

## PFAS Virtual Workshop Speaker Profiles



**Arlene Blum**  
Executive Director  
Green Science Policy Institute  
Berkeley, CA

**Arlene Blum**, environmental health scientist, author, and mountaineer is the founder and executive director of the Green Science Policy Institute and a Research Associate in Cell and Molecular Biology at the University of California, Berkeley. The Institute’s scientific research and policy work with government and business has contributed to preventing the use of harmful chemicals in products worldwide.

Dr. Blum led the first American—and all-women’s—ascend of Annapurna I, considered one of the world’s most dangerous and difficult mountains, co-led the first women’s team to climb Denali; and hiked the length of the European Alps with her baby daughter on her back. She is the author of *Annapurna: A Woman’s Place* and *Breaking Trail: A Climbing Life*.

Dr. Blum’s awards include her *2022 Honorary Doctorate* from the University of San Francisco, Induction into the *California Hall of Fame*, *2017 UC Berkeley International House Alumna of the Year*, 2015 award for *lifetime achievement of a Reed College graduate*, selection by the UK Guardian as one of the “*World’s 100 Most Inspiring Women*”, National Women’s History Project selection as one of 100 “*Women Taking the Lead to Save Our Planet*”.

Dr. Blum received her Reed College, her PhD in Biophysical chemistry from UC Berkeley.

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**Janine Burke-Wells**  
Executive Director  
North East Biosolids & Residuals Association  
Tamworth, NH

**Janine Burke-Wells** is the Executive Director of the North East Biosolids & Residuals Association (NEBRA), a position she has held since May 2019. Prior to joining NEBRA, she worked as a public servant for over three decades – 10 years with the US Environmental Protection Agency and over 20 years in local government where she managed the wastewater systems in West Warwick and Warwick, RI. Ms. Burke-Wells earned a degree in chemical engineering from the University of Rhode Island and an MA in Public Administration degree from Northeastern University. She represents the State of Rhode Island to the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission. Ms. Burke-Wells has served New England Water Environment Association (NEWEA) in many capacities

including President in 2018. She is a member of NEWEA's Select Society of Sanitary Sludge Shovelers. She continues to maintain a RI Wastewater Operator's license which someone went out of their way to help her obtain early on in her clean water career.

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**Mickey Conway**  
*NACWA Vice President*  
Chief Executive Officer  
Metro Water Recovery  
Denver, CO

**Mickey Conway** was named Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Metro Water Recovery in Denver, Colorado in January 2018. He served as Metro's General Counsel for the 4 years prior to his appointment as CEO. Metro Water Recovery operates two treatment plants and collection systems that serve over 60 local governments and special districts comprising of approximately 2 million people in the Denver Metro Area.

Prior to working at Metro Water Recovery, Mr. Conway represented wastewater and public entities for nearly twenty years as an attorney. He holds a BA from Southern Methodist University and a JD from the University of San Francisco School of Law.

Mr. Conway currently serves as Vice President on NACWA's Board of Directors.

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**Ralph Eberts**  
Senior Vice President, PFAS Service Leader  
CDM Smith  
Bellevue, WA

**Ralph Eberts** brings over 35 years of planning, engineering, and managerial experience delivering complex, high-profile water and wastewater projects for water utility clients. He is CDM Smith's per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) Services Leader and works with project teams around the globe to deliver PFAS studies and projects. Mr. Eberts also interacts with federal and state regulators and professional associations on PFAS regulations, policies, and strategies.

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**Scott Firmin**

Director of Wastewater Services  
Portland Water District  
Portland, ME

**Scott Firmin** joined the Portland Water District in 2001 as an Operations Engineer in the Wastewater Services Department. After holding the position of wastewater plant and systems manager, Mr. Firmin was promoted to the Director of Wastewater Services where he is responsible for the operations of the district's collection and interception systems, pump stations, and treatment plants across six communities in the Greater Portland area.

Before joining the District, Mr. Firmin worked as a project manager for Applied Water Management in Taunton, MA. Prior to that, he spent over nine years as an engineer at one of the country's largest treatment plants in Newark, NJ.

Mr. Firmin received an MBA from the University of Southern ME and holds a master's degree in environmental engineering from the NJ Institute of Technology and a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of NH. He is a registered Professional Engineer in ME and maintains the highest level of ME wastewater licensure, Grade 5, and a Grade IV New England Water Environment Association Voluntary Collections System Certification.

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**Devon Goodrich**

*Co-Chair, NACWA's Legal Affairs Committee*  
Senior Counsel, Environmental Law  
New York City Department of Law  
New York, NY

**Devon Goodrich** has been an Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Environmental Law Division of the New York City Law Department since 2011. She practices environmental and municipal law, working on a variety of issues relating to New York City's drinking water supply, wastewater collection and treatment systems, parks, and solid waste management.

From the beginning of Ms. Goodrich's career at the Law Department, her work has included counseling and litigation involving the City's wastewater management. She has counseled the City on Clean Water Act compliance, from meeting the requirements of the State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits for the City's 14 wastewater treatment plants, which treat approximately 1.3 billion gallons of wastewater per day, to development and implementation of long-term control plans to reduce combined sewer discharges to New York City's water bodies.

She has also regularly counseled and litigated on behalf of the New York City Department of Environmental Protection to enforce the City's Watershed Regulations and protect the City's water supply system – which supplies approximately 1.1 billion gallons a day of high quality, affordable drinking water to over nine million people.

Ms. Goodrich received a JD from Harvard Law School and a BA with highest honors in English from Cornell University.

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**Greg Goodwin**  
Senior Research Director  
Bluefield Research  
Boston, MA

**Greg Goodwin** is a senior research director with several years of experience across clean technology, industrial operations, and asset-based industries. He most recently worked at LNS Research covering enterprise software developments and implementation strategies across environment, health & safety, manufacturing operations management, and asset performance management research practices. Mr. Goodwin holds a BA from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst and an MA from The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

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**Sarah Grace Hughes**  
Senior Project Manager  
Environmental Council of the States  
Washington, DC

Sarah Grace Hughes is a Senior Project Manager at Environmental Council of the States (ECOS). She manages ECOS' per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) work, overseeing both the PFAS Caucus and PFAS Coordinating Committee, and leading projects pertaining to state standards, biosolids, and PFAS use in industry. Ms. Hughes also leads ECOS' Cross-Media Committee, Toxic Substances Reduction Workgroup, and ERIS. Ms. Hughes graduated from Wake Forest University with a BS degree in Biology and a minor in Environmental Science.

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**Greg Kester**

Director, Renewable Resource Programs  
California Association of Sanitation Agencies  
Sacramento, CA

**Greg Kester** is the Director of Renewable Resource Programs for the California Association of Sanitation Agencies (CASA). Mr. Kester serves as both the technical and programmatic contact for CASA members and conduit for emerging issues on the state and federal levels on all biosolids, renewable energy, climate change mitigation, and during the pandemic on wastewater-based epidemiology and related COVID issues. Mr. Kester works closely with local, state, and federal authorities as well as the private sector on COVID-19 issues as well as biosolids treatment and management. Prior to joining CASA, Mr. Kester served as the state biosolids coordinator for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Mr. Kester represented all states in the nation, by their election, to the US Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) on all biosolids issues. He served on the National Academy of Sciences Committee which evaluated federal biosolids regulations and produced the 2002 report: Biosolids Applied to Land: Advancing Standards and Practices. He also served on the US EPA Science Advisory Board expert biosolids panel in 2023 which evaluated the updated risk assessment models and prioritization tools for land applied biosolids.

He holds a BS in Civil and Environmental Engineering from the University of Wisconsin – Madison and is a Registered Professional Engineer (WI).

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**Charles Larson**

Manager of Strategic Projects  
Town of Nantucket  
Nantucket, MA

**Chuck Larson** joined the Town of Nantucket in 2017 and is the Manager of Strategic Projects. Since 2020, Mr. Larson has been leading the per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)-related projects across Town departments. The projects include an island-wide assessment of municipal PFAS sources, development of testing plans for selected media, coordination of testing and reporting activities among town departments, organization of site investigations, development of protocols for handling PFAS in a municipal work and promoting public outreach and communication.

Mr. Larson is a graduate of the University of Connecticut with a BS in Civil Engineering, and The George Washington University with a MS in Project Management. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in several states and is a certified Project Management Professional. His 30 years of previous experience includes leading projects in



engineering, infrastructure management, and field data collection, as a consultant with projects across the US, as well as a manager in VA and CT state governments.

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**Linda Lee**

Distinguished Professor, Department of Agronomy,  
College of Agriculture; Environmental & Ecological Engineering,  
College of Engineering  
Purdue University  
West Lafayette, IN

**Linda Lee** is a Distinguished Professor at Purdue University with a joint appointment in the Department of Agronomy in the College of Agriculture (COA) and Environmental & Ecological Engineering in the College of Engineering. With degrees in Chemistry, Environmental Engineering, and Soil Chemistry and Contaminant Hydrology from the University of FL, she joined Purdue in 1993 where she has established a strong research program in chemical fate in the environment, analytical tools, waste reuse, and contaminant management strategies. For over two decades, she has pioneered research on emerging “compounds of concern,” including hormones and pharmaceuticals, as well as a large infamous family of compounds called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). In addition to her distinguished research record, Dr. Lee is a highly regarded environmental professional for her three decades of notable work in teaching, mentoring, and service.

Dr. Lee has garnered over 18 million dollars in funding from federal and state agencies including US Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Defense, US Department of Agriculture, National Science Foundation, US Geological Survey, and Weather Research & Forecasting Model, among others, and industry. She has published over 150 publications with most being in top tier environmental journals and served as primary mentor of over 40 graduate students to date. She has an energetic, innovative, stimulating program of research and teaching in environmental soil chemistry grounded in fundamental concepts of chemistry with direct application to known environmental problems.

Her research focuses on understanding the processes that govern environmental fate and remediation of contaminants in various media for use in mitigating contamination, decision tools and management guidelines in both industrial and agricultural settings. She has served on multiple national and international advisory groups addressing water quality issues, fair land-applied biosolid policies, and chemical risk prediction and management. Her research over the past 15 years has focused primarily on PFAS and other organic endocrine disrupting chemicals of emerging concern. She developed and teaches Environmental Soil Chemistry lab/lecture (AGRY/NRES385, every fall) and Environmental Organic Chemistry (AGRY544, Spring, even year).

Dr. Lee has two sons, enjoys animals, music, the outdoors, and scuba diving, and is deep-rooted in Christ.

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**Mark R. Lyons**

Director, Business Development  
Aries Clean Technologies  
Portland, ME

**Mark Lyons** is currently serving in the role of Director, Business Development, for Aries Clean Technologies. He manages new biosolids gasification development projects in the northeast for Aries and is also responsible for securing feedstock supply for the company's existing facility in Linden, NJ. Mr. Lyons has 30 years of experience in the renewable energy-from-waste, recycling, and environmental services industries. He has managed several facility development projects involving waste-fired power plants and sanitary landfill expansions on the east coast. In addition to his business development background, Mr. Lyons has experience in sales, government affairs, community relations and environmental permitting.

Before joining Aries, Mr. Lyons led the Central New England Division of Casella Organics, where he had profit and loss (P&L) responsibility, helped manage over 350,000 tons per year of organic waste, directed the Division's operations and managed a staff of eight professionals. During his tenure, Mr. Lyons and his team grew Division revenues and consistently exceeded the Division's annual growth targets.

Mr. Lyons has also worked for Wheelabrator Technologies, Browning- Ferris Industries (now Republic Services), and the MA Department of Environmental Protection. He holds a BA in Environmental Science from Colby College, an MS in Environmental Engineering from Tufts University, and an MBA from Franklin Pierce University.

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**Tamzen Macbeth**

Senior Vice President, Remediation Practice Leader  
CDM Smith  
Pocatello, ID

**Tamzen Macbeth** is an internationally recognized remediation expert specializing in the development, demonstration, and implementation of innovative, cost-effective technologies for contaminated soil, sediment, and groundwater.

With experience connecting scientific and engineering Research & Development (R&D) with the design and optimization of cost-effective cleanup programs, Dr. Macbeth has helped

advance countless technologies within her field. She has worked on over 100 government, private and international contaminated sites at the laboratory-scale, pilot-scale, and full-scale levels.

In addition to her work at CDM Smith, Dr. Macbeth has impressively published more than 100 technical papers, training manuals and guidance documents on remediation topics, as well as presented at seminars and international conferences to advance remediation technologies.

“CDM Smith values technical excellence, leadership, and community. Our environmental work is designed to facilitate developing integrated, multi-disciplinary project teams with strong interpersonal and professional relationships built on mutual trust and respect to develop the best solutions for our clients,” she says.

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**Samir Mathur**

Senior Vice President, Water Reclamation Practice Leader  
CDM Smith  
Dallas, TX

**Samir Mathur** is the Global Water Reclamation Practice Leader for CDM Smith with expertise in wastewater treatment, biological nutrient removal, biosolids management, and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). He is a Senior Vice President in CDM Smith’s Dallas Office. He has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from India and a MS in Civil/Environmental Engineering from Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA. He has worked at CDM Smith for over 30 years, He is involved in several of the firm's initiatives related to growing the industry's understanding of PFAS compounds and their impacts on WWRFs.

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**Kelly Moser**

Senior Attorney and Leader of the Water Program  
Southern Environmental Law Center  
Chapel Hill, NC

**Kelly Moser** leads the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC)'s Water Program across the Southeast and nationally, focusing on stopping industrial water pollution, protecting drinking water sources, and safeguarding families and communities. Ms. Moser was one of the attorneys that negotiated the settlement with the NC Department of Environmental Quality requiring the Chemours Company to control its facility’s per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) pollution. She also negotiated agreements with the City of Burlington, NC, under which the city agreed to launch a first-of-its kind investigation to identify and control the industrial sources of PFAS pollution into



its wastewater treatment plants and the source of drinking water for several downstream communities.

Ms. Moser began her career as a trial attorney in the US Department of Justice's Environmental and Natural Resources Division and served as a law clerk in the US District Court for DC for the Honorable William Benson Bryant. Prior to joining SELC in 2018, Ms. Moser was a partner at the law firm of Perkins Coie in the firm's Seattle office, where she represented companies in environmental and commercial matters. She earned her law degree *with honors* from Georgetown University Law Center and her undergraduate degree in psychology from Wake Forest University. Ms. Moser is licensed to practice in NC.

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**Peter Murphy**

Managing Director  
OPEC Systems  
Sydney, AUS

**Peter Murphy** is the Managing Director of EPOC Enviro and its parent company, OPEC Systems. As a founding member of the team, Peter played a key role in the invention and commercialization of Surface-Active Foam Fractionation (SAFF®), a patented physical separation technique designed to remove pre- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and other surface-active amphiphiles from water. He has over 30 years of experience in environmental engineering and consulting industry. Mr. Murphy holds a BASc in Environmental Management and an LLB.

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**John Norton**

Director of Energy, Research, & Innovation  
Great Lakes Water Authority  
Detroit, MI

**John Norton** is the Director of Energy, Research, and Innovation for the Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA), one of the largest combined utilities in North America. GLWA treats more than 40% of the drinking water for the state of MI, including Flint, and roughly 30% of the wastewater for the state of MI. Dr. Norton is vice president of the newly formed Midwest Biosolids Association, is Principal Investigator (PI) of the Department of Energy-funded "Hydrothermal Liquification to Convert Organic Wet Wastes to Transportation Fuels" research project, is co-PI of one of the four US Environment Protection Agency (EPA)-funded "*Pollutants in Biosolids*" research programs, is Chair of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) Joint Section Research Committee and is Vice-Chair of the AWWA Utility Collaboration Subcommittee.

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**Emily Rimmel**

Senior Director, Regulatory Affairs  
National Association of Clean Water Agencies  
Washington, DC

**Emily Rimmel** serves as the Director of Regulatory Affairs for the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) in Washington, DC, where she has worked since early 2017. In her role, Emily works on PFAS, water quality, water reuse, and stormwater among other issues.

She earned a JD in Environmental Law and a certificate in water resources law from Vermont Law School and served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Vermont Journal of Environmental Law. She also holds a BS and MS in zoology from the University of Oklahoma where she specialized in aquatic ecology and has numerous publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals.

She also currently teaches water resources advocacy and introduction to water law, both online undergraduate courses at the University of Oklahoma.

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**Charles Schaefer**

Director  
CDM Smith  
Bellevue, WA

**Charles Schaefer** is the Director of CDM Smith's Research & Testing Laboratory in Bellevue, WA. Dr. Schaefer received his PhD in chemical & biochemical engineering from Rutgers University and has over 25 years of experience in the fate, transport, and treatment of organic contaminants in groundwater, soil, wastewater, and biosolids. Dr. Schaefer has served as a principal or co-principal investigator for several research projects funded through the US Department of Defense and the Water Research Foundation and has served as the technical lead on several site investigation and remediation efforts.



**Naomi Senehi**

Technical Solutions Lead, Municipal and Global Access  
374Water  
Costa Mesa, CA

**Naomi Senehi**, the Municipal Technical Solutions Lead & Global Access Manager at 374Water, holds a Bachelor's and Master's in Environmental Engineering. With 5 years of research and development (R&D) experience, she specializes in applying Supercritical Water Oxidation technology to diverse waste streams. Notable roles include researching per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in household wastewater, developing materials for PFAS adsorption, and contributing to coronavirus-related projects. Ms. Senehi has a strong publication record, covering topics like PFAS in wastewater treatment plants, nanomaterials for CO2 conversion, and protein-imprinted particles for coronavirus capture.

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**Eric Spargimino**

Environmental Engineer  
CDM Smith  
Manchester, NH

**Eric Spargimino** is an environmental engineer at CDM Smith with nearly two decades of experience designing and managing wastewater treatment facilities.

Mr. Spargimino has acted as the design lead and project manager for solids production and processing facilities, biological nutrient removal facilities, and chemical feed systems. Mr. Spargimino also has an in-depth knowledge of alternative fuels and green energy, specifically biofuels.

Mr. Spargimino's steadfast dedication to advancing the industry has earned him several prestigious awards including the American Council of Engineering Companies' Young Professional of the Year in 2012 and a nomination into the New Faces in Engineering program from the National Society of Professional Engineers.

Mr. Spargimino's expertise when it comes to alternative fuels is indisputable after he drove a car running on exclusively vegetable oil across the country. "I convinced one of my master's degree professors to give me a credit if I could raise money, buy a car, convert it to run on vegetable oil, and quantify the environmental benefits. The ultimate goal was to get the car to that year's Water Environment Federation's Technical Exhibition and Conference in San Diego, CA, and park it on the showroom floor; I'm happy to say that I succeeded!"



**Erica Spitzig**

Partner  
Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP  
Cincinnati, OH

**Erica Spitzig** focuses her practice on environmental matters. Prior to joining Taft, she served as Deputy General Counsel for the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) in DC, where she worked to advance NACWA's legal and regulatory advocacy on behalf of publicly owned wastewater and stormwater utilities nationwide.

Ms. Spitzig has significant experience representing clients on Clean Water Act matters issues. Her work includes counseling clients on National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permitting, compliance and appeals; stormwater permitting; and enforcement defense. She has also represented state and national associations as amici curiae in cases involving the Clean Water Act in the OH Supreme Court and the US Supreme Court. Ms. Spitzig received her JD from Georgetown University Law Center, and her BA in Political Science from Franciscan University of Steubenville.

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**Diane Taniguchi-Dennis**

*NACWA President*  
Chief Executive Officer  
Clean Water Services  
Hillsboro, OR

**Diane Taniguchi-Dennis** serves as Chief Executive Officer for Clean Water Services in OR, where she manages the day-to-day operations of the water resources management utility providing wastewater and stormwater services to more than 600,000 customers in urban Washington County.

Previously, Ms. Taniguchi-Dennis served as Public Works Director for the City of Albany where she has earned a national reputation for her leadership and innovative approach to managing water, wastewater, drainage, and transportation systems. During her 12-year tenure with Albany, she was instrumental in forging collaborative relationships with municipal, business and community partners to complete the two largest public works projects in Albany's history—the Albany-Millersburg Water Treatment Plant, and expansion and renovation of Albany-Millersburg Water Reclamation Facility. Under Ms. Taniguchi-Dennis' leadership, Albany also built the innovative 40-acre Talking Water Garden wetland to treat and cool water from the reclamation facility before returning it to the Willamette River. Talking Water Gardens was recently awarded the Environmental Protection Agency's *PISCES Award* for performance and innovation and the American Academy of Environmental Engineering's *Excellence in Environmental Engineering Award*.

Ms. Taniguchi-Dennis currently serves as the President of the National Association of Clean Water Agencies' Board of Directors. She is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of OR and a Board-Certified Environmental Engineer. She holds a BS in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Cornell University and an MBA from the Atkinson Graduate School of Management at Willamette University.

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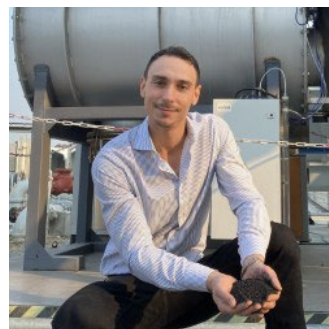


**David Tobias**

Biosolids Team Lead, Office of Science and Technology  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
Washington, DC

**David Tobias** has worked at the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for the past 15 years characterizing exposure to consumers, the general population, and ecological organisms for chemical risk assessments. His projects have included designing and evaluating testing for degradation, bioaccumulation, and sorption as well as implementing computer models for the fate of chemicals released to the environment. Mr. Tobias is currently the team lead of the biosolids program in the Office of Water.

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**Valentina Villa**

Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer  
Bioforcetech Corporation  
San Francisco, CA

**Valentina Villa** is the Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer at Bioforcetech Corporation. Mr. Villa earned an Italian professional designation for an industrial expert in the field of engineering that is recognized as an industrial engineer outside of Italy. Since Co-founding Bioforcetech in 2012, Mr. Villa and his team have been rethinking every step of biosolids management to prepare for a carbon free future. Valentino believes that Bioforcetech's biochar, OurCarbon®, is a resource, which is why he and his team are investing in research and development to expand the applications for biochar far beyond soil amendment. Mr. Villa lives in CA with his wife and two kids, Leonardo, and Luca.