Women in Sustainability & Energy:

Sustainable Career Showcase

The WISE Sustainable Career Showcase will highlight diverse perspectives within the energy and sustainability sector. Our panelists will represent various industries, each offering a unique insight into their sector of the industry, role in their company, and career path.

Panelists:
Alex Ambrose, Transportation & Climate Policy Analyst, New Jersey Policy Perspective
Alexis Saba, Associate, Sive, Paget & Riesel
Andriana Azarias, Senior Policy Advisor, NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Celeste Perez, State Climate Policy Manager, New York City Environmental Justice Alliance
Christianna Ambo-Jones, Department Manager, Program Design, Con Edison
Jennah Jones, Waste Consultant, Center for Zero Waste Design
Nell Jacobson, Marketing Associate, EN-POWER GROUP

be ex
building energy exchange
31 Chambers Street
New York, NY
April 4, 2024
5:30pm - 7:30pm
Stay in Touch

Events to look out for:
Networking Lunch
WISE Panel
Community Events
and more!

Join the WISE LinkedIn group

@BEExNY
#BEExWISE
Introduction – Alexis Saba

• Environmental lawyer at a private law firm
• Long-time interest in environmental law
• Post-graduate fellowship at the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law
• Moved to general litigation at Paul Hastings LLP
• Eventually landed at my current firm, which specializes in environmental law
Company – Sive, Paget & Riesel P.C.

• SPR is one of the oldest environmental law firms in the U.S.

• Specializes in traditional environmental work: permitting, site remediation, environmental due diligence, environmental impact reviews, litigation

• Increasing focus on renewable energy and building sustainability
My Role

• Focus: waterfront development, site remediation, and land use

• Very interested in building sustainability and decarbonization: Local Law 97 compliance, landlord/tenant relationships, leasing, general sustainability planning

• Day-to-day is incredibly varied: drafting permits, negotiating with agencies, reviewing work plans, assisting with environmental reviews, evaluating litigation strategies, etc.

• Key skills are problem solving, focus, collaboration, initiative/curiosity
Advice

• A J.D. is a powerful, flexible degree – but key is in collaboration

• We work with engineers, architects, scientists, accountants, etc. every day

• Field is always changing, so stay curious and ask lots of questions!

• Multidisciplinary communities focused on knowledge sharing and problem solving – like BE-Ex – are critical for individual growth and make networking fun
Hello!
NYC Health Department

• One of the largest and oldest health departments
  ○ More than 6,000 staff in 5 boroughs

• Mission: To protect and promote the health of 8 million New Yorkers

Division of Environmental Health / Bureau of Environmental Disease and Injury Prevention (EDIP)

• Protect health by:
  ○ Promoting healthy environments and health equity
  ○ Preventing environmental disease and injury in homes, communities and workplaces
Senior Policy Advisor

• Develop, track, implement policy and programs aimed at improving social/environmental determinants of health

• Facilitate policy and strategic planning across Bureau

• Identify emerging issues, trends, best practices related to preventing/mitigating environmental disease and injury

• Oversee Healthy Homes NYC seminar for HPD-financed projects
Advice + Looking Ahead

• Connect!
  • Stay in touch with mentors; professors
• Collaborate
• Be comfortable being uncomfortable

Climate / health-related opportunities
• Climate Health Program Director at NYC Health Dept
• NYC Health Dept’s Public Health Internship Program (HRTP)
• www.nyc.gov/jobs
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Celeste Perez (She/Her/Ella)</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pre-Physical Therapy Program</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Began undergraduate on a Pre-PT track completing clinical hours</td>
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<td><strong>Universidad Veritas Costa Rica</strong></td>
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<td>5 month study abroad program <strong>motivated career switch</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>B.S. Human Biology</strong></td>
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<td>State University of New York at Albany</td>
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<td><strong>Mi Patria Puerto Rico</strong></td>
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<td>5 Month Capstone project in Isabela, PR (current Climate Justice volunteer)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>M.S. Environmental Policy and Science</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pace University (including Elizabeth Haub Law School)</td>
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<td><strong>NYSERDA</strong></td>
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<td>Interned with the NY Sun Team focusing on disadvantaged communities</td>
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New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA)

Founded in 1991, the New York City Environmental Justice Alliance (NYC-EJA) is a non-profit, 501(c)3 citywide membership network linking 13 grassroots organizations from low-income neighborhoods and communities of color in their struggle for environmental justice. NYC-EJA empowers its member organizations to advocate for improved environmental conditions and against inequitable environmental burdens by the coordination of campaigns designed to inform City and State policies. Through our efforts, member organizations coalesce around specific common issues that threaten the ability for low-income communities of color to thrive.
State Climate Policy Manager

- Strategize efforts and analyze the implementation of the NYS Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act (CLCPA)
- Represent NYC-EJA in various State agency initiatives, to uplift member priorities and campaigns
- Community Organizing to help build mass mobilizations through coalition building (Ie. NY Renews)
- Ensure community-led solutions are recognized through various report drafting, public hearing testimony, legislation and more
- Topic Areas: Energy Planning, Extreme Heat, Air Quality, Waste Equity
Looking Ahead

- Landing a position with aligned values is rewarding and motivating
- Foster meaningful relationships with those who inspire you and others willing to help guide you - don’t take it for granted!
- For those interested in advocacy roles and info:
  - Join the NYC-EJA listserv
  - Check NY Renews job listings
  - Email me at: celeste@nyc-eja.org
"Every great design begins with an even better story."
- Lorinda Mamo

Christianna “Chrisy” Ambo-Jones

Purpose, Intent, Impact → PII
Education Background and Career Journey

Building My Toolkit

- **BBA – Economics, Minor in Sociology**
  CUNY Baruch, Zicklin School of Business

- **MS – Urban Policy Analysis and Management**
  The New School, Milano School of Public Engagement

- **Certificate – Futures Studies and Speculative Design**
  The New School, Parsons School of Design

- **Doctorate in Business Administration – Business Intelligence (in progress)**
  Marymount University, BILT

“A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.”
- Lao Tzu
Con Edison Customer Clean Energy Programs

Core Business
Three Commodities: Electric, Gas and Steam

Our Customers
Diverse market segments, unique building stock

Growth Strategy
Investing $1.5B in energy efficiency and heating electrification by 2025

Trusted Energy Advisor
Promote customer choice, education, and incentives

An Evolution of the Utility’s Role in Clean Energy

“The cleanest energy is the energy we don’t use.” - Unknown
Clean Energy Program Design

Skills:
- Research, benchmarking, environmental scanning
- Innovation, brainstorming, collaboration
- Solutioning, design, proposal and recommendations writing
- Product or process development, iterative or agile design
- Persuasion, presentation, communication

Helpful Knowledge:
- Energy policy and regulatory environment
- Clean energy technologies
- Design thinking and product development life cycle
- Industry data
- Building systems

“The alternative to good design is bad design. There is no such thing as no design.”

- Adam Judge
Purpose, Intent, Impact (PII)

- The Sustainability Industry continues to evolve with a role for everyone
- Consider your interests, know your value, continue to learn and innovate
- Develop a sustainability mindset but understand the customer where they are
- Your perspective matters, be a part of the solution

There are new ways to do old things, but lessons from old ways can teach us new things...

- Chrisy
JENNAH JONES

current  Center for Zero Waste Design

previous  Julia Watson LLC, Blocpower, Tesla

education  Columbia MArch ‘24, Stanford BS PD ‘18
builds advocacy campaigns to integrate zero waste practices at the building and city scale

consults with design teams, municipalities and developers to ensure buildings and public spaces are designed to reduce and better manage waste
Cost-Benefit Analysis - Leased Cardboard Baler

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cardboard Baler</th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Year 4</th>
<th>Year 5</th>
<th>Year 6</th>
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<tr>
<td>EXPENSE</td>
<td>$9,973</td>
<td>$7,973</td>
<td>$7,973</td>
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<td>$7,973</td>
<td>$7,973</td>
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<tr>
<td>IN EQUIPMENT</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>W/OUT</td>
<td>$6,064</td>
<td>$4,900</td>
<td>$4,900</td>
<td>$4,900</td>
<td>$4,900</td>
<td>$4,900</td>
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<tr>
<td>IN SAVING</td>
<td>-$1,903</td>
<td>-$235</td>
<td>-$235</td>
<td>-$235</td>
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<td>-$235</td>
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<tr>
<td>CUMULATIVE SAVING</td>
<td>-$130</td>
<td>-$865</td>
<td>-$1,748</td>
<td>-$3,675</td>
<td>-$5,610</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAYBACK</td>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>INK1, INK2, INK3 (refund)</td>
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Visualisation: 50%
Consulting: 30%
Writing: 20%

Zero Waste Design
for High-Density Cities

New York City, Hong Kong and Singapore
Narrow your search. This especially important in interdisciplinary settings. Identify the key players within this niche field – the pool is smaller than you think.

Familiarize yourself with local issues. Organizations that push for revising local or state policy through innovation require a certain knowledge of current and historic events.

Lean into your skillset. Passion gets you the job; your skillset determines what your day consists of.
About Nell

2018

2020

2023

NELL JACOBSON  
MARKETING ASSOCIATE

ENGINEERING FIRM -  
DESIGNING, DEVELOPING,  
AND DELIVERING  
COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS  
FROM CONCEPT TO  
COMPLETION.
THE MARKETING UMBRELLA: LET'S TAKE A LOOK.

- Brand Management
- Content Creation
- Strategy Development, Implementation, and Management
MARKETING FOR SUCCESS: TIPS & SKILLS

“JACK OF ALL TRADES, MASTER OF NONE, BUT OFTEN TIMES BETTER THAN MASTER OF ONE”

- Communication is key (to everything, not just marketing!)
- An eye for design
- An aptitude for people
- A creative mindset
MY PROFESSIONAL TWO CENTS:

1. No background necessary, take what you’re good at, and find a role that aligns with you.

2. Get your foot in the door, then find and fix the overlooked problems. People will notice, and it will propel you forward.
Stay in Touch

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WISE Panel  
Community Events  

and more!

Join the WISE LinkedIn group

Contact Information
Alex Ambrose* - ambrose@njpp.org
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Celeste Perez - celeste@nyc-eja.org
Christianna Ambo-Jones - ambojonesc@coned.com
Jennah Jones - jennah@centerforzerowastedesign.org
Nell Jacobson - njacobson@enpg.com

*unable to present

@BEExNY
#BEExWISE