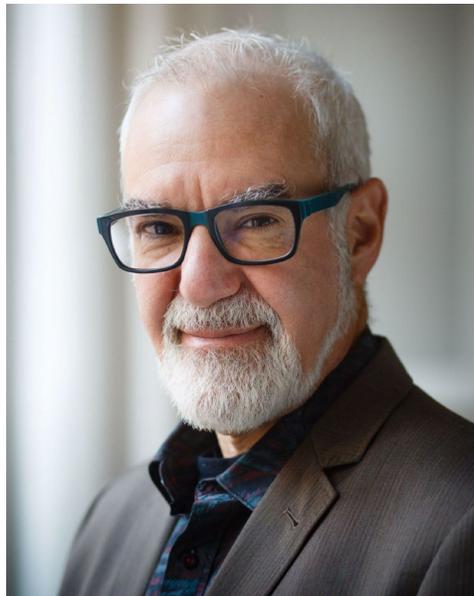




2021 GBENN Virtual Summit Speaker Biographies

Day 1: September 8, 2021

Keynote Speaker: Andrew Behar, CEO, As You Sow



Andrew Behar is the CEO of As You Sow, the nation's leading non-profit practitioner of shareholder advocacy and engagement. Since 1992, As You Sow has used shareholder power to align investments with values and compel companies to reduce material risk on issues including climate change; toxins in the food system; ocean plastics; diversity, equity, and inclusion; racial justice; and wage equity.

Mr. Behar will focus on how major corporations are working to address climate and racial equity initiatives in their corporations and the importance of disclosing information to the general public. He will discuss As You Sow's Racial Justice Scorecard and share stories of how corporations are facing their truths while putting plans in place to improve environmental, social and governance aspects of their organizations.

Panel 1: “Sustainability, Business Recovery and Resilience: Supporting Businesses During the Pandemic”



Berenice Garcia-Tellez, Economic Sustainability Specialist, Longmont Sustainable Business Program, CO

Berenice Garcia Tellez, a Mexican native and travel enthusiast, received her master’s degree in Environmental Engineering in Saudi Arabia. Other countries she has lived in include Turkey, Italy, and Norway, where she worked researching climate change. Berenice currently manages the Sustainable Business Program at the City of Longmont and works with the business community on implementing sustainable and equitable practices leading to a more thriving economy. She also sits at the Latino Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Through her work with the Chamber, Berenice has supported hundreds of Latino businesses through the COVID19 crisis, coordinated community equity clinics, and provided technical assistance to Latino-owned organizations.

Some of Berenice’s favorite figures are Elon Musk and Batman. Though the two have very different origin stories, they both rose to make a great impact in their respective communities. While Batman may be fictional, both he and Elon Musk inspire Berenice to one day do something that influences the world.



Debra Brown, Executive Director, Good Business Colorado

Debra Brown is the Executive Director and a Founder Member of Good Business Colorado – a grassroots organization of values-driven business owners working to build a prosperous economy, equitable communities, and a sustainable environment. Debra is a social entrepreneur who Co-Founded MobilizeUs, a social enterprise that is now run by a fellow GBC member and has been providing organizations with affordable and effective group text messaging services and custom SMS text messaging application development since 2005. Debra has over 25 years of experience starting and growing organizations and has served in a variety of positions ranging from the US Outreach Director for a documentary filmmaker to the Project Coordinator of the Colorado Community Organizers Collaborative Grassroots Fundraising Project and the Community Liaison for the Southern Arizona Children's Advocacy Center.



Josephine (Jo) Fleming, Executive Director, California Green Business Network

Jo has over 25 years of experience in the environmental realm in a wide breadth of scientific research, environmental remediation, commercial/industrial pollution prevention, environmental outcome data and community-based social marketing programs to address some of the most pressing environmental problems of our time. She has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental

Science and a Minor in Spanish. She has worked to establish numerous Green Business Programs, green hundreds of businesses, and serves as the Executive Director of the California Green Business Network. Jo has lived and worked all over the world.

Panel 2: “Science-Based Climate Targeting and Data Management for Small Businesses”



Toby Russel, Business Sustainability Advisor, Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE)

Toby is the lead water efficiency advisor on the PACE team. Toby has been working in the field of sustainability for over 12 years; for eight of those years, he was the as the CEO of Natural Capitalism Solutions, supported Hunter Lovins, the sustainability pioneer, in consulting with corporations, companies and communities around the country.



Cassie Carroll, Director, Illinois Green Business Association and Coordinator of the Green Business Engagement National Network (GBENN)

Cassie is the co-founder and director of the Illinois Green Business Association (IGBA), a nonprofit that helps businesses in Illinois achieve recognition for their environmental achievements. She also has served as the coordinator of GBENN for over six years, facilitating member meetings, committees, and network activities. In addition to this work, she serves as the Marketing and Outreach Program Manager at the Smart Energy Design Assistance Center (SEDAC) at the University of Illinois and a board member for greenUP!. She is a proud Champaign West Rotary member and enjoys gardening and canning produce she grows in her backyard.

Day 2: September 9, 2021



Keynote Speaker: Jarami Bond, Chief Storyteller, Bond Studio and Senior Advisor, GreenBiz.org

Featured as a 2017 GreenBiz 30 Under 30, Jarami is Chief Storyteller at Bond Studio, a visual storytelling company focused on helping companies, nonprofits, and entrepreneurs build their brands, engage their audiences, and unlock the power of their stories. Jarami also serves as Senior Advisor at GreenBiz.org, advocating for greater BIPOC representation and a deeper focus on social and environmental justice within the sustainability movement.

Mr. Bond will cover how we can build mutually-beneficial relationships that address BIPOC community needs and how to best adapt our programs or services to meet those community needs. He will discuss the best ways to partner with BIPOC communities and organizations to create more space and dialogue around sustainability and the clean economy.

Panel 3: “Advancing Equity through Sustainable Business Programming”



Berenice Garcia-Tellez, Economic Sustainability Specialist, Longmont Sustainable Business Program, CO

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Daniel Schoonmaker, Executive Director, West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum

An accomplished environmental educator, Daniel Schoonmaker is Executive Director of West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum, the state's leading organization for practitioners of beyond-compliance sustainability. He has led the development of an innovative network of sustainability champions together working to promote practices and policy that advance climate leadership, community resilience, social justice and the creation of a circular economy.

He was the lead author on the Michigan Municipal Solid Waste Valuation Study, the organizer of the Forum's Equity in Sustainability Program, and has been the facilitator of dozens of local and statewide sustainable business collaborations. Among other distinctions, he is a LEED Accredited Professional with the U.S. Green Building Council and a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps.



Elizabeth French, Business Sustainability Team Lead, Partners for a Clean Environment (PACE)

Elizabeth collaborates with community partners, develops PACE communications, and supervises several PACE advisors. Elizabeth completed the Environmental Policy and Management graduate program at the University of Denver with a concentration in Environmental Management and a certificate of advanced study in Energy and Sustainability. Prior to joining PACE, Elizabeth worked with sustainability non-profits in Denver and the Vail Valley.



Maria Corona, Media and Outreach Coordinator, California Green Business Network (CAGBN)

Corona is a bilingual sustainability professional with social media marketing, design, and environmental justice expertise. She conducts marketing efforts for the 40 programs in the California Green Business Network and is the City of Watsonville Program Director where she works with English and Spanish speaking businesses. Before joining EI, Corona was part of a team at Ecology Action working with underrepresented communities.



Brooke Wright, Strategic Initiatives Manager, Environmental Innovations and the California Green Business Network (CAGBN)

Brooke has more than 10 years of experience developing communications, marketing, and outreach solutions for mission-driven organizations. She brings substantial program, product, and team management experience to EI. Brooke manages the regional Monterey Bay Area Green Business Program and supports our business development and strategic initiatives.

Panel 4: “Increasing Access to US EPA Safer Choice-Certified Products”



Kat Compton, Pollution Prevention Coordinator, US EPA Region 10

Kat Compton is the Pollution Prevention program coordinator for EPA Region 10 and regional lead for the Safer Choice program. Kat works with colleagues from across the Agency to develop and support pollution prevention and sustainability initiatives throughout Region 10 and nationally.



Brittney Wendell, Associate Director, Pollution Prevention Resource Center (PPRC)

For nearly a decade, Brittney has guided industries in pollution prevention, moving beyond environmental compliance, and toxics reductions. With PPRC, Brittney directs the organization’s projects in Oregon. She manages the statewide EcoBiz Certification Program and facilitates

quarterly Pollution Prevention Outreach (P2O) Team meetings with members from State and local jurisdictions. Brittney also serves as President of the Board for Recycling Advocates, a nonprofit focused on waste reduction in Oregon. Brittney has a B.S. in Conservation & Resource Studies from U.C. Berkeley.



Lisa Cox, Senior Toxics Reduction Analyst, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Lisa is a nationally recognized environmental professional who works at the Oregon DEQ as their Sr. toxics reduction analyst. She implements projects that protect human health and the environment by reducing the use of toxic chemicals through many partnerships with businesses, nonprofits and educators. She focuses on administering a statewide intern program, funding toxic reduction research, supporting EPA's Safer Choice program, conducting training and building community partnerships. Lisa has worked in Washington State, Kansas and Missouri in various environmental roles in water quality, air toxics and solid waste management.



Peter Cook, Director of Programs and Collaborations, Ecology Action

Peter had developed sustainability tools and programs for various industries. He founded the Grocery Stewardship Certification Program, the leading sustainability platform for the grocery sector. He has performed sustainability audits at 800+ businesses. He has developed an extensive database of key sustainability metrics and is ISO 14001 Lead Auditor certified, Commercial

Energy Auditor trained, Building Operator Certified, and Hazardous Waste Operations certified. Peter teaches at Antioch University and the University of Maine.



Julia Presar, Residential Services Program Manager, King County Hazardous Waste Management Program, WA

Julia Singer Presar brings passion and persistence to her more than 25 years of service with the Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County. “Make it fun, make it hands-on, make it personal,” and behavior change will follow. Julia finds that asking people how they clean their home leads to conversation about hazardous materials, human health and even salmon recovery. She works as an educator and project manager for the Residential Services Program. Julia Singer Presar, BBA, M.Ed.



Katie Fellows, Project Manager, Research Services Team, King County Hazardous Waste Management Program, WA

Katie is an exposure scientist and Project Manager on the Research Services Team for the Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County, where she focuses on Safer Alternatives. Katie’s recent interests include green chemistry and alternatives assessment, using GIS to further understand environmental and social justice issues, and community efforts to

reduce lead exposure. Prior to joining the Haz Waste Program in 2019, Katie completed a doctorate at the University of Washington in Environmental and Occupational Hygiene; her dissertation focused on climate change, pesticide use, and exposure disparities in agricultural communities. Katie also has a MS in epidemiology from Harvard University.

Day 3: September 10, 2021

Keynote Speaker: Suzanne Shelton, President and CEO, Shelton Group



Suzanne Shelton is the voice and the vision of Shelton Group. Drawing on her extensive experience in energy and the environment – and 25+ years in the marketing and advertising industry – Suzanne provides high-level strategic insights for our clients and guidance for our research and creative departments.

Ms. Shelton will share her insights around customer attitudes towards sustainability and ESG initiatives in businesses across the country. Her session will provide insight on how we can pitch sustainability and ESG initiatives to businesses from a customer perspective and alert us of the latest data on consumer commitments and interest in sustainability in business.

Panel 5: “Marketing Green Business for the New Millenia”



Christy Chow, Green Business Outreach Coordinator, EnviroStars, WA

Christy is on the consultant project team at Cascadia Consulting Group and is a core member of the program administration team for the Washington EnviroStars green business program. She has a BS in Environmental Studies and Sciences, as well as a BA in Theatre Arts from Santa Clara University. She completed her Master of Science in Environmental Management in 2020 from the University of Denver. A born-and-raised Pacific Northwesterner, she’s happy to have landed in Seattle, where she loves to hike, longboard, birdwatch, and geek out about waste prevention.



Shawn Orgel-Olson, Marketing and Performance Standards Director, California Green Business Network

Shawn Orgel-Olson focuses on program operations, recruitment strategy, and standards development. He also advises the Performance Standards and Marketing Committees of the California Green Business Network.

Prior to joining the California Green Business Network, Mr. Orgel-Olson worked for the City of Santa Cruz on their Operations and Resource Recovery teams where he focused on energy efficiency, resource recovery and oversaw the City's Green Business Program. The City of Santa Cruz boasts some of the highest numbers of certified Green Businesses per capita. His experience working at Disney Consumer Products in their Sustainable Business Practices and International Labor Standards groups provides invaluable corporate sustainability experience. As a Project Coordinator for the Alliance to Save Energy at UC Berkeley he focused on projects that reduced the energy consumption of fume hoods, dormitories and campus vending machines.

Panel 6: “Integrating National and Regional Climate Goals into Business Programs”



Gail Suzuki-Jones, EERE Buildings Program and Hawaii Green Business Program Manager, Hawaii State Energy Office

Gail Suzuki-Jones, Deputy Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Program Manager, and LEED Accredited Professional in Operations + Maintenance, has worked for over 20 years with the Hawaii State Energy Office attached to the State's Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism. Gail received her Master of Architecture from University of Washington and her BA in Environmental Studies from UC Santa Cruz. She is an active member of the US Green Building Council Hawaii Chapter and AIA Honolulu. With government, non-profit, and private sector experience in the implementation of energy and resource-efficient design and construction practices, Gail works closely with business, community, government and non-profit entities through the Hawaii Green Business Program, to implement energy and resource efficient green building and green business programs, projects, events and measures.



John Katz, Pollution Prevention Program Manager, EPA Region 9

John Katz is a Pollution Prevention Coordinator at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Southwest Regional Office. He specializes in reducing toxics in products and environmentally preferable purchasing.