Coronella, Ph.D.**
**Associate Professor, Chemical and Materials Engineering Department
College of Engineering, University of Nevada, Reno**

Converting waste to energy is among the research interests of chemical engineer Dr. Coronella. A demonstration project, conducted with collaborator Victor Vasquez, Ph.D., is helping to establish the commercial viability of a new process to transform wastewater sludge to electrical power at a Reno-area water reclamation facility. Coronella also studies biomass pretreatment and fluidization engineering. He is the education and outreach coordinator for UNR's Renewable Energy Center, and is involved with an innovative student program, "E-Scholars Program: Fostering Engineering Careers in Energy." Funded through the National Science Foundation, the University of Nevada, Reno program is preparing a cohort of 20 engineering students for careers in renewable energy.

Nevada Clean Energy Experts

2-2-2-2

- **Victor Vasquez, Ph.D.**
Associate Professor, Chemical and Materials Engineering Department
College of Engineering, University of Nevada, Reno

Along with research collaborator Dr. Chuck Coronella, Dr. Vasquez is exploring the conversion of waste to energy. A demonstration project is successfully testing their research and transforming wastewater sludge to electrical power at a Reno-area water reclamation facility. In addition to waste conversion, Vasquez's research interests include modeling and simulation of chemical processes, risk and uncertainty analysis using Monte Carlo methods (computational algorithms), molecular simulation of complex systems and thermodynamics of macro and micro-systems. Recently, he has focused work in life-cycle analysis of renewable projects.

- **Kwang J. Kim, Ph.D.**
Professor and Chair of the Mechanical Engineering Department and
Faculty Coordinator for the Hydrogen Energy and Storage group in the
University's Renewable Energy Center

Dr. Kim is director of the Active Material and Processing Laboratory and the Low Carbon Green Technology Laboratory. Kim's research has focused on novel heat transfer enhancement techniques, using nanotechnology, in condensers for use in geothermal power plants, as well as thermal compression of hydrogen utilizing geothermal energy to make handling and transport of hydrogen fuel more efficient and less costly. He is developing new barrier coating materials for geothermal-fluid-wetted process equipment. His work is helping to close the gap between the possibilities and the realities of geothermal and other energy sources, with the ultimate goal to make them more viable, less costly sources of energy. Kim has extensive experience in leading R&D projects funded by NSF, U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Office of Naval Research, U.S. Air Force, Defense Advanced Research Project Agency, U.S. Army, NASA, GRI, the State of Nevada, and private industry. He is a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and a recipient of a UNR Foundation Professorship.

- **Terry Surles, Ph.D.**
Exec. Vice President Research, Desert Research Institute (DRI)

Dr. Surles has more than 35 years of experience in the energy technology and policy field. As the Program Director for the California Energy Commission's Public Interest Energy Research Program, he led the development and implementation of renewable energy programs in geothermal, solar, wind, and biomass technologies. He also implemented a first-of-its-kind energy storage project that integrated intermittent renewable energy resources on a microgrid. Also as a faculty member at the Hawaii Natural Energy Institute, Surles led several projects involving the integration of intermittent renewable energy systems on to the electricity grid including the Maui Smart Grid project.

Nevada Clean Energy Experts

3-3-3-3

- **Jim Croce**
President & CEO, Nevada Institute of Renewable Energy Commercialization (NIREC)

After a successful 15-year career across a spectrum of engineering, managerial and executive roles in the traditional natural gas and electric utility industries, Croce has spent nearly a decade successfully launching early stage clean energy companies and supporting their commercialization efforts. From 2003 to 2008, Croce served as the founding president and CEO of NextEnergy in Michigan, developing the company into one of the nation's leading clean energy technology commercialization catalysts. While at NextEnergy, Croce successfully launched a clean energy technology seed fund whose portfolio companies have gone onto to raise tens of millions of both public and private capital from leading venture capitalists, such as CMEA Capital, GE, Khosla Ventures and Ridgewood Capital. He has also overseen the creation of several successful technology commercialization consortia, including the U.S. DOE-funded National Biofuels Energy Laboratory and the U.S. DOD-funded Advance Mobile Microgrid Program, resulting in nearly \$50 million in government research and development funding.

Renewable Energy Policy

- **Stacey Crowley**
Director, Nevada State Office of Energy

Crowley is a recognized leader in green development solutions. She has over 15 years of experience in architecture, planning, policy, research and advocacy with projects of varying sizes, types and locations with a focus on smart growth, conservation and the arts. Crowley formerly served as Director of Master Planning and Environmental Initiatives for Kiley Ranch Communities in Reno and Architect for KMD Architects in San Francisco. She has a Bachelor of Science in Architecture from the University of Michigan and a Masters of Architecture from the University of New Mexico. As the Governor's Energy Advisor, Stacey serves on several regional boards including the Western Interstate Energy Board, The Nevada Energy Assistance Corporation, The State-Provincial Steering Committee and the EPSCoR Advisory Board.

- **Alaina Burtenshaw**
Chairman, Public Utilities Commission of Nevada

Burtenshaw was appointed Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) by Governor Brian Sandoval on February 2, 2011. Prior to her appointment as Chairman, she was appointed Commissioner to the PUCN by Governor Jim Gibbons in January 2010. As staff counsel and assistant staff counsel before that, Burtenshaw was responsible for electric, gas and water cases in northern and southern Nevada. Since 1997, she has been the principal attorney in the larger deferred energy and general rate cases and has represented regulatory operations staff in cases associated with environmental impacts, renewable energy and railroad safety.

Nevada Clean Energy Experts
4-4-4-4

Geothermal Energy

- **Wendy Calvin, Ph.D.**
Professor of Geophysics, Department of Geological Sciences and Engineering, University of Nevada, Reno
Director, Great Basin Center for Geothermal Energy and the National Geothermal Academy

Dr. Calvin joined the University of Nevada, Reno in 2000 and was named the Director of the Center for Geothermal Energy in 2010. She has participated in several of NASA's Mars Exploration spacecraft missions and was employed by the U.S. Geological Survey Astrogeology team. As part of her responsibilities at the University, she oversees the National Geothermal Academy, a first-of-its-kind consortium in the United States of top geothermal research institution. In 2010, the University of Nevada, Reno received a \$995,000 U.S. Department of Energy grant to develop and operate the Academy.

- **Lisa Shevenell, Ph.D.**
Hydrogeologist, Nevada Bureau of Mines & Geology, Mackay School of Earth Sciences and Engineering, University of Nevada, Reno

Dr. Shevenell has conducted geothermal research and led research programs for more than 26 years through positions held at the University of Nevada, Reno, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, Desert Research Institute and Los Alamos National Laboratory.

- **Paul Thomsen**
Public Policy Manager, Ormat Technologies

Thomsen can provide a private sector perspective, as Ormat Technologies is one of the leading developers of geothermal energy and products worldwide. Based in Reno, Nevada, Ormat employs 900 people worldwide, 280 of which are in the U.S.

- **John Cushman, Ph.D.**
Professor, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology in the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources, University of Nevada, Reno

Dr. Cushman's novel algae-to-biofuel research leverages geothermal, high solar radiation, ample land area, and salt basins to produce algae in a scalable and economically viable manner year-round, even in a temperate climate. His demonstration-scale project with outdoor algae ponds has shown successful production in a year-round environment. He currently teaches Functional Genomics and Plant Molecular Biology and Biotechnology and the lab focuses on plant molecular genetics, genetic improvement of plants to abiotic stresses, and plant biochemistry.

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Power Grid

- **Mehdi Etezadi, Ph.D., PE**
Professor, Department of Electrical and Biomedical Engineering
University of Nevada, Reno

Dr. Etezadi is the lead for the University's Renewable Energy Center Power Grid group. He develops studies for power flow, stability and reliability of putting geothermal power onto the grid. Etezadi specializes in power systems analysis, planning and protection; renewable energy; electromagnetic transient simulations; large-scale system modeling; and neural networks and fuzzy control application to power systems. He is a registered professional engineer in the states of Nevada and New Mexico. He is the author or coauthor of more than 50 technical papers dealing with power systems planning, protection, transient analysis, and renewable energy.

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