

Mobilizing NC Speaker Biographies

MICHAEL ARNOLD

Michael Arnold is a native North Carolinian - born and raised in Jacksonville, NC. He has a BA in Communications and a Masters in Business Administration. In 2000, Michael moved to the Triangle area to work on a doctoral degree at UNC and to serve as Research Director at the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund. In his capacity at the Trust Fund, Michael led policy analysis and legislative efforts on behalf of the Trust Fund and its Chair, Lt. Governor Bev Perdue. In 2004, Michael moved to Lt. Gov. Perdue's office as Policy Director where he works to advance the Lt. Gov's policy agenda which includes a major environmental effort to grow and sustain a burgeoning GREEN economy in NC. He is here today to share more about the Lt. Gov's GREEN agenda this legislative session.



HON. DAN BESSE

Dan serves as a City Council Member in Winston-Salem (our state's fourth-largest city with a population of more than 225,000), first elected in 2001 for a four-year term, and re-elected overwhelmingly in 2005. In addition to his direct work for citizens, he represents Winston-Salem in key regional leadership roles in groups such as the Piedmont Triad Partnership, Piedmont Triad Early Action Compact, and Winston-Salem Urban Area Transportation Advisory Committee. Dan has provided more than 20 years of service at the state level in helping to shape North Carolina's efforts to protect public health and the environment, and to wisely manage our natural resources. Dan was born and grew up in Hickory, graduating from Hickory High in 1973. He received his undergraduate (1977) and law (1980) degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

ANN BRENNAN

Ann is a Principal Group Manager in the Center for Transportation Technologies and Systems (CTTS) at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Golden, Colorado. Her group conducts project for the U.S. Department of Energy focused on deploying advanced vehicles and fuels, including alternative fuels and hybrid electric vehicles. Projects include demonstrating and evaluating advanced vehicles operating in fleets, providing technical assistance to fleets and local governments, conducting analysis on transportation markets and policies, and maintaining technical data and resources available to industry and the public in the Alternative Fuels Data Center at www.eere.energy.gov/afdc. She has published numerous papers and presentations for both research and non-technical audiences. She's a member of the Society of Automotive Engineers and American Society of Mechanical Engineers. Ann holds a bachelor's degree in Engineering Science and Mechanics from N.C. State University, and joined NREL in 1978 as a research engineer.



SANDY CARMANY

A strong background in Education and Civic activities has enabled Council Member Sandy Carmany to provide excellent leadership for the people in her district. Her interest and expertise in transportation and mass transit issues have served city residents well. She has won several awards such as Woman of Achievement Award from the Commission on the Status of Women and the Honorary Life Membership in National PTA. She has provided leadership for local and regional transportation efforts, including establishment of first regional transit service. She has also worked with numerous citizens and community groups to fight crime, strengthen and preserve neighborhoods, and solve problems with traffic, code enforcement, and lighting. Sandy was valedictorian of her Southeast Guilford High School class and graduated from NC State with a degree in Chemistry.



KELLY CARNES

Kelly Carnes is President and CEO of TechVision21, a Washington, DC-based technology strategy firm. Previously, Ms. Carnes served four years as a top national advocate for technology business. As a Presidential appointee, confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Ms. Carnes represented the Administration before Congress, and was a liaison to, and advocate for, the technology business community. TechVision21 leverages technology, business and government expertise to help companies pinpoint and secure research and technology funding. TechVision21 clients include global companies, leading U.S. research universities, foreign governments, and non-profit organizations. Ms. Carnes provided policy support for the *Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles*, an innovative public-private partnership among Federal agencies, automotive manufacturers, suppliers, and universities, to develop next generation automotive technologies. Ms. Carnes also worked extensively to promote the competitiveness of the U.S. environmental industry, producing a path-breaking report, and speaking nation-wide about the need for reform of U.S. environmental regulations.



SUSAN COWARD

Appointed as Deputy Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs and Budget Coordination in October 2003, Susan Coward serves the Department in supporting Secretary Tippet's transportation agenda through state and federal legislative and budget issues. She also oversees the Office of Environmental Quality, Governor's Highway Safety Program, and Bicycle & Pedestrian Division. Prior to her appointment as Deputy Secretary, Susan served as the Legislative Liaison for the Department. Susan is a graduate of North Carolina State University. During her career, she has also worked for the Office of the Secretary of State, Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources, and North Carolina Restaurant Association.



MARK HAIRR

Mark E. Hairr is Research Program Director for the Advanced Technologies for Transportation Research Program (ATTRP) based in Chattanooga, Tennessee. ATTRP is located within the College of Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Tennessee Chattanooga (UTC) and conducts applied research on advanced technology transportation initiatives that utilize clean and secure sources of energy. Mr. Hairr's responsibilities include project development and management, oversight of the program's daily operations, and grant administration. Prior to joining ATTRP, Mr. Hairr served as General Manager of Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) for more than five years overseeing all areas of the public transportation system for the City of Knoxville, Tennessee. Mr. Hairr holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and a Master of Science in Planning from the University of Tennessee.

REPRESENTATIVE PRICEY HARRISON (DEM)

Rep. Harrison has represented Guilford county for two terms. She was a communications lawyer prior to her bid for the House. A strong supporter of biofuels, Rep. Harrison was instrumental in convincing her fellow legislators of the need to create a legislative committee devoted to energy and energy efficiency issues. The Speaker of the House, Joe Hackney, appointed Pricey to chair the [Energy and Energy Efficiency](#) committee. This committee will explore renewable and alternative fuel sources. Ms. Harrison is the vice chair of the committees on [Environment and Natural Resources](#) and [Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural and Economic Resources](#). She has worked to protect our State and its natural resources as a member of the Legislative Study Commission on Smart Growth and the Coastal Resources Commission, and has served on boards of organizations such as the Environmental Defense, Piedmont Land Conservancy, UNC's Institute of the Environment, and the Southern Environmental Law Center. She has also been active in philanthropy and recently stepped down as president of the Julian Price Family Foundation. Pricey graduated from Duke University and the University of North Carolina Law School.





STEVE KALLAND

Steve Kalland, director of the North Carolina Solar Center, has over 12 years of experience in energy policy, particularly with renewable energy and energy efficiency. His current activities include directing the Solar Center's Policy Division as well as leading efforts to develop new research and programmatic opportunities for the Solar Center. The Solar Center, part of the NC State University's College of Engineering, has served as a clearinghouse for information, demonstration and research related to transportation, renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies and policies since 1985. Mr. Kalland graduated in 1991 from the College of William and Mary in Virginia with a degree in Government and Psychology. In 1993 he received a master of science in Public Policy Analysis from the University of Rochester.

RICHARD LEAKEY

For more than 30 years Richard Leakey has made international headlines for his work in Kenya. Heir to the legacy of his parents, famed fossil-hunters Louis and Mary Leakey, Richard Leakey has been credited with some of this century's most successful paleo-anthropologic finds. Although no longer active in field work, Richard Leakey remains one of the foremost authorities on wildlife and nature conservation. Leakey has authored or co-authored over 100 scientific articles and presented several television programs, including the 5-part series *Making of Mankind* and NBC's *Earthwatch*. In 2002, he was awarded the Humane Society of the United States Joseph Wood Krutch Medal, presented to "an individual who has made a significant contribution toward the improvement of life and the environment". In 2003, he received the Earthwatch Institute Conservation Award, in recognition of his support for research and education for a sustainable development.



MEL PEFFERS

Mel Peffers works for Environmental Defense, a national non-profit group dedicated to finding innovative, practical solutions our most urgent environmental problems. Ms. Peffers is the Air Quality Project Manager in the Living Cities program. She works specifically on diesel issues and coordinates regional programs in California, Texas, New York, North Carolina, Massachusetts, and New York. Before joining Environmental Defense, Ms. Peffers worked for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Seattle, WA and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Richland, WA. Ms. Peffers holds an M.S. in Environmental Health Sciences from Harvard School of Public Health, and a B.S. in Civil and Environmental Engineering from Texas A&M University.

BILL ROSS

Gov. Mike Easley appointed William G. Ross Jr. as secretary of the N.C. Department of Environment and Natural Resources on January 15, 2001. Ross, an attorney who specializes in environmental law, has broad civic and professional experience in a variety of land conservation and environmental protection efforts. Ross, a native of Marion, N.C., was a partner with the Greensboro and Raleigh law firm of Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard from 1986 until his appointment as head of the state's lead environmental stewardship agency. Ross has been a member and leader of many committees and organizations including The Nature Conservancy, Guilford County Parks and Recreation Committee, Piedmont Land Conservancy, Raleigh Greenway Commission, N.C. Environmental Education Fund and N.C. Environmental Defense. Ross received a bachelor's degree in history from Davidson College in 1969 and his law degree from the University of Virginia in 1972.



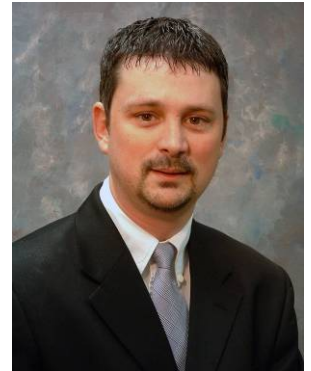


LARRY SHIRLEY

Larry Shirley serves as the Director of the State Energy Office in the NC Department of Administration. In this capacity, he manages the energy efficiency, energy emergency, alternative fuels and renewable energy programs for the State of North Carolina. The State Energy Office funds and oversees more than 80 projects serving the industrial, agriculture, local and state government, transportation, commercial and residential sectors. Prior to assuming this position in late 2000, Mr. Shirley served for 13 years as the Executive Director of the NC Solar Center at NC State University. A graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Mr. Shirley has written and spoken extensively on energy policy, renewable energy development, financial incentives, and the promotion, marketing and delivery of energy efficiency, alternative fuel and renewable energy programs.

GARY SMITH

Gary Smith is the Equipment Services Manager for the City of Greensboro and has been employed with the City since June 1989. During this period of time, he has worked in the capacity of Service Manager, Assistant Manager, and Manager. In his current role, he has management responsibility for all services and activities of the Equipment Services Division. Responsibilities include managing and participating in the development and implementation of goals, objectives, policies and priorities for equipment maintenance services and maintenance of all light and heavy vehicles and equipment. His recent accomplishments include: US Department of Energy Clean Cities National Partner Award for excellence in advancing biodiesel and American Public Works Association Professional Manager of the Year. He is a member of American Public Works Association (APWA) and the National Association of Fleet Managers (NAFA). Gary holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro.



STEVE WALK

Steve Walk is the Director of Sales and Projects for CleanFUEL USA Distribution and Management. Steve's roles at CFD&M are to provide and assist customers on designing comprehensive alternative fuel management and supply programs. Mr. Walk has worked on projects ranging from small c-stores, national retailers, and city municipalities to international joint ventures. He has an accomplished career track in marketing, managing, financial, operations and leadership within the wholesale distribution, manufacturing and service industries. He has served on the executive level for a petroleum wholesale manufacturing and supply company and currently is a board member for a convenience store re-image consulting firm. He earned his BA's in International Business Management and Business Administration from Minnesota State University and subsequent Lean Sigma, Project Leadership, Process Leadership and Six Sigma certifications from The Six Sigma Management Institute in Phoenix.

STEPHE YBORRA

As NGV America's Director of Marketing and Communications, Yborra helps assess market opportunities and develops programs to address them. In addition to preparing market and technology analyses, he serves as the natural gas industry's lead liaison with niche market fleet management organizations, coordinates industry exhibitions, writes and presents educational seminars and manages communications outreach and trade press relations. Prior to working on NGV issues, Yborra was president of Energystics, Inc., an energy technologies consulting firm he founded in 1996 to assist government, academic institutions and private industry commercialize new and emerging natural gas-fired cooling, distributed generation and industrial technologies. From 1986-1996, he held various communications and marketing positions at the American Gas Association. Yborra attended Rutgers, Drexel and Temple Universities, earning Bachelor's degrees in Communications and Marketing.

