

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality  
**Community Climate Investment  
Equity Advisory Committee**



**2022-2023 Member Bios:**



**Bradford McKeown, he/him/they/them**

Coos Bay resident Bradford McKeown is proud to be among the sixth generation of his family to grow up on the South Coast of Oregon. He studied English Literature at Dartmouth College and Business Administration with a focus on Sustainable Management at Willamette University. After working for several years helping to design and deliver energy efficiency and renewable energy programs, in 2018 Bradford reoriented his career to become a financial advisor with a focus on investing with impact. Bradford also serves as the board Vice President for the Coos Watershed Association, and in his spare time enjoys singing, trap/skeet shooting, and spending time on Oregon's rivers and lakes.

**Charity Fain, she/her, Community Energy Project**

Charity Fain has over 25 years of experience building stronger communities in the U.S. and around the world. As the Executive Director of the Community Energy Project, Charity is responsible for the overall direction, leadership, and management of the organization to fulfill our mission that everyone deserves a safe, healthy, and efficient home, regardless of income. In this effort, she designs programs that provide free home services focused on safety, health, and energy efficiency for low-income Oregonians. Charity also leads CEP's advocacy efforts at the city and state level to push for climate and energy justice. Prior to CEP, Charity's professional experience focused on increasing civil engagement and political participation around the world. She studied International Relations and Russian language at The American University.



**Rene Braga, he/him//el, Unite Oregon Rogue Valley**

Rene Lives in Southern Oregon's Rogue Valley, where the 2020 wildfires greatly affected his immediate family and his local community. This prompted Rene to take action and start an advocacy campaign that aimed at helping not only his family, but local BIPOC populations that did not know how to advocate for themselves and access resources during the process of recovery. During that period to date, Rene has acted as a recovery navigator for the Southern Oregon Latino community, a communications and engagement coordinator and a community organizer. Currently, he also sits on the Climate Justice Committee and the Housing Justice Committee with Unite Oregon, an organization that is led by people of color, immigrants, refugees, rural communities, and people experiencing poverty. Unite Oregon works across the state of Oregon to build a unified intercultural movement for justice.

### **John M. Hillock, Wallowa County Commissioner**

John M. Hillock has been a resident of Enterprise, Oregon since high school and lives there today with his wife, three children, and 5 grandchildren. He followed in the footsteps of his father and took on the family business as an electrician. He has been installing solar projects in Eastern Oregon since the 1990's and today his specialty is installing residential solar systems as well as systems for affordable housing. Since 2018, he has represented Eastern Oregon as a Wallowa County Commissioner and has served on Governor Brown's Equity in Recovery Board for Eastern Oregon, Enterprise Education Foundation, Wallowa Co Health Care Foundation, Center for Wellness Board, Northeast Oregon Economic Development District, and Chief Joseph Days Rodeo.



### **Kali Abel, she/her//ella, University of Portland**

Kali is a geographer, climate scientist, and political ecologist who has been a professor at University of Portland since 2017. Kali studied environmental science at Colby College, geological sciences at University of Colorado, and geography at Oregon State University. Her work involves engaging with traditionally underrepresented communities impacted by climate change. Her research looks at how marginalized communities adapt to climate change impacts (sea-level rise, drought, etc.) within Central and South America as well as the Pacific Northwest. A Portland and Central Oregon native, Kali has lived or worked in over a dozen

countries and is appreciative to now live near her home mountain range with her family and unfathomably energetic herding dog.

### **Kyna L. Harris, Oregon Public Health Institute**

Kyna L. Harris is the Program Director at the Oregon Public Health Institute. Prior to working for OPHI, her work focused on school age and early learning advocacy, community engagement and diversity, equity, and inclusion. She holds a masters in business administration and is a certified Community Health Worker. Kyna serves as a member on a board of directors for a foster care agency and a head start/early head start organization. She has also served on several neighborhood advisory and planning initiatives pertaining to traffic, safety, neighborhood revitalization and technology equity.



### **Mason Murphy, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation**

Mason Murphy is the Energy and Environmental Sciences Program Manager for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. His program is responsible for identifying and resolving threats to First Foods through scientific excellence. He oversees the reservation's air quality management, the CTUIRs oversight of the Hanford nuclear cleanup, the management of an environmental analytical laboratory, and the responsible development of regional energy projects. Mason studied biochemistry at the University of Oregon.

### **Nakisha Nathan, she/her, Neighbors for Clean Air**

Nakisha Nathan is the Director of Strategic Partnerships at Neighbors for Clean Air. For twenty years, Nakisha has pursued social and environmental justice as a nonprofit executive, an educator, legal assistant, and community organizer. She is inspired by memories of playing, learning, and photographing flora and fauna during her formative years in Panama, Canada, and the United States. Her life experiences combined with her work organizing communities to advocate for laws and programs that protect people, wildlife, and the environment informs her philosophy and practice of education, leadership development, and movement building. Nakisha knows that those of us facing the most significant barriers to transform our communities and cities for the better are the ones with the relevant expertise to create changes most needed. She also believes that principles of environmental justice and deep democracy are imperative to restoring, maintaining, and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land, and water.



### **Nora Apter, she/her, Oregon Environmental Council**

Originally from the Portland-metro area, Nora joined OEC in March 2020 after eight years working on federal policy and advocacy in Washington, D.C. In her role as Climate Program Director for OEC, Nora leads policy development and facilitates stakeholder and partner engagement to advance climate, public health, and equity outcomes in Oregon. Nora also serves as a Commissioner on the Oregon Global Warming Commission, where she helps develop recommendations to achieve the State's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals. Nora lives in Northeast Portland with her partner, their dog and two cats.

### **Steve Mital, he/him, University of Oregon**

Steve Mital is the founding director of the University of Oregon's Sustainability Office. He was part of the three-person team that developed the Oregon Model for Sustainable Development, a landmark campus energy policy that required all new buildings to harvest 100% of their energy needs from existing building stock. He also led the initiative to create the Oregon Leadership in Sustainability graduate certificate program that launched in 2011. Prior to this position, Steve was an instructor in the Environmental Studies Program at the University of Oregon, where he also studied. While there, he founded and directed the Environmental Leadership Program for graduate and undergraduate students. Steve spent eight years as one of five Commissioners elected to govern the Eugene Water and Electric Board. He is currently on the Lane Community College's Board of Trustees.



For questions related to the Equity Advisory Committee and Community Climate Investments, contact:

**Whitney Dorer** (she/her), Climate Policy Community Engagement Coordinator

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For other questions related to the Climate Protection Program:

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