

## **SOPEC expands with directors of marketing, finance and administration added to team**

In addition to adding Luke Sulfridge as the new executive director on July 1st, the Southeast Ohio Public Energy Council (SOPEC) has recently hired Mathew (Mat) Roberts as the director of marketing and Joyce Arias as the director of finance and administration.

Mat Roberts, 27, helped start UpGrade Athens County, which was originally a special project of SOPEC and later became its own nonprofit, UpGrade Ohio – Rural Action acquired UpGrade Ohio in mid-2018 and is now the Sustainable Energy Solutions program.

“We are excited to have Mat join our team. Mat brings a wealth of knowledge and enthusiasm for renewables that will enhance our ability to serve our member communities,” said Luke Sulfridge.

Joyce Arias, 40, oversees SOPEC’s daily operations and organizational efficiency. Joyce comes has over a decade of experience in corporate customer service, operations and translation.

Sulfridge said, “Bringing Joyce onto our team allows SOPEC to continue growing in its program offerings and quality of interaction with the communities we serve.”

Roberts has a BA of Journalism from Ohio University’s E.W. Scripps School of Journalism, with an emphasis on strategic communications and environmental sociology. Arias graduated from St. John’s University with a BA in Legal Studies and an AS in Paralegal from Nassau Community College.

SOPEC is a council of local governments currently serving the energy needs of Amesville, Athens, Athens County, Buchtel, Chauncey, Jacksonville, Logan, New Straitsville, Shawnee, Somerset, and Trimble.

On November 5, 2019, Glenford, New Lexington, Coolville, and unincorporated Perry County, Ohio will have the opportunity to pass electric aggregation as well.

Aggregation is a powerful tool for communities to advance their energy goals and development. SOPEC is governed by its member communities.



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## Executive Director Luke Sulfridge recognized as clean energy leader by Energy New Network

Luke Sulfridge, executive director of SOPEC, was among those honored this month at the Midwest Energy News' 40 under 40 awards ceremony for 2019. Sulfridge became the executive director of SOPEC in July of this year. Previously, Sulfridge served as the first Ohio Director for Solar United Neighbors. Sulfridge helped hundreds of Ohioans go solar and built the program up to a catalyst for over a million dollars of private investment in distributed generation each year.

Midwest Energy News' 40 Under 40 awards program highlights emerging leaders throughout the region and their work in America's transition to a clean energy economy.

Each year, Midwest Energy News recognizes Midwest-based leaders and innovators from all sectors—industry, government, regulatory, business, academia, nonprofit, and advocacy. Those selected are invited to the Honorees Reception in Chicago to celebrate and network with the prestigious advisory committee and past award recipients.



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