



# Ohio Green Energy Policy Conference

May 4, 2017 • Annunciation Banquet and Conference Center • 555 N. High St, Columbus, OH



## Speaker Bios

### ***Ohio Green Energy Policy Conference***

Columbus, Ohio May 4, 2017



#### **Dale Arnold**

**Director, Energy, Utility and Local Government Policy  
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation**

Dale Arnold started his career with the Ohio Farm Bureau Federation (OFBF) as an Organization Director in central Ohio in 1985. He has been Director of Energy, Utility and Local Government Policy since 1995.

He has managed self-help energy aggregation groups, research projects on electric load profiling, energy efficiency, on-site generation, net metering, customer friendly interconnection, oil & gas exploration, energy transportation infrastructure and renewable energy development.

Dale is involved in regional and state working groups exploring how all energy infrastructure expansion impacts farm, small business and residential consumers, and what they can do to get involved in the process.

The Ohio Farm Bureau Federation has over 214,000 member families statewide. Dale works with Farm Bureau leaders to create effective energy policy on local, state and national levels. He has authored papers advocating a Diversified Energy Portfolio using domestic oil and coal resources, nuclear and renewable technologies.

He is a native of Knox County, where his family can trace their involvement in Ohio agriculture since the 1820's.



#### **Dylan Borchers**

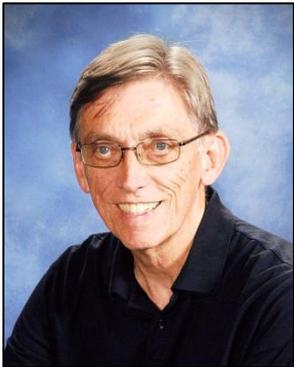
**Associate  
Bricker & Eckler Attorneys at Law**

Dylan Borchers is an energy attorney with a practice that focuses on energy infrastructure development, regulatory proceedings and energy policy.

Throughout his career, Dylan has represented developers of new generation facilities totaling more than 2,500 MW of new electricity capacity in Ohio before the Ohio Power Siting Board. These projects include three new natural gas combined cycle power plants and four utility scale wind farms. He also represents a variety of clients, including trade associations, municipal aggregators, and suppliers in adjudicatory hearings, rulemakings and other proceedings before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio.

One of the clients Dylan represents is the developer of the country's largest municipal combined solar and battery storage project. Dylan also represents the country's largest distributed wind company.

He was formerly employed in management consulting with the technology and business consulting firm Accenture. Dylan was also commissioned as an Army officer and received his honorable discharge in 2008.



**Al Compaan – Keynote Speaker  
President & CEO, Lucintech, Inc.  
Distinguished University of Toledo Professor Emeritus and Research  
Professor  
Dept. of Physics & Astronomy and Wright Center for PV Innovation and  
Commercialization**

Alvin Compaan is founder of Lucintech Inc. which is developing flexible and transparent cadmium-telluride (CdTe) based, solar-electric (photovoltaic) modules for windows, sunroofs, and flexible applications. He has led a research effort for more than 25 years in thin-film photovoltaic (PV) materials and devices. Prior to establishing Lucintech, he was a Distinguished University Professor at the University of Toledo (UT) where his research was funded by many different federal and state agencies and industrial companies. He has done collaborative research with many industrial groups in PV, holds 12 patents/ patent applications related to thin-film PV, and has authored more than 275 scientific publications.

Starting in 1987 at UT, Dr. Compaan built a world-class research effort focused on thin-film photovoltaic solar cells with a focus on II-VI semiconductors such as CdTe. He collaborated extensively with Harold McMaster and other founders of First Solar (originally Solar Cells Inc.). He was the principal investigator on three federal grants from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) that included sub-grants to First Solar. Since 1995 he has been the principal advisor to 20 Ph.D. and M.S. students and 13 postdoctoral fellows.

In 2009, he elected to take advantage of UT's Early Retirement Incentive Plan that allowed him to maintain an active, grant-funded research program and move on to private entrepreneurial business opportunities. While at UT, Dr. Compaan was funded by the National Renewable Energy Lab, the U.S. DOE, the National Science Foundation, Air Force, and the State of Ohio. He has done collaborative research with many industrial groups in PV, including Pilkington, Solar Cells Inc, First Solar, Xunlight, Calyxo USA, Ascent Solar, Garland Energy Systems, ITN Energy Systems, and Triton.

In 2008 he joined with Xunlight Corp. to form Xunlight 26 Solar which was renamed Lucintech Inc in 2012 upon receiving its first venture capital funding. Lucintech is dedicated to commercializing semi-transparent and flexible cadmium-telluride-based PV modules on glass and in a roll-to-roll manufacturing process.

Dr. Compaan also has been very active in educating the public through many presentations across the U.S. and other countries, the State of Ohio, and the Ohio legislature. In 2004 he and his wife built one of the first homes in Toledo with rooftop solar modules. The 4.3 kW of First Solar modules have provided 100% maintenance-free power for their home and their electric pick-up and car for 13 years. In addition to his long-time membership in GEO, Al serves on the Board of Directors of the Ohio Environmental Council and is a long-time member of Ohio Interfaith Power and Light.

Al's previous positions include Chief Technology Officer and co-founder of Xunlight 26 Solar, LLC (2008-2012). Professor of Physics/Distinguished University Professor, UT 1987/2009 where he was Chair, Dept. of Physics and Astronomy, 2004-2008 and Distinguished University Professor, 2004-2009. Earlier he was Asst. Professor/ Assoc. Prof./ Prof., Kansas State University, 1973/1977/1981-1987. Al has an A.B. from Calvin College, 1965; an M.S., Ph.D. University of Chicago, 1966, 1971 and a Postdoctoral fellowship at New York University 1971-1973.



**Trish Demeter**  
**Managing Director of Energy Programs**  
**Ohio Environmental Council**

As the Managing Director of Energy Programs, Trish Demeter directs OEC's campaigns and initiatives to promote clean energy and energy efficiency, mitigate climate change, and secure stronger public health safeguards for oil and gas operations. Trish builds relationships with private businesses, decision makers, allies, environmental partners and other energy stakeholders to advance common objectives on energy policy. In 2014, Trish was named in 20 People to Know in Energy by Columbus Business First.

Prior to joining the OEC team in 2011, Trish served as the legislative liaison for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, as a policy aide in the Ohio Senate, and as a field consultant on political campaigns for a number of years. Trish is a graduate of Wittenberg University and has been active in environmental advocacy since 2001.



**Miranda Lappla**  
**Clean Energy Attorney**  
**Ohio Environmental Council**

Miranda (Randi) Leppla is the OEC's Clean Energy Attorney. She works to advance clean energy and energy efficiency policies and projects, works with utilities and businesses to create and implement plans for carbon pollution reductions, and advance forward-thinking, cutting-edge energy policies through advocacy, communications, partnerships, and litigation. She represents the OEC at the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, the Ohio Power Siting Board, and courts throughout the State of Ohio. Prior to joining the OEC, Miranda was in private practice for several years where her practice focused on litigation, natural gas utility issues and utility-scale wind farm permitting. Miranda holds a B.A. in Law, Letters & Society from The University of Chicago, and a J.D. from The Ohio State University Michael E. Moritz College of Law.



**Bill Merkel**  
**Vice President, Marketing & Planning**  
**Nidec Industrial Solutions**

Bill Merkel is the Vice President of Planning and Marketing for Nidec Industrial Solutions in North America. Mr. Merkel has been with Nidec for the last five years in positions of product, sales, and engineering management delivering automation solutions and support to heavy industry. His current responsibilities include adding Photovoltaic and Battery Energy Storage Systems to Nidec's current North American portfolio of motors, drives, automation, and power quality solutions.



**Chris Meyer**  
**Account Executive**  
**Energy Optimizers, USA**

Chris Meyer has been a high school and college instructor, entrepreneur, high tech insulation manufacturer, and Energy Director for the Dayton Development Coalition. He serves as president of Green Energy Ohio and is highly knowledgeable in renewable technologies. Meyer holds a B.A. degree from Earlham College and an M.S. degree from the University of Southern California.



**Erin Miller**  
**Director of Energy Policy**  
**American Municipal Power (AMP)**

Erin Miller has served as the Director of Energy Policy and Sustainability for American Municipal Power (AMP) since March 2017. AMP is a nonprofit wholesale power supplier and services provider for 135 members across nine states. In this role, she is spearheading the organization’s sustainability programs and tracking related energy policies at the state and federal level. Miller comes to AMP from the City of Columbus, where she served as Environmental Steward for nearly eight years in the Office of Sustainability and the Office of the Mayor under two administrations. She has also occupied various positions with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission and other organizations in central Ohio. She holds a bachelor’s degree in ecology and environmental sciences from Otterbein College, has completed the Ohio Environmental Leaders Institute at the Ohio State University and has also attained the designation of LEED® Green Associate™ from Green Business Certification Inc.



**Alexandria (Ali) Mock**  
**Government Affairs Director**  
**Government Edge**

Ali Mock has been the Government Affairs Director at Government Edge for three years. Ali began her career in the Ohio House of Representatives and the Ohio Senate where she served in various staff positions, including Senior Legislative Aide, for nearly 5 years. Ali is a graduate of The Ohio State University, holding a bachelor's degree in Political Science and a master's degree from John Glenn School of Public Affairs.



**Sharon Pearson**  
**Program Coordinator**  
**The Oberlin Project**

Sharon Pearson served as Program Coordinator for the Oberlin Project until April 2017. The Oberlin Project is a non-profit organization which serves as a catalyst organization to reduce carbon emissions below zero by promoting sustainability through balancing the economic, environment, and social justice joint efforts between Oberlin College, City of Oberlin and institutional partners. The Oberlin Project is closing its main office as of June 30, 2017 and allowing its partners to carry out the rest of the work in developing Oberlin as a positive climate community by the year 2050. Work influenced by the Oberlin Project included successful development of a robust Climate Action Plan, a large college campus solar array, piloting of a food hub, and construction of a LEAD Platinum Hotel – called the Hotel at Oberlin. The Oberlin community has achieved a 50% reduction in carbon emissions by diversifying 86% of its electric portfolio with landfill gas, wind, hydro, and solar.

A lifelong member of the Oberlin community Sharon was employed by the City of Oberlin for 25 years. She has been a member of Oberlin City Council since 2014 and will be seeking her 3rd term this fall. She is currently employed as the Community Outreach Manager for the Lorain County Urban League.

Sharon has her bachelor’s degree in Green and Sustainable Enterprise Business Management and Associates Degree in Business Administration. She has been married to AJ Clonts since 2014. They are owners of “As You Wish Travel Agency”. Sharon has taken great pride in coordinating the Green Energy Ohio Tour since 2011 and plans to continue. Sharon is the GEO Volunteer of the Year 2016.



**Christine Pirik  
Of Counsel  
Dickinson & Wright**

Chris is Of Counsel with Dickinson Wright in Columbus, in the firm's energy practice. Chris retired from the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio/Ohio Power Siting Board after spending 31 years (including service as Chief of Staff and Deputy Legal Director over Gas and OPSB). Her experience includes leading the PUCO efforts in the implementation of rules and establishment of precedent concerning both state and federal deregulation and alternative regulation in electric, natural gas, and telecommunications industries. In addition, she lead the OPSB efforts in the implementation of rules and establishment of precedent concerning the siting of electric generation, including renewables, gas, and transmission. During her tenure, Chris oversaw the very first applications requesting certificates to construct wind-powered generation facilities in Ohio.

She currently leads the Dickinson Wright regulatory team on behalf of LEEDCo/Icebreaker, which is seeking the first permit for a freshwater offshore wind facility. Her clients also include terrestrial wind developers, utility-scale solar developers, and natural gas pipeline companies.



**Mathew Roberts  
Information and Outreach Director  
Upgrade Ohio**

Mathew Roberts is a graduate of Ohio University's E.W. Scripps School of Journalism where he specialized in climate change and environmental communications, sociology, and creative advertising. Upon graduation, Mathew served with the COMCorps (AmeriCorps) program within the OHIO Heritage College of Medicine at the Federal Hocking Secondary School working to educate children and families about the importance of health, well-being, and civil participation. He now serves as co-chair for the Appalachian Ohio group of the Sierra Club and as the Information and Outreach Director of UpGrade Ohio – an Athens-based nonprofit driving demand for the clean energy economy in Ohio.



**Colleen Shutrump  
Energy Resource Planning Advisor  
Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel**

Colleen Shutrump joined the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel in 2015, and serves as Energy Resource Planning Advisor for the agency. The Consumers' Counsel is the state's residential utility consumer advocate, representing the interests of 4.5 million Ohio households in proceedings before the PUCO, the Ohio General Assembly, FERC, the Ohio Supreme Court and other forums. Colleen provides analysis and recommendations for consumer protection regarding energy efficiency, demand response, renewable energy, distributed energy resources, and other regulatory and legislative issues. Prior to joining the Ohio Consumers' Counsel, Colleen worked for five years at the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission. She is a graduate of Baldwin Wallace College, with a master's degree in International Business.



**Bill Spratley**  
**Executive Director**  
**Green Energy Ohio**

Bill has led the statewide non-profit Green Energy Ohio since 2001 based in Columbus. He lends a wealth of experience and knowledge in the utility and energy sector. His vast national and statewide network of contacts, include Chairing SOLAR 2007 - the 36th National Solar Conference in Cleveland. In 2012, he received the prestigious Charles Greeley Abbot Award from the American Solar Energy Society and currently serves on the ASES Board of Directors. Bill also received the National Green Power Leadership Award in 2007 and the U.S. Wind Powering America Program Wind Advocacy Award in 2006. An attorney since 1973, he was the State of Ohio's first Consumers' Counsel, 1977-1993. Bill was founding President of the National Assn. of State Utility Consumer Advocates. His earlier state service included legislative liaison positions in the Office of Governor John Gilligan and the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio. He served on U.S. Secretary of Energy advisory boards of Presidents Carter, H.W. Bush and Clinton. A College of Wooster graduate, Bill's J.D. is from Ohio State University's College of Law. Bill and his wife Faye are solar home owners with a 4 kW rooftop array in Worthington Hills. Bill is retiring from GEO on May 31, 2017 as he and Faye plan their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with their 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> cruises – this time crossing the Atlantic with stops in England, Norway, Iceland and Scotland in August.



**Luke Sulfridge**  
**Director**  
**OH SUN**

Luke Sulfridge serves as the OH SUN Program Director. Luke is a lifelong resident of the Mid-Ohio Valley and resides in Washington County. He provides support for the expansion of solar in Ohio through co-ops and policy advocacy. His prior work includes health policy, emergency management, grassroots organizing, and advocacy. Luke holds a B.A. from Berea College in Political Science, a M.S. from Eastern Kentucky University in Safety, Security and Emergency Management, and a M.A. from Appalachian State University in Political Science with a concentration in Environmental Politics and Policy Analysis.



**Ben Wilson**  
**Manager, Power Delivery Engineering**  
**Buckeye Power**

Ben has spent his career engineering solutions for electric utilities in Ohio. Much of his work at Ohio's Electric Cooperatives is focused on integrated distributed resources into the cooperative portfolio while adhering to the promise of providing reliable and affordable electricity to cooperative members around the state. Ben lives in Columbus, Ohio with his wife and two children.