

May 10th 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Michigan Electric School Bus Policy Roundtable

Speaker**Bio**

Aaron Viles
Director of Campaigns,
Electrification Coalition



Aaron Viles is the Director of Campaigns for the Electrification Coalition, focused on helping accelerate community efforts to increase adoption of EVs. He is based in Lexington, KY. With over 20 years of experience in advocacy, Aaron comes to the EC from a stint in electoral politics, recently working with the Kentucky Democratic Party. Aaron brings experience with environmental, energy, and online advocacy to the EC team. He is currently the volunteer chair of the board of directors of Healthy Gulf, a New Orleans-based regional environmental group.

Sue Gander
Director, Electric School Bus
Initiative, WRI Ross Center for
Sustainable Cities



Sue Gander is the Director of the Electric School Bus Initiative. She leads a cross-organizational team in advancing the goal of electrifying the US fleet of 480,000 school buses by 2030 with a focus on equity and inclusion.

Prior to WRI, Sue was Managing Director of Policy for the Electrification Coalition, where she led policy and advocacy efforts to electrify transportation at scale. Sue was previously the Director of the Energy, Infrastructure and Environment Division at the National Governors Association for more than a decade and spearheaded work on transportation electrification, power sector modernization and resiliency. She also led initiatives on clean energy, climate change and air quality initiatives at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Center for Clean Air Policy. She has authored many reports and papers and is a frequent presenter.

Sue holds an MA in Public Affairs from the University of Wisconsin, with a certificate in Energy Analysis and Policy. She earned a BA with Honors in Public Policy from Brown University.

Sue lives with her family in Kensington, Maryland, where she enjoys riding her e-bike and walking their dog Zoey.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer
Governor of Michigan



Governor Gretchen Whitmer is a lifelong Michigander who is focused on getting things done that will make a real difference in people's lives. As governor, she has signed over 900 bipartisan bills and four balanced, bipartisan budgets to deliver on the kitchen-table issues, grow the economy, and create good-paying jobs in every region of the state.

The governor has made the largest education investments in state history four years in a row, delivering the highest state per-student funding ever, increasing on-campus mental health resources, and helping hire thousands more qualified teachers. Additionally, the governor has expanded low or no-cost child care to 150,000 kids and enrolled 35,000 four-year-olds in affordable, high-quality pre-K.

Governor Whitmer and her husband Dr. Marc Mallory live in Lansing with Kevin and Doug, the First Dogs of Michigan. Her daughters, Sherry and Sydney, are undergraduates at the University of Michigan. Her three stepsons, Alex, Mason, and Winston all live in Michigan as well. Governor Whitmer earned a bachelor's degree and law degree from Michigan State University.

Janine Ward
Program Manager, Office
of Future Mobility &
Electrification
State of Michigan



As the program manager of the State of Michigan's Office of Future Mobility and Electrification (OFME), Janine is focused on growing Michigan's mobility and electrification ecosystem and creating safer, more equitable and environmentally conscious transportation solutions for Michigan residents. Janine leads innovation growth initiatives at OFME including signature grant programs under the Michigan Mobility Funding Platform (MMFP) and state-wide testing assets. In addition to managing MMFP, she facilitates industry collaboration through various working groups convening subject matter experts to identify challenges in the state and develop solutions.

Cory Connolly
Climate and Energy
Advisor, Office of Climate
and Energy, Michigan
Department of
Environment, Great Lakes,
and Energy



Cory Connolly is climate and energy advisor, leading the Office of Climate and Energy (OCE) within the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE). The office coordinates Michigan's response to climate change across state departments and agencies and provides guidance on climate change mitigation, adaptation, and resiliency strategies.

As advisor, Cory is key in formulating and overseeing implementation of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's MI Healthy Climate plan, a road map to achieving economy-wide carbon neutrality by 2050. Cory previously served as vice president for the Institute for Energy Innovation and the Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council. He also founded the Michigan Clean Energy Leaders Project, was chief operating officer at Levin Energy Partners/Lean & Green Michigan, and worked as a senior research associate at the Environmental Law Institute.

Prior to his current position, he was appointed by Gov. Whitmer to serve on the Michigan Council on Future Mobility and Electrification and as liaison to the Michigan Council on Climate Solutions from the Council on Future Mobility and Electrification. He also was recognized with the Midwest Energy News 40 Under 40 award and the Forbes 30 Under 30 award for Law and Policy.

Cory earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in international relations from Michigan State University's James Madison College, as well as a clean energy project finance and development certificate from Yale University. A native of the northern Michigan town of Northport, Cory now lives in Detroit, where he enjoys playing basketball and tries to travel to Latin America as often as possible.

Cathy Cole
Director of Strategic
Operations Division,
Michigan Public Service
Commission



Cathy Cole is the Director of Strategic Operations for the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) and oversees the work of technical and policy advisors to the Commissioners, filings made at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and regional electric transmission organizations, as well as communications and external affairs for the organization. Cathy joined the MPSC in 2006 and prior roles included public utilities engineering specialist, executive advisor to the Chairman, and manager of resource adequacy and retail choice before assuming her current role in 2019.

Cathy is currently a member of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) Staff Subcommittee on Electric Reliability, and the Staff Subcommittee on Energy Resources and the Environment. Cathy currently serves as a mentor for the MPSC MI Power Grid Distribution System Data Access workgroup which is working to collaborate with stakeholders and utilities to create a grid integration study analyzing the expansion of distributed generation and electric vehicles in Michigan and working to improve existing hosting capacity maps. Cathy also supports the Commissioners in their roles on the Council for Future Mobility and Electrification and NARUC's Electric Vehicles State Working Group.

Prior to 2006, Cathy worked as a design engineer in the automotive industry for Tower Automotive and A.O. Smith Automotive Products Company. Cathy holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from Michigan Technological University and an MBA from the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee.

Amaad Hardy
Director of Policy and
Engagement for the Greater
Grand Rapids NAACP



Amaad Hardy is a Director of Policy and Engagement for the Greater Grand Rapids NAACP. He focuses on administrative and legislative policy structures, and works closely with a variety of community organizations on issues of civil rights and equity.

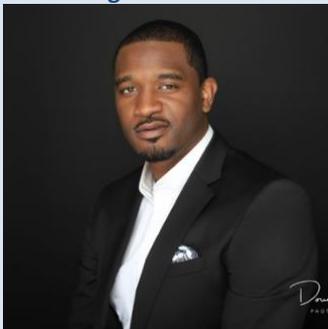
Nina Wimberley
Project Coordinator,
Southwest Detroit
Environmental Vision



Nina joined Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision in the fall of 2022 as the Air Quality Project Coordinator. At Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision, Nina has been leading the Bus Idling Project in eight schools to reduce idling and educate on the health impacts of emissions. The Healthy Business and Institutions Initiative is conducting outreach to organizations to find resources to improve the community's quality of life and health.

Previously, she was the Project Organizer for voting rights, ensuring the community had the tools to make informed decisions. She also has a strong background in teaching and has worked in various positions in Detroit Public Schools for over 10 years. In her spare time, Nina enjoys gardening and being outdoors. She loves picking up new skills and learning more about our relationship with nature.

Kareem Scales
CEO & Founder of Scales
Consulting and Co-Chair of C4



Kareem Scales is the CEO & Founder of Scales Consulting llc. He previously held the role of Executive Director for the Greater Grand Rapids NAACP where he was in charge of managing the day-to-day responsibilities within the organization including the internal complaint process and program development and implementation. Prior to joining the NAACP Kareem was a Sales Technician and UAW local 2145 Chairman with Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Michigan. As a UAW delegate he co-managed the employee grievance process and played a vital role in the collective bargaining agreement negotiations back in 2016-2017. As a Sales Technician he worked closely with a team of account managers providing direct technical assistance in the middle group sales division servicing over 500 different local employers in the West Michigan Region.

Anne Blair
Senior Director of Policy,
Electrification Coalition



Anne serves as the EC’s senior director of policy, with a focus on promoting policies and programs that will transform the transportation sector. Prior to joining EC, Anne was the Director of Energy Efficient Transportation at the Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance, overseeing strategy, programming and outreach for all of SEEA’s transportation initiatives. Before SEEA, Anne worked at the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy (SACE) as its clean fuels director, working on transportation and clean energy policy for fifteen years. She has also previously worked at The Coca-Cola Company, The Fund for Public Interest Research, Americorps and the River Network. She serves on multiple boards including the EV Club of the South, Mothers and Others for Clean Air and EarthShare of Georgia. Anne holds a bachelor’s degree from Randolph-Macon Woman’s College, and a Master’s degree in environmental law and policy from Vermont Law School. When not working on environmental and energy issues, she enjoys hiking, cycling, traveling, reading, drinking IPAs and spending time with her son, husband, Australian Shepherd and friends.

Leah Brams
Market Development
Associate, Highland Electric
Fleets



[Find Leah on LinkedIn](#)

Mujeeb Ijaz
Founder & CEO, Our Next
Energy



Mujeeb Ijaz, founder and chief executive officer of ONE, is a battery systems engineer with over 30 years of experience in the development of electric vehicles and battery systems technologies. His career work has focused on furthering the adoption of electric vehicles through advancements in battery safety, range, and cost.

Mujeeb led teams at Ford Motor Co., where he developed Ford’s Edge with HySeries Drive, the Ford Fusion Hydrogen 999 that set a land speed record at Bonneville in 2007, and the Chrysler ENVI project. He was president of A123’s Venture Technologies unit, where he and his team led the development of Li-Ion battery solutions for electric vehicles, and more recently, a senior director at Apple, where he developed novel energy storage solutions. Mujeeb holds 31 U.S. patents in the field of battery technology and energy management systems. He is a graduate of Virginia Tech.

Dick Johnson
Sales Manager, EV
Charging Systems for Borg
Warner



Dick Johnson is the Sales Manager, EV Charging Systems for Borg Warner, San Diego, CA. He joined Borg Warner after spending two years as the Strategic Accounts Manager for Nuvve Holding Inc. San Diego CA. Prior to Nuvve, Dick was Vice President of Business Development for AutoPort, Inc. in New Castle, DE where he led the development of the current Vehicle to Grid technology with the University of Delaware. Beginning in 2010, Dick collaborated with Professor Willett Kempton at the University of Delaware where 7 Toyota Scion Xb's were converted to all electric and were used to demonstrate the first proof of concept that a vehicle battery could be used to store and transmit power back and forth to the grid. Later that year the University developed a software platform that could aggregate vehicles. Dick, in partnership with U of D, AutoPort, Inc., BMW and NRG converted 20 BMW Mini Coopers that were placed throughout the state of Delaware and demonstrated that multiple vehicles at multiple locations could be aggregated to produce a virtual power generation plant using the batteries.

Nate Baguio
Senior Vice President of
Commercial Development,
The Lion Electric Co



Nate Baguio has been working in the transportation industry for over 30 years. His career has taken him from behind the wheel of a school bus to launching the largest deployment of heavy-duty electric vehicles in North America.

Currently, he is working to electrify the transportation industry as Senior Vice President of Commercial Development for one of the nation's leading EV manufacturers, The Lion Electric Co. Since joining Lion in 2018, he has helped position Lion as the leader in electric school bus deployments across North America. Baguio is leading the Commercial Development team in warming markets in target states across the United States, advocating stakeholders and policy makers to fund more money into the EV industry, and helping Lion attain more of the available funding for both Lion's bus and truck lines. His work has contributed to Lion's exponential growth in the market and position as a policy leader in the EV industry.

Congresswoman Debbie Dingell



Congresswoman Debbie Dingell represents Michigan's 6th Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives. She is a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Natural Resources Committee, where she leads on critical issues including affordable and accessible health care, clean energy and water, domestic manufacturing and supply chain resilience, and protecting our wildlife and natural resources. Growing up in beautiful Michigan, Dingell, who chairs the Great Lakes Task Force, has always been an advocate for the outdoors and commits her work in Congress to protecting the environment for generations. Dingell is focused on bringing people together – in Congress and in her communities – to support Michigan's families and the economy. This is most evident in her work to strengthen the American auto industry, maintaining America's competitiveness and ensuring good-paying American jobs. In 2021, she worked together with the White House, the auto industry, the auto workers, and environmentalists to announce the Biden Administration's goal of having 50% of new vehicles sold in 2030 be zero-emissions vehicles.

Before being elected to Congress, Dingell – a self-proclaimed car girl – worked in the auto industry for over three decades, where she was President of the General Motors (GM) Foundation and a senior executive responsible for public affairs. She was also Chairman of the Wayne State University (WSU) Board of Governors and to this day continues to fight for affordable and accessible education in Congress. She chaired the Michigan Infant Mortality Task Force, the Children's Leadership Council of Michigan, the Early Childhood Investment Corporation, the Baby Your Baby public education campaign that reduced infant mortality rates in Michigan, and has served on the board of Michigan's Children, a statewide independent voice advocating for public policies in the best interest of children of all ages.

Debbie is a respected voice in Michigan and has been named multiple times on Crain's Detroit Business' 100 Most Influential Women in Michigan list. You'll always find her out and about in Michigan's 6th District, likely perusing a farmers market or visiting a union hall – don't hesitate to come talk to her and tell her what's on your mind.

Debbie currently resides in Ann Arbor. She holds both a B.S.F.S. in Foreign Services and an M.S. in Liberal Studies from Georgetown University.

State Rep. Ranjeev Puri is a strong supporter of policies that lift up Michigan families and workers, strengthen our state's economy, and provide protection and space for diversity, equity, and inclusion. He is the House Majority Whip and is serving his second term in the Michigan House, representing Canton Township in the 24th House District.

State Representative Ranjeev Puri



Before joining the Legislature, Rep. Puri worked in financial consulting and then went on to work for President Barack Obama. After completing his MBA, Rep. Puri began his work in Detroit's automotive industry, helping solve complex business problems and developing innovative solutions to help prepare Michigan for the economy of tomorrow. He believes in holistic solutions to the challenges facing the automotive industry, from cultivating the required talent by investing in our public education system to fixing and modernizing our infrastructure and building a regional transit system to attract and retain the talent of tomorrow.

The son of immigrants and proud product of the "American Dream" Rep. Puri is a strong advocate for inclusion, equity and equality for people of all backgrounds and experiences.

Rep. Puri received his undergraduate degree in economics and finance and went on to receive his MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business in 2014. He resides in Canton Township with his wife, Nidhi, and their three young sons.

**Francisco J. Acevedo
Mobile Source Program
Manager
U.S. EPA - Region 5**



Frank is a Mobile Source Program Manager with the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Region 5 office serving the states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. Frank serves as the Mobile Source Air Pollution Expert for the Region and has been with the agency since 1991. Frank has assisted in the implementation of a number of clean fuel programs in the Region in addition to vehicle emission testing programs in Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio. He also is the technical expert for Region 5's Midwest Clean Diesel Initiative assisting states in the implementation of voluntary diesel retrofit projects, and works on EPA's Ports Initiative and Clean School Bus programs. Frank received a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Michelle Levinson
Manager of eMobility
Financial Solutions, US
Energy Program, World
Resources Institute



Michelle Levinson is Manager of eMobility Financial Solutions in the US Energy Program at the World Resources Institute. She brings expertise in electricity and transportation decarbonization, environmental markets, and project finance. Prior to joining WRI, Michelle was a consultant on transportation electrification projects at the Cadmus Group and worked in policy advocacy at the Natural Resources Defense Council and at NextGen Climate America. Michelle holds a B.A. in International Relations from Brown University and a dual Master's Degree from the Goldman School of Public Policy and the Energy and Resources Group (ERG) at University of California, Berkeley.

Kindra Weid, RN, BSN, MPH,
Coalition Coordinator, It's
Electric! Michigan's Electric
School Bus Coalition



A graduate of the University of Michigan, School of Nursing (2000), **Kindra** currently practices as a critical care RN with 20+ years of experience in nursing. She is also passionate about environmental health issues, which drove her to obtain a Master's degree in Public Health, Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (2009). Kindra has been avidly advocating for the climate, air quality and public health in Michigan since 2015 as the Coalition Coordinator for MI Air MI Health, an environmental advocacy group for health professionals. She strongly believes that everyone deserves to breathe clean, healthy air and is currently working on behalf of the Environmental Law and Policy Center and Moms Clean Air Force to advocate for electric school buses across the state and Midwest region.

Bethany Tabor
Product Manager,
Commercial Electric Vehicles
Electric Transportation
Customer Products



Bethany Tabor is the Product Manager of Consumers Energy's Commercial Electric Transportation Programs, including PowerMIDrive and PowerMIFleet. Bethany's team leads the charge in enabling business customers achieve successful deployment of public charging infrastructure, as well as helping fleet operators save money and the environment by going electric. She has been with Consumers Energy since 2015, previously serving in the Environmental Services department before joining the Electric Transportation team in 2019.

Prior to joining Consumers Energy, Bethany worked for Pacific Gas and Electric in California, supporting the decommissioning of a combined nuclear and fossil fuel power plant. She is a graduate of Michigan State University with a BA in Communications and Japanese. Bethany currently lives in Lansing with her husband and two children.

Stephen C. Seelye
Superintendent
Pellston Public Schools



Stephen Seelye taught upper elementary grades for 11 years, after which he was an elementary principal 4 years and K-12 principal for 2 years. He began his career as a Superintendent at Wolverine Community Schools for 2 years. He has now been at Pellston Public Schools for 4 years. Seelye attended Grand Valley State University for his Bachelor and Masters degrees.

Kenni Jean Schrader
Transportation Supervisor
Three Rivers Community
Schools



Kenni Jean's passion and values are to challenge innovation and growth. Her core value is to develop strong foundation relationships in everything she does, both professionally and personally. Dedicated to providing a safe transportation culture and value for our students and staff, improving the environment in which our students learn and creating goodwill throughout our community.

Kenni Jean oversees a fleet of 36 routes covering 139 square miles, transporting 1500 General Education and Special Education students daily in her adopted hometown of Three Rivers, Michigan.

The partnership with Michigan Association of Pupil Transportation Pilot Team implementing deployment of the first Electric School Buses in the state of Michigan in 2019. Pupil Transportation Operation & Management Institute Outreach & Communication Team, World Resource Institute Ambassador advocating and sharing the benefits of School Bus Electrification and 2022 National award winner of School Transportation News in Affiliation with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory Green Bus Summit.

Milena Marku
Manager, EV Strategy &
Programs, DTE Electrification
Business Development



Milena Marku is a manager of customer marketing for DTE (NYSE: DTE), a Detroit-based diversified energy company involved in the development and management of energy-related businesses and services. Currently, Milena leads the strategy and execution for DTE Electric's Charging Forward, a ~\$30M program that promotes EV education, infrastructure and adoption. In her role, Milena is responsible for working with Southeast Michigan residents, communities, businesses, and local governmental agencies to support their journey to transportation electrification and sustainability plans by activating partnerships that leverage program offerings for residential charger rebates, infrastructure incentives, and fleet advisory services. Prior to joining DTE in April 2015, Milena was a controller leading the finance team at a property management company. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in finance from Davenport University, and a M.S. in accountancy from Walsh College.

Frank Houston
Michigan Regional
Program Manager, Blue
Green Alliance



Frank is the Regional Program Manager for the BlueGreen Alliance. Since joining the BlueGreen Alliance in 2018, Frank has been a leader in BlueGreen Alliance’s work to address climate change, protect strong fuel economy standards, promote electric vehicle and good manufacturing jobs as well as encourage investing in good jobs and fair economic policies as part of a just transition for workers and communities as we move to a cleaner economy. Frank was also recently appointed to Governor Whitmer’s Environmental Justice Advisory Council.

Frank began his activism as an 18-year-old City Councilman in Ypsilanti, Michigan. Throughout his career he has been a champion in promoting fairness in the economy—most notably, for leading multiple successful campaigns to raise the minimum wage—which is how he met his wife Danielle Atkinson.

Frank and Danielle live in Royal Oak, Michigan where they continue to fight for economic, racial and social justice with their six children. He received his B.S. from Eastern Michigan University in Political Science and History with a Secondary Education Curriculum.

Ellen Vial
Michigan Environmental
Council



Ellen connects Michigan Environmental Council to environmental organizations, its member groups and Michigan residents across the state. She does so by creating and developing coalitions, partnerships and relationships of diverse backgrounds and perspectives.

The Detroit resident joined MEC in April 2020 after teaching German at Wayne State University as a graduate teaching assistant. Prior, Ellen served as a program director for ProjectArt, which provides free art classes to children, and as engagement programs manager for Metro Matters, a metro Detroit advocacy organization.

In addition to her role at MEC, Ellen serves as founder and co-director of Dance for Democracy and board member of Vote Detroit, both voter participation organizations.

Complementing the Royal Oak native’s experiences are a bachelor’s degree from University of Michigan in international relations - global health and the environment and a masters degree in German from Wayne State University.

While Ellen’s favorite natural places are along Lake Michigan, she likes Detroit a lot, too. She considers WSU’s McGregor Reflecting Pool a serene hidden gem, Motown her favorite Michigan product and “We Almost Lost Detroit” by Gil Scott-Heron among her favorite songs.

When away from work, Ellen enjoys biking, dancing with friends, listening to the radio, learning the etymologies of words and spending time with her roommates and friends, Gus, Ben and cat Gamma Ray.

About the Electrification Coalition:
www.electrificationcoalition.org