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www.ElectrificationCoalition.org

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Speaker Bios

Virginia Medium- and Heavy- Duty Electric Vehicle State Policy Bootcamp

Speaker	Bio
<p data-bbox="203 909 506 1014">Anne Blair, Senior EV Policy Manager, Electrification Coalition</p>  A headshot of Anne Blair, a woman with shoulder-length brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark patterned top and a gold necklace.	<p data-bbox="560 825 1396 1423">Anne serves as EC's Senior EV Policy Manager, with a focus on promoting policies and programs that will transform the transportation sector. Prior to joining EC, Anne was the Director of Energy Efficient Transportation at the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance, overseeing strategy, programming and outreach for all of SEEA's transportation initiatives. Before SEEA, Anne worked at the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE) as its clean fuels director, working on transportation and clean energy policy for fifteen years. She has also previously worked at The Coca-Cola Company, The Fund for Public Interest Research, Americorps and the River Network. She serves on multiple boards including the EV Club of the South, Mothers and Others for Clean Air and EarthShare of Georgia. Anne holds a bachelor's degree from Randolph-Macon Woman's College, and a Master's degree in environmental law and policy from Vermont Law School. When not working on environmental and energy issues, she enjoys hiking, cycling, traveling, reading, drinking IPAs and spending time with her son, husband, Australian Shepherd and friends.</p>

Congressman Don Beyer, 8th Congressional District of Virginia



Congressman Don Beyer is serving his fourth term as the U.S. Representative from Virginia's 8th District, representing Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church, and parts of Fairfax County. He serves the Chairman of Congress' Joint Economic Committee, and also serves on the House Committee on Ways and Means, and on the House Committee on Science Space and Technology, where he chairs the Space Subcommittee. He is a Co-Chair of the New Democrat Coalition's Climate Change Task Force.

He was the Lieutenant Governor of Virginia from 1990 to 1998, and was Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein under President Obama. Rep. Beyer's signature work as lieutenant governor included advocacy for Virginians with disabilities and ensuring protections for Virginia's most vulnerable populations as the Commonwealth reformed its welfare system in the mid-1990s. Rep. Beyer was Virginia's Democratic nominee for governor in 1997.

Rep. Beyer has spent four decades building his family business in Northern Virginia after a summer job at a car dealership in 1974. He is a graduate of Williams College and Gonzaga College High School in Washington, DC. He was named a Presidential Scholar by President Lyndon Johnson.

Rep. Beyer has four children and two grandchildren. He and his wife Megan live in Alexandria, Virginia.

Delegate David Reid, 32nd District and Loudoun County



Delegate Reid represents the 32nd District and Loudoun County. Delegate Reid served in the US Navy Reserve from 1988 until 2011 as a Naval Intelligence Officer. After 23 years of service he honorably retired as Commander. In 2014, Reid founded his own small business, Rockbridge Consulting, which specializes in studies and analysis. He has been married to his wife, Barbara, for 25 years and have lived in Ashburn since 2000.

Governor Ralf Northam,
73rd Governor of the
Commonwealth of
Virginia



Before he was inaugurated as the 73rd Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, Ralph Northam served as an Army doctor, pediatric neurologist, business owner, state Senator and Lieutenant Governor.

A native of Virginia's Eastern Shore, Governor Northam was educated at the Virginia Military Institute (VMI), where he graduated with distinction.

After graduation, Governor Northam was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Army. He served eight years of active duty and rose to the rank of major.

He attended Eastern Virginia Medical School and then traveled to San Antonio for a pediatric residency, where he met his wife Pamela, a pediatric occupational therapist at the same hospital. Governor Northam did his residencies at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center and served as chief neurological resident at Johns Hopkins Hospital. As an Army doctor, he served in Germany, treating soldiers wounded in Operation Desert Storm.

When Governor Northam and Pamela returned home, they chose to build their life in Hampton Roads. He began practicing pediatric neurology at Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters in Norfolk. He established Children's Specialty Group, his current medical practice, to provide expert pediatric care for patients. Governor Northam also served as assistant professor of neurology at Eastern Virginia Medical School, where he taught medicine and ethics.

Governor Northam volunteered as medical director for the Edmarc Hospice for Children in Portsmouth, where he spent 18 years caring for terminally ill children.

Governor Northam approaches public service with the same passion he brought to his military and medical service. He is committed to working with leaders from both parties to build a Virginia that works better for every family, no matter who they are or where they live.

Governor Northam is the first native of the Eastern Shore to serve as Governor since Governor Henry A. Wise took office 1856. He is also the first VMI Keydet to serve as Governor since Governor Westmoreland Davis took office in 1918.

Governor Northam and First Lady Pamela Northam have two adult children.

Chris Bast, Chief Deputy Director, VA Department of Environmental Quality



Chris Bast was appointed to the position of Chief Deputy of the Department of Environmental Quality in June, 2018. In addition to helping run the daily operations of the DEQ, Chris provides strategic communications and policy support for the agency and works across the Administration to promote climate action and a comprehensive climate agenda. In this role, Chris focuses broadly on transportation decarbonization, environmental and climate justice, and building policy support for strong climate action. A native Virginian, Chris recently moved back to the Commonwealth after spending eight years at the forefront of climate and clean energy policy in the Northwest - first working for Climate Solutions, a regional climate and clean energy advocacy organization, and then as the lead transportation decarbonization advisor for the City of Seattle. He received his undergraduate degree from James Madison University and his MPA from Seattle University.

Spencer Burget, Atlas Public Policy



Spencer is a Policy Associate at Atlas Public Policy where he contributes original research and policy analysis on transportation and building electrification including maintaining Atlas EV Hub and Atlas Buildings Hub. Prior to joining Atlas, Spencer worked with Environmental Defense Fund advancing medium- and heavy-duty vehicle electrification initiatives.

Dakoury Godo-Solo
RAY Fellow
Electrification Coalition



Dakoury Godo-Solo is a Roger Arliner Young (RAY) Clean Energy Fellow with the EC's policy team. He supports the EC's policy and advocacy work at the federal and state levels. Prior to working at the Electrification Coalition, Dakoury was an intern at the US Department of Energy's Building Technologies Office. Since then, Dakoury has wholeheartedly pursued his passion for energy and energy efficiency. As part of the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy's (ACEEE) Summer Study Proceedings, he co-authored a report examining the nexus of energy efficiency and resilience in buildings.

Dakoury graduated from American University with a BS in Environmental Science. In addition to energy, he has an interest in global food systems. In his free time, Dakoury can be found biking around DC, cooking, or listening to audiobooks.

Katherine Stainken
Policy Director
Electrification Coalition



Katherine is the Senior Director of EV Policy at the Electrification Coalition (EC). She leads and manages the policy team at the EC, which is focused on transitioning our transportation sector to be electric. Her work spans across city, state, regional and federal levels.

Prior to the EC, Katherine was the Policy Director at Plug In America, a non-profit representing the voice of the electric vehicle (EV) consumer. She led the policy team in promoting policies that work for the EV driver at the local, city, state and federal levels, including policies needed prior to purchase of the vehicle and policies needed during ownership of the vehicle.

Prior to her work at Plug In America, Katherine was a Director of Government Affairs at the Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), focused on policies to promote solar on the federal level as well as southeast and northeast regions, along with regulatory work at the DOE, EPA, and other federal agencies.

Katherine was also the lead staff on the Clean Power Plan and chief liaison to the solar heating and cooling and EH&S groups at SEIA. She received her Masters degree from American University in Global Environmental Policy and Bachelors degree in Chemistry and German from Boston College.

Joe Gwin
Regional Sales Manager,
The Lion Electric



Joe Gwin is the Regional Truck Sales Manager for The Lion Electric, based in the New York city area. Several years of medium and heavy-duty electric truck and bus sales with a background in mechanical engineering for the automotive industry. Illustrating the advantages of fleet electrification and transforming transportation for the benefit of people and the planet is my passion.

Heidi Sickler

Head of Policy and
Market Development,
AmPLY Power



Heidi leads AMPLY’s legislative and regulatory advocacy at all levels of government across the U.S. in support of policies that simplify fleets’ transition to electric, including managed charging service or “Charging-as-a-Service” and Automated Load Management (ALM). AMPLY Power offers the only fully managed charging service to the public sector and commercial businesses looking for guaranteed performance and fixed fuel pricing for their electric vehicle fleets.

Kristopher Russell

Dominion Energy



Kris Russell is a Program Manager, Electrification for Dominion Energy Virginia. Previously, he served as a Key Account Manager representing some of the largest customers within the Dominion Energy Virginia service territory. He has also served as a Communications Coordinator and as a Project Designer at Dominion Energy. Kris received his undergraduate degree from James Madison University and his MPA from Old Dominion university.

Dr. Aravind Kailas

Policy Director
Volvo Group



Dr. Aravind Kailas is the Advanced Technology Policy Director at Volvo Group, where he oversees policy development and public affairs initiatives to further Volvo’s interests in automation, connectivity, and electromobility. Dr. Kailas established Volvo's satellite office in Southern California and manages the Group's engagement in the state to grow the company reputation and influence.

Dr. Kailas is also an Instructor at Cal State Long Beach, and has previously held positions at Charlotte, QUALCOMM, DOCOMO Innovations, and General Electric. Author of over 100 publications and quoted in many media outlets, Dr. Kailas has served on several R&D and technology panels, and advisory boards of non-profit organizations. His work has been recognized with numerous accolades, including awards from TRB, SAE, and IEEE. He has earned degrees in Applied Mathematics and Electrical and Computer Engineering from Wisconsin and Georgia Tech.

General Charles F. Wald

Former Deputy
Commander
U.S. European Command



General Charles F. “Chuck” Wald was Deputy Commander, Headquarters United States European Command, Stuttgart, Germany. USEUCOM is responsible for all United States forces operating across 91 countries in Europe, Africa, Russia, parts of Asia and the Middle East, and most of the Atlantic Ocean. He is currently a senior fellow of the Bipartisan Policy Center.

General Wald earned his commission through the Air Force ROTC program in 1971. He has combat time as an O-2A forward air controller in Vietnam and as an F-16 pilot flying over Bosnia. The general has served as a T-37 instructor pilot and F-15 flight commander. Other duties include Chief of the United States Air Force Combat Terrorism Center, support group commander, operations group commander, and special assistant to the Chief of Staff for National Defense Review. He was also the Director of Strategic Planning and Policy at Headquarters United States Air Force, and served on the Joint Staff as the Vice Director for Strategic Plans and Policy.

General Wald commanded the 31st Fighter Wing at Aviano Air Base, Italy, where on Aug. 30, 1995, he led one of the wing’s initial strike packages against the ammunition depot at Pale, Bosnia-Herzegovina, in one of the first NATO combat operations. He also commanded the 9th Air Force and United States Central Command Air Forces, Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., where he led the development of the Afghanistan air campaign for Operation Enduring Freedom, including the idea of embedding tactical air control parties in ground special operations forces.

Prior to retiring as a command pilot, the general logged more than 3,600 flying hours, including more than 430 combat hours over Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Iraq and Bosnia.

Today, General Wald is a director and senior advisor to the Aerospace & Defense Industry practice for Deloitte LLP. Prior to that, he was vice president, International Programs for L-3 Communications Corporation. He also served as Deputy Chief of Staff for Air and Space Operations at the Pentagon.

Da'Quan Marcell Love,
Executive Director,
Virginia State
Conference NAACP



Da'Quan Marcell Love is the sixth Executive Director of the Virginia State Conference NAACP.

A former member of the NAACP National Board of Directors, Da'Quan has served in many national leadership roles including: vice chair of the annual national convention, and chair of the National Youth Work Committee. As national youth work chair, he led the programmatic oversight of the NAACP's youth and college units across the country. He formerly served as president of the Virginia State Conference NAACP Youth & College Division, where he successfully led a campaign to stop the proposed invalidation of more than 16,000 voter registration applications in 2012.

Aligned with the Virginia NAACP's intense focus on non-partisan political and voter engagement for the 2021 election cycle, Da'Quan brings an unmatched political acumen to the state conference. A former state legislative candidate and political staffer, Da'Quan has worked on numerous local, state and federal political campaigns as a fundraiser and strategist.

Da'Quan earned his bachelors in political science from historically-black Hampton University and his masters in teaching from North Carolina State University. He serves on the board of directors of Profound Gentlemen and New Leaders Council-North Carolina, and is a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Abigail Wulf, Director for
the Center for Critical
Minerals Strategy



Abigail Wulf is the Director of the Ambassador Alfred Hoffman, Jr. Center for Critical Minerals Strategy at SAFE. Abigail brings broad Earth science expertise to the Center, from researching rare earth- and lithium-rich pegmatites to working with NASA researchers to convey the connections between Earth's component systems. She previously served as Senior Science Communicator for Research within NASA's Earth Science Division. She also served as Policy Manager for the American Geosciences Institute, a nonpartisan federation of more than 50 professional scientific societies. While at AGI, Abigail co-led the Minerals Science and Information Coalition, a broad-based alliance of organizations representing all stages of the critical minerals supply chain.

Kyle Winslow

Legislative Affairs Lead
Loan Programs Office,
U.S. Department of
Energy



Kyle Winslow leads legislative affairs for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Loan Programs Office. He previously was Legislative Director at DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy under the Obama administration, and subsequently was an appointee in DC Mayor Muriel Bowser's Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs. Kyle previously led federal affairs for the clean transportation nonprofit, CALSTART, and worked in federal grants consulting.

Maurice Henderson II,
Senior Advisor, Office of
the Secretary

Maurice A. Henderson II serves as Senior Advisor in the Office of the Secretary. Henderson has served in leadership roles both domestically and internationally in the public and private sectors as well as on a number of political and advocacy campaigns. Most recently, Henderson was Senior Director of U.S. Government Partnerships at the transportation technology start-up, Bird Rides Inc. Previously, Henderson served as a member of the Oregon Transportation Commission, North American Bikeshare Association (NABSA), Greenroads Foundation, and Forth Mobility.

Alleyn Harned
Executive Director Virginia
Clean Cities



Alleyn Harned is the Executive Director of Virginia Clean Cities (VCC), a member of the U.S. Department of Energy-affiliated Clean Cities Coalitions program. Alleyn joined Clean Cities in 2009, the same year Virginia Clean Cities, Inc., formed a partnership with James Madison University. That partnership allows Clean Cities and the university in Harrisonburg, Va., to work together to leverage resources, support alternative fuel initiatives and pursue opportunities to decrease pollution and reduce dependence on foreign oil. Prior to be named Executive Director, Alleyn served as the VCC 's Business Development Director. He served as the Virginia representative to the nine state Southeast Natural Gas Vehicle Corridor Committee, and was coordinator for Virginia's initial 2010 electric vehicle readiness effort. Harned an appointee to Virginia's Energy Commission in 2014 and the State Advisory Board on Air Pollution in 2013. Harned serves as the President of the Transportation Energy Partners board of directors and is the MidAtlantic representative to the Clean Cities Coordinator Council. Harned led coalition through the completion of the 1200 vehicle Southeast Propane Autogas Development Project under the Recovery Act.

Alleyn has worked on transportation and energy related issues in Virginia since 2006. Before joining the VCC staff, Alleyn served as the Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Trade for the Commonwealth of Virginia where he assisted in drafting Virginia's initial Energy Plan, and participated in the Virginia Commission on Climate Change and Governor's Energy Policy Advisory Council. Harned is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, and has his Masters degree in Public Administration from James Madison University with a focus on community economic development. With Virginia Clean Cities, Harned leads the Virginia Clean Cities coalition's collaborative effort to assist stakeholders and the Commonwealth in programs to improve air quality, and increase American energy security and economic opportunity through the increased use of alternative fuels and vehicles.

Operating since 1996, Virginia Clean Cities has successfully managed tens of millions of dollars of federal, state, and stakeholder vehicle and infrastructure programs from offices on the James Madison campus in Harrisonburg VA. Examples of past projects were the nation's largest propane autogas vehicle deployment project, which covered 13 states, the Richmond Electric Vehicle initiative, which facilitated vehicles, and a Virginia DC and Maryland ethanol deployment project which installed the first ethanol stations in the mid-Atlantic region. Alleyn's theory of change involves incremental collaborative team leadership and drafted the nations only successful dual-state station deployment project for the 2015 USDA Biofuels Implementation Partnership.

Bill Eger,
Energy Manager for the
City of Alexandria



Bill Eger serves as the Energy Manager for the City of Alexandria. Bill leads Alexandria's planning efforts and programs to decarbonize and electrify buildings; expand and accelerate renewable energy access and use; implement resilient solar+storage microgrids; electrify transportation systems; advance equitable and thriving carbon-neutral, transit-oriented communities; introduce strategies to reduce climate change vulnerabilities; implement climate adaptation and resiliency strategies; and enhance Alexandrian's quality of life by promoting sustainable living principles. In addition, Bill leads Alexandria's public utilities regulatory engagement and consumer advocacy practice before the Virginia State Corporation Commission. Bill also leads various "smart cities" strategic planning initiatives on behalf of the City of Alexandria.

Bill currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Virginia Energy Purchasing Government Authority (VEPGA); Board of Directors member and Policy Committee Chair of the Virginia Energy Efficiency Council (VAEEC); Co-Chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee; Chair of the Metropolitan Washington Regional Emergency Support Function (RESF) 12 – Energy and Critical Infrastructure Committee; and Steering Committee member of the PJM Cities and Communities Coalition (PJMCCC). Bill also leads national committees on renewable energy strategy planning for various coalitions of cities and counties across the US.

Bill holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering, Bachelor of Electrical Engineering, and Master of Science in Engineering (Mechanical & Renewable and Clean Energy concentrations) degrees from the University of Dayton. Bill is currently pursuing a Masters in Sustainable Urban Planning from the George Washington University. Bill's completed Harvard University's Executive Education in Sustainability Leadership program and the Urban Land Institute-Washington Regional Land Use Leadership Institute. In addition, Bill is 2019-2020 Securing America's Energy Future (SAFE) Energy Security Fellow. Bill is a registered Professional Engineer, a Certified Energy Manager (CEM®), an International Society of Sustainability Professionals Sustainability Associate, a certified Climate Change Professional (CC-P®), a US Green Building Council LEED Accredited Professional, an Eco-District Accredited Professional, and a Certified Public Manager.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/egeriicw>

Joe Empert, Engineering Consultant, CTE; Project Manager for the Alexandria zero emission bus feasibility study and fleet transition framework



Joe Empert is an Engineering Consultant at CTE. Mr. Empert provides project management and analytical support for advanced transportation projects, including deployments and fleet transitions involving battery-electric and hydrogen fuel cell powered vehicles. He serves as lead engineer and project manager on multiple battery electric bus deployment projects for agencies in the Southeast, including Gainesville Regional Transit System, Jacksonville Transportation Authority, Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority, and the Atlanta-Region Transit Link Authority (ATL). In 2019-2020, he also led and completed a fleet transition and feasibility study for the Alexandria Transit Company (DASH) and is lead engineer for the Electrification module of the Virginia Transit Equity and Modernization Study sponsored by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation. Mr. Empert's work also includes cost assessments and procurement support for both hydrogen fueling and electric charging infrastructure as well as analysis for research projects associated with secondary and backup power generation and public safety. Mr. Empert's career includes experience in engineering, technology, and analytics management across the transportation, financial services and telecom industries. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering from Virginia Tech, an MBA from Georgia State University, and a graduate certificate in Business Data Mining from Oklahoma State University.

About the Electrification Coalition:
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