

# Women in Sustainability & Energy:

**be**  
**ex**

**building  
energy  
exchange**

31 Chambers Street  
New York, NY

# 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

April 4, 2024  
5:30pm - 7:30pm

# wise

## women in sustainability and energy

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### Luminary Sponsors



### Community Sponsors



### Program Sponsors



# Stay in Touch

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Events to look out for:

Networking Lunch

WISE Panel

Community Events

and more!

Join the WISE  
LinkedIn group



@BEEexNY

#BEEexWISE

# 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



**Alexis Saba**

Sive, Paget & Riesel P.C.

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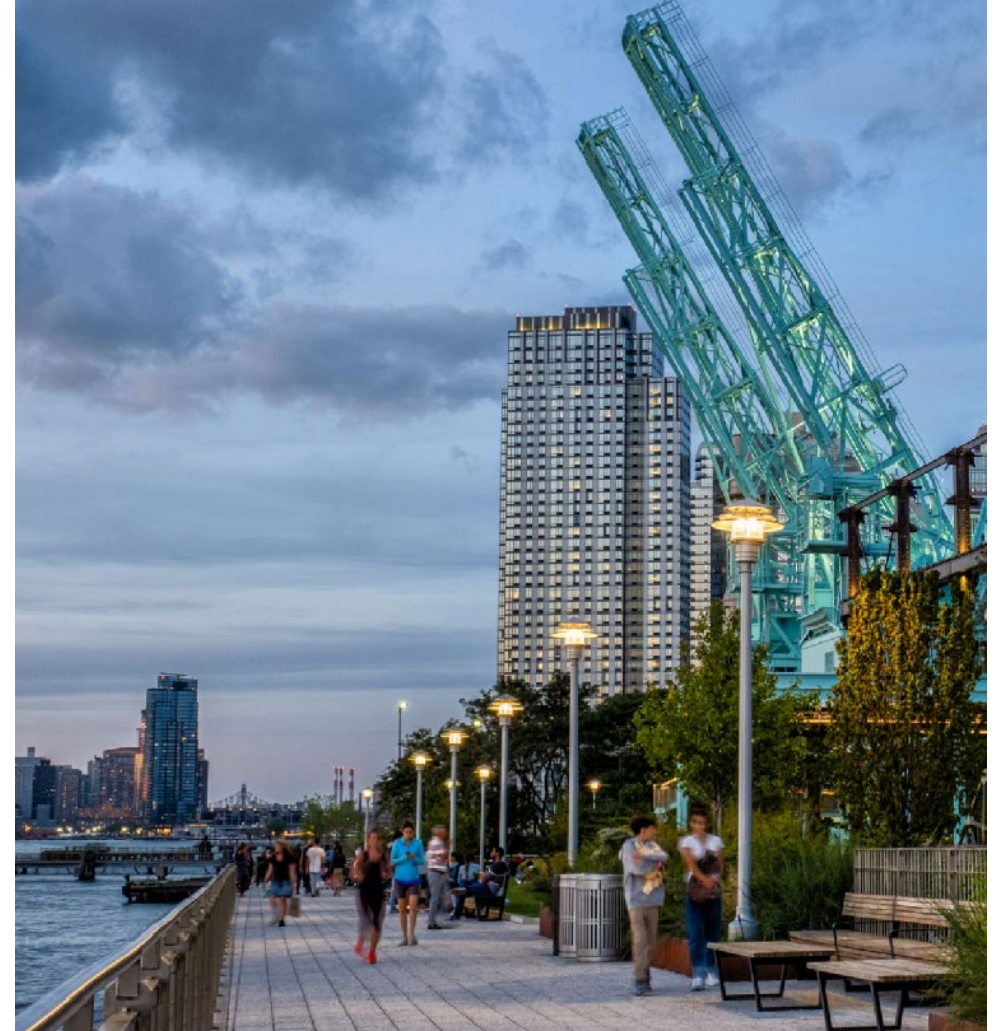
# Company – Sive, Paget & Riesel P.C.

- 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

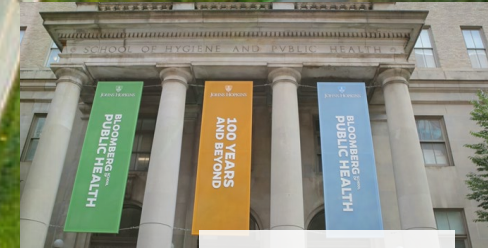


# Advice

- 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](http://www.nyc.gov/jobs)




# Celeste Perez (She/Her/Ella)

## Pre-Physical Therapy Program

Began undergraduate  
on a Pre-PT track  
completing clinical  
hours

## Universidad Veritas Costa Rica

5 month study abroad  
program \*\*motivated  
career switch\*\*



## B.S. Human Biology

State University of New  
York at Albany

## Mi Patria Puerto Rico

5 Month Capstone  
project in Isabela, PR  
(current Climate Justice  
volunteer)




## M.S. Environmental Policy and Science

Pace University  
(including Elizabeth  
Haub Law School)

## NYSERDA


Interned with the NY  
Sun Team focusing on  
disadvantaged  
communities





# 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 (I.e. 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](mailto:celeste@nyc-eja.org)

"Every great design begins with an even better story."

- Lorinda Mamo

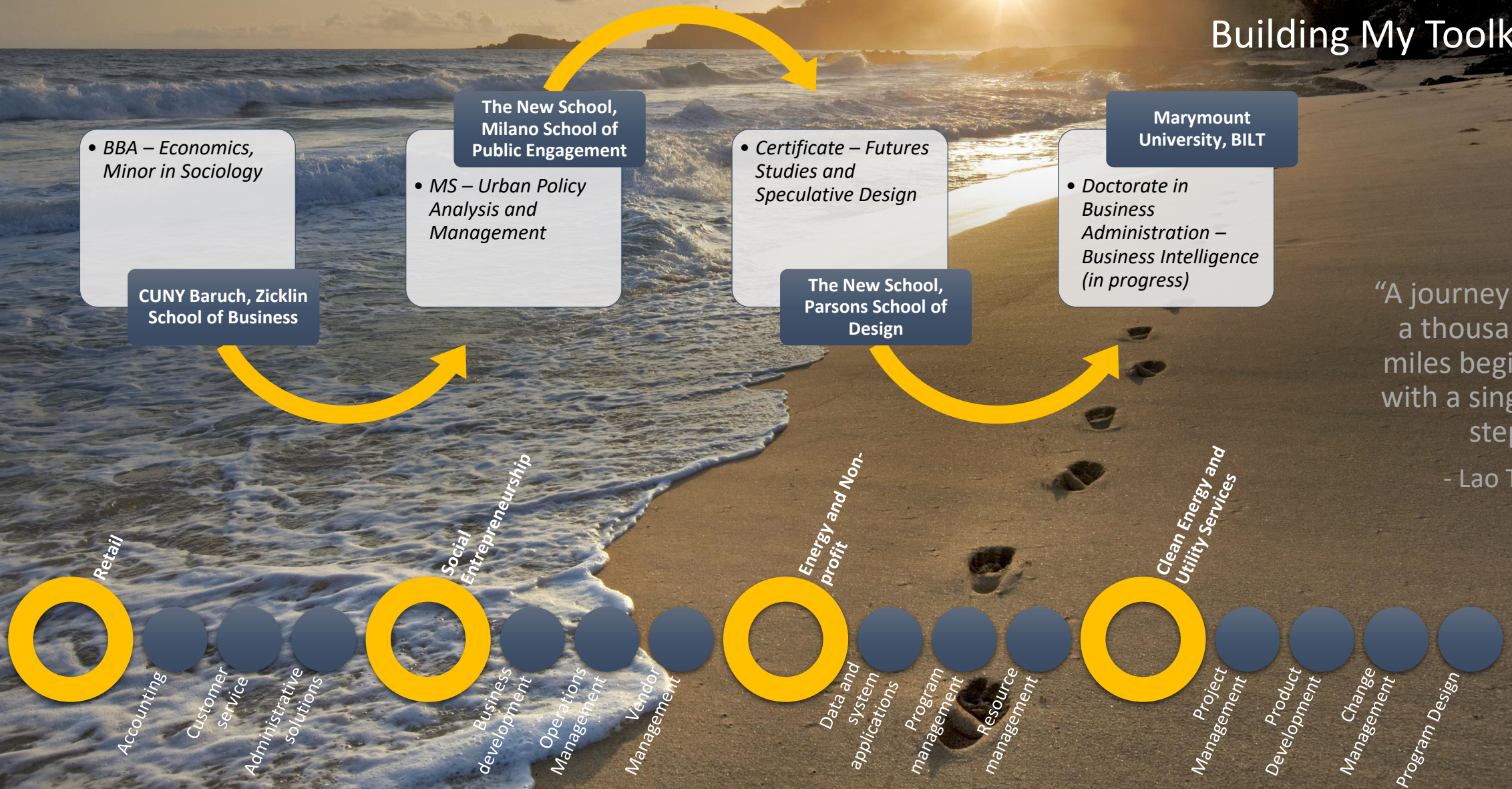
Christianna "Chrisy" Ambo-Jones

*Purpose, Intent, Impact → PII*



# Education Background and Career Journey

Building My Toolkit



“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



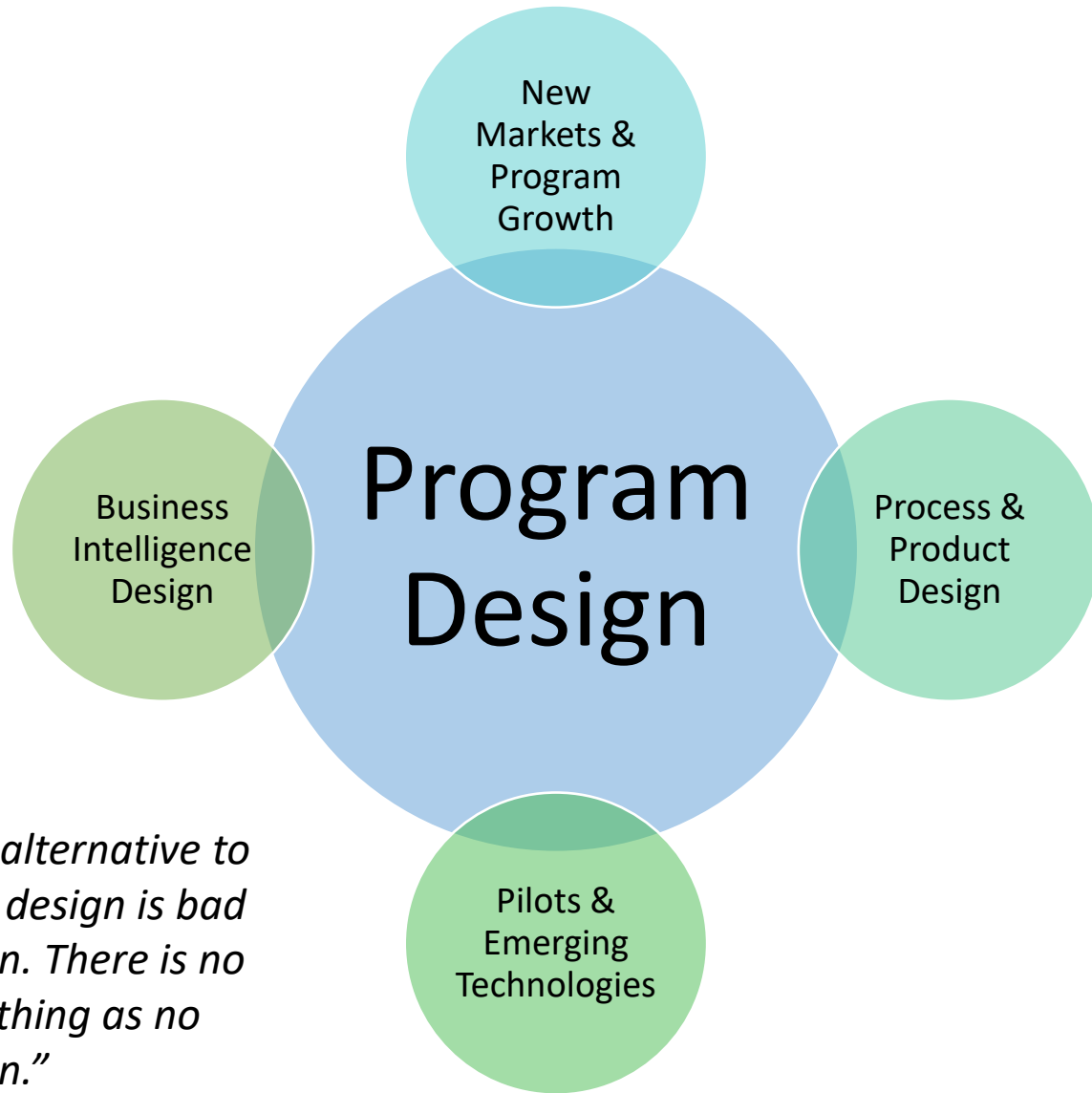
**Trusted Energy Advisor**  
Promote customer  
choice, education,  
and incentives

*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



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

- Adam Judge

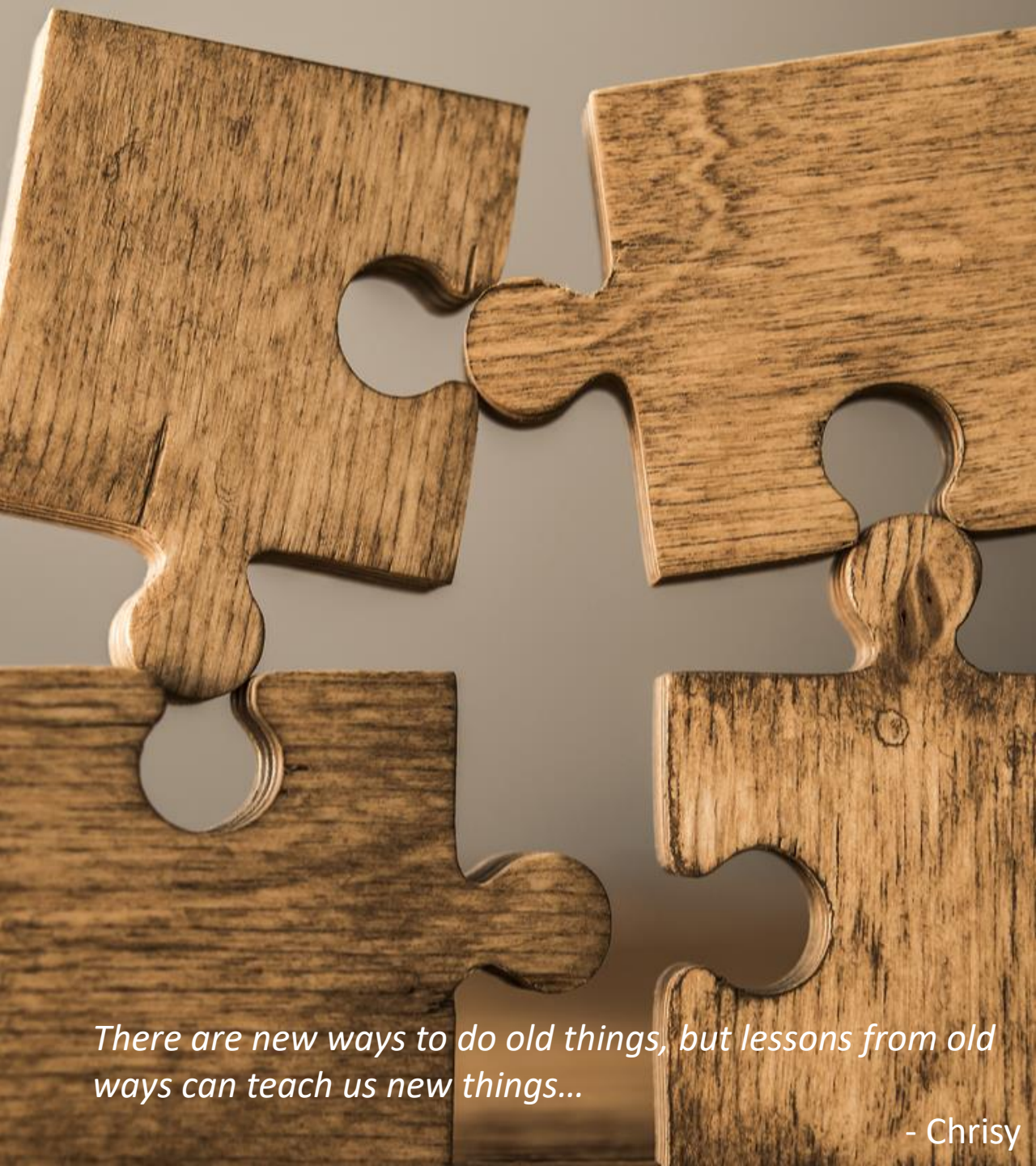
## ***Skills:***

- *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*

INTERNAL



# 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

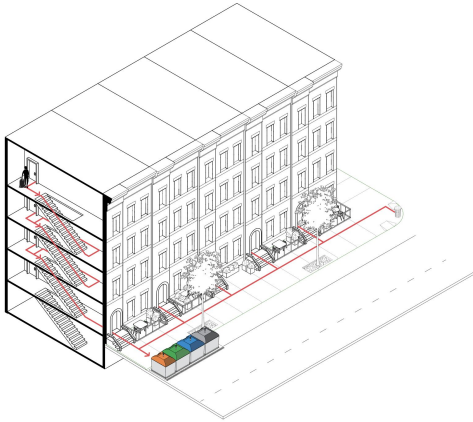
**education** Columbia MArch '24, Stanford BS PD '18



**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

CARDBOARD BALER	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
EXPENSE W/EQUIPMENT	\$9,573	\$7,573	\$7,573	\$7,573	\$7,573	\$7,573
W/OUT	\$8,508	\$8,508	\$8,508	\$8,508	\$8,508	\$8,508
SAVING	-\$1,065	\$935	\$935	\$935	\$935	\$935
CUMULATIVE SAVINGS		-\$130	\$805	\$1,740	\$2,675	\$3,610
PAYBACK	Year 3					

SHL1, SHP2, SHL2 (rented)

Zero Waste Design



for High-Density Cities

New York City, Hong Kong and Singapore

50%

30%

20%

VISUALIZATION

CONSULTING

WRITING

**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.



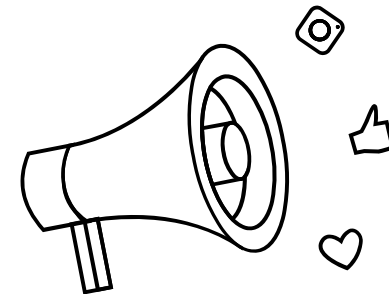




2018



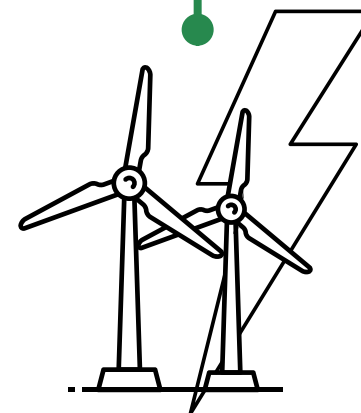
2020



2023



2019



2021

ENGINEERING FIRM -  
DESIGNING, DEVELOPING,  
AND DELIVERING  
**COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTIONS  
FROM CONCEPT TO  
COMPLETION.**

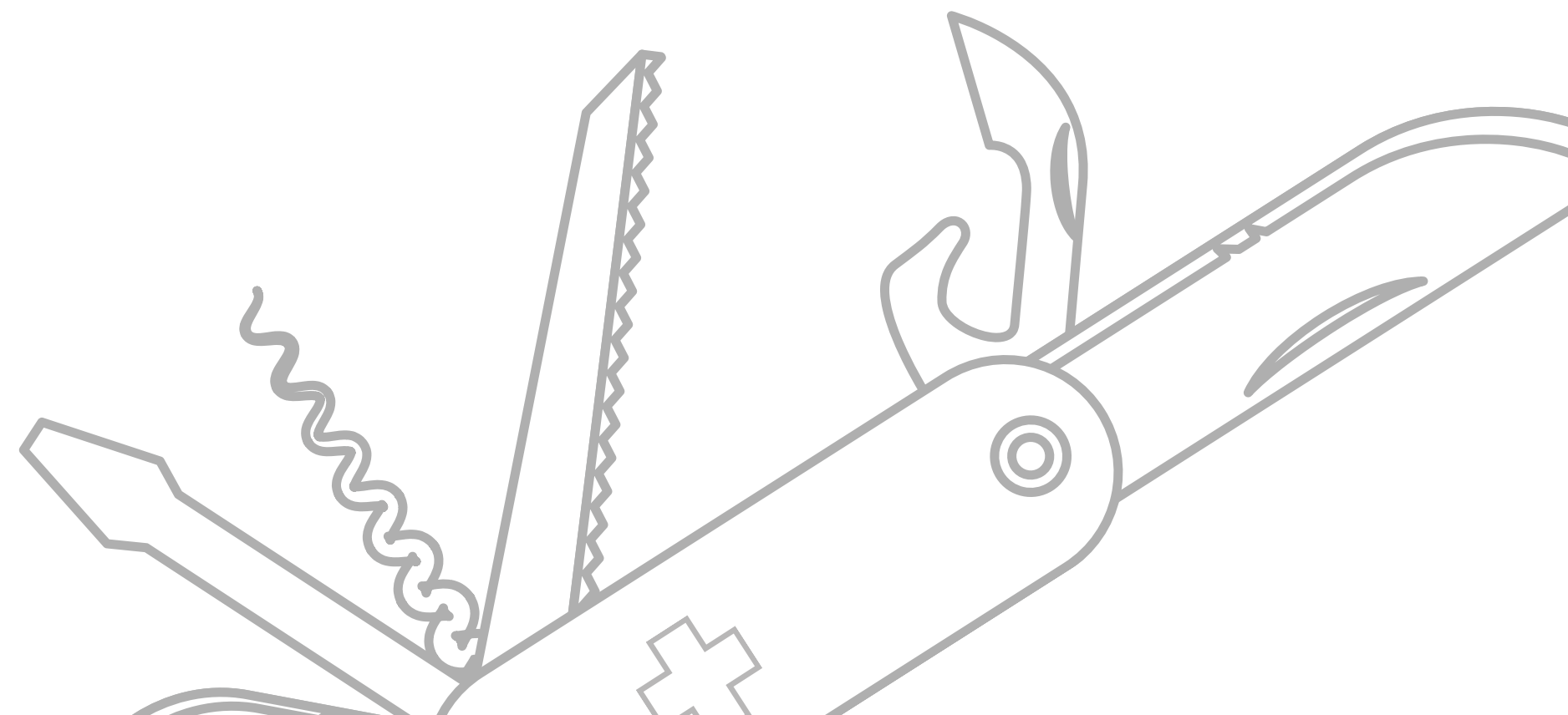
# THE MARKETING UMBRELLA: LET'S TAKE A LOOK.

- 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.

OPEN ROLES AT  
EN-POWER GROUP



Scan Me To Learn More



LET'S CONNECT



Scan for My Info



# Stay in Touch

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WISE Panel

Community Events

and more!

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LinkedIn group



@BEEexNY

#BEEexWISE

## Contact Information

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\*unable to present