

How has the nominee contributed to transitioning America to a clean energy economy?

Rachel Myslivy is Assistant Director of the Climate + Energy Project (CEP), a Kansas-based nonprofit that works to dramatically reduce GHG emissions in the Heartland through ambitious deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy, in policy and practice. In this role, Myslivy is a rising star who stands out as a pioneering young leader in Kansas and the region, advancing the clean energy economy through coalition-building and a diverse set of programs. She is an adept communicator with the ability to bridge partisan barriers to find common ground – a core commitment of CEP that is essential for clean energy policy in the Midwest.

Myslivy's work directly engages policy for renewable energy and energy efficiency. In the last 10 years, CEP has been an instrumental force in building support for clean energy in Kansas. Kansas is now the 5th highest wind producing state, with over 5,000 MW wind capacity, and 2nd only to Iowa in the percentage of total energy consumption met by wind power. Since joining CEP in 2012, Myslivy has been a vital part of that work. She engages solutions-based dialogues on climate change, renewable energy generation, and energy efficiency local, state, and regional levels. From formal presentations to face-to-face community outreach, to blogs and live social media presentations, she is a versatile advocate who effectively communicates even complicated and politically charged information.

In addition to her tireless day-by-day contributions to this core clean energy work, Myslivy brings a uniquely creative focus on intersections between these modern energy touchstones and other important concerns. For example, she launched CEP's Water + Energy Progress initiative – a program ahead of its time, highlighting the critical linkage between water and energy conservation in this region. The program spotlights Kansas farmers and ranchers using innovative methods to save both water and energy, and some 20 Kansas producers received awards, conferred by Governor Brownback. Her orientation is fundamentally practical without sacrificing vision – she brings diverse groups together to focus on common concerns and solutions. This makes her an incredible coalition leader, building partnerships and expanding stakeholder involvement on energy and climate issues. A recent example is her leadership in the new WEALTH coalition – an acronym for water, energy, air, land, transportation, and health. This works creatively connects a wide range of partner organizations (Kansas Rural Center, Kansas City NAACP, Kansas Natural Resources Council, among others) with the core clean energy mission of the CEP.

BIO

Rachel Myslivy holds an MA in Religious Studies and Environmental Studies from the University of Kansas and Teaching Leadership Certification from the Kansas Leadership Center. Myslivy co-founded the Kansas Women's Environmental Network. As an oral historian and independent filmmaker, Rachel has produced videos for the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology and Kansas Rural Center, among others. KU designated Myslivy a distinguished young alumni. In 2013, she received KU's Sustainability Leadership Award, and in 2015, the Kansas Association for Conservation and Environmental Education Award for Excellence in the nonprofit sector. She lives in Lawrence, KS.