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# Donna U. Hope

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Donna@uhope-consulting.com

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## EDUCATION

- **M.Sc.**, Environmental Engineering - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI), Troy, NY 2003  
*Dual Degree Undergraduate Engineering Program:*
- **B.S.**, Civil Engineering, Environmental Concentration - RPI, Troy, NY 2000
- **B.S.**, General Science and Engineering, Mathematics Minor - Spelman College, Atlanta, GA 2000

## CONSULTING

**Bezos Earth Fund** 2023

- Equity consultant:
  - Evaluating, summarizing, and preparing interim and final reports for existing and pending grantees of the equity and environmental justice portfolio.

**NYC Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice / Buro Happold** 2022 - 2023

- DEI Sub-Contractor:
  - Communicated issues, justified conclusions reached, and recommended courses of action in the City of New York's first ever environmental justice evaluation, analysis, web portal and strategic report release;
  - Led 16 formal interviews and surveys with environmental justice and community based leaders and stakeholders around the 5 boros, and evaluated, summarized and prepared reports for all;
  - Performed formal and informal briefings and presentations to high-level management, Advisory Board and Intergovernmental Panel, collaborators and stakeholders to gain support about expanded outreach approach.

**The JPB Foundation – Environment Division** 2015 – 2020

- Equity consultant:
  - Evaluated, summarized, and prepared reports for grant advisement of youth climate justice organizations, resulting in new inter-foundation partnership granting \$4M to 40 organizations;
  - Performed formal and informal briefings and presentations, and extensive meeting coordination and facilitation for high-level management, Boards of Governance, philanthropic partners, and grantees;
  - Developed Progress Tracker tools and techniques to support efforts to evaluate, summarize, and prepare reports on risks and operational weaknesses for new grantees, which has been implemented as a template for program officers.

**American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE)** 2019 – 2020

- Equity consultant:
  - Developed tools and techniques to support efforts for targeted outreach to DMV- regional HBCUs and other national Minority Serving Institutions for recruitment of full-time, high-level jobs;
  - Performed formal and informal briefings, interviews, presentations and prepared reports to senior level staff and Board of Governors communicating issues, justifying conclusions reached, and recommending courses of action to support organizational diversity, equity, and inclusion for improving internal relations and retention of staffers and board members of color.

**Sustainable Westchester & City of New Rochelle** 2019 – 2020

- Campaign Director:
  - Communicated issues, justified conclusions reached, and recommended courses of action around sustainability initiatives to high-level management, educators, and city officials;
  - Led outreach and advocacy of energy efficiency incentives and rebates to LMI homeowners and renters in New Rochelle.

**EcoDistricts** 2019 – 2020

- Racial equity advisor:
  - Evaluated, summarized, and prepared reports on risks and operational weaknesses to staff and

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Board on barriers for environmental professionals of color to become EcoDistricts Accredited Professionals;

- Developed first environmental justice training manual tool and techniques;
- Communicated issues, justified conclusions reached, and recommended courses of action to support efforts for expanding outreach and recruitment;
- Performed formal and informal briefings and presentations on DEI to high level staff, accredited professionals, and stakeholders at Minneapolis annual summit.

## **The Trust for Public Land**

2018 – 2019

- Equity consultant:
  - Evaluated, summarized, and prepared reports on risks and operational weaknesses on pre-existing organizational directives to senior level staff and Boards of Governance;
  - Communicated issues, justified conclusions reached, and recommended courses of action towards the development of the new strategic plan to center climate justice and DEI.

## **U.S. Department of Energy – National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL)**

2017 – 2018

- Equity consultant:
  - Evaluating, summarizing, and preparing reports on risks and weaknesses from pre-existing operations of the Collegiate Wind Competition;
  - Communicated issues, justified conclusions reached, and recommended courses of action to NREL senior level staff and academic institution representatives to expand audience reach and inclusivity to BIPOC students and Minority Serving Institutions;
  - Resulted in increased participation of women engineering students from a Hispanic Serving Institution, and the entry of the first HBCU collegiate competitors from Tuskegee Institute.

## **Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)**

2015

- Equity consultant:
  - Performed site visits and conducted O&M analysis of the affordable building portfolio in the Center for Market Innovation division;
  - Evaluated, summarized, and prepared reports to advance economic equity for low-income residents of color in the Energy Efficiency for All initiative.

## **VOCATIONS**

### **Spelman College / Berklee College of Music**

2023

- Strategic Advisor:
  - Strategic coordination and management of a new cross-registration initiative between the prestigious HBCU women's college Spelman and the world renowned music institution Berklee;
  - Leading evaluation of short and long-term financial needs and discovery of potential funding sources to support cross-registration and reinstatement of Spelman's Jazz Ensemble.

### **New York University, School of Arts & Sciences, Dept. Social & Cultural Analysis**

2023

- Adjunct Professor for undergraduate course *Urban Environmentalism*:
  - Leading weekly in-person discussion and evaluation of domestic and international climate-related policies and programs to 30 undergraduates;
  - Evaluating extensive reading, writing, and presentation assignments over the 15-week period.

### **Emerald Cities Collaborative**

2021-2022

- Just Transition PowerForce Director:
  - Management of 15 energy democracy leaders strategically advising climate justice for Microsoft C-Suite executives, primarily in the Cloud Operation + Innovation Division and Corporate External and Legal Affairs Division;
  - Performed several formal and informal briefings and presentations to high-level corporate management around environmental justice and corporate accountability;
  - Evaluated risks and operational weaknesses to develop new measurement & evaluation framework

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- tool for equitable engagement, and best practices manual for renewable energy developers;
- Launched \$200,000 “Zero Waste Westside” initiative in Atlanta, GA supporting 3 local BIPOC businesses;
- Communicated issues, justified conclusions reached, and recommended courses of action in collaboration with Chisholm Legacy Project towards the creation of new OKRs (Objectives and Key Results) for corporate-wide EJ implementation.

## **NYC Mayor’s Office of Sustainability / Institute for Market Transformation (IMT)** 2012 – 2015

- Policy Advisor:
  - Performed formal and informal briefings and presentations to high-level NYC agency leaders, real estate management and stakeholders to gain support and increase advocacy around implementation of the Greener, Greater Buildings Plan of PlaNYC 2030 – Local Laws 84, 86, 87 and 88, impacting over 2.6 billion sq ft of NYC’s public and private real estate over 50,000 sq ft in size;
  - Communicated issues, justified conclusions reached, and recommended courses of action as the official NYC representative for LL84 input tool US EPA ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager to official city government officials around the country;
  - Developed and implemented tools and techniques to support efforts to evaluate, summarize, and streamline benchmarking efforts, including launching a monthly outreach newsletter that grew to over 3,000 subscribers;
  - Led analysis of energy and water benchmarking results to co-author the first three NYC Benchmarking Reports.

## **New York City Local Law 84 Benchmarking Help Center** 2011 – 2012

- Inaugural Program Manager and Supervisor:
  - Managed and trained staff of 10, handling 1,200 assistance calls to constituents benchmarking energy and water usage for the first time;
  - Communicated issues, justified conclusions reached, and recommended courses of action as the technical liaison between New York City agencies (MOS, DOB, DOF, DEP, CUNY BPL), New York State agencies and utility companies (NYSERDA, CON ED, National Grid), and the federal partner (US EPA);
  - Instrumental in NYC achieving 75% compliance in first year of LL84 adoption.

## **Vokashi Compost Kitchen Waste Solutions** 2009 – 2011

- Vice President:
  - Performed formal and informal briefings and presentations to NYC Solid Waste Advisory Board, stakeholders, students, and the public for outreach and advocacy around compost and food waste recovery;
  - Communicated issues and recommending courses of action to President to streamline distribution and delivery methods;
  - Co-managed collection and distribution of compost kits from dozens of households and commercial businesses, and on-site trenching at several NYC community gardens and urban farms;
  - Resulted in an expanded business model, improved marketing, new merchandise, and 40% increase in clientèle.

## **Roux Associates Engineering Firm** 2007 – 2009

- Project Manager:
  - Evaluated, summarized, and prepared technical design reports for several multi-million-dollar EIS phase I, II and III projects, including bioremediation treatments and erosion control techniques;
  - Site Safety Officer overseeing ground excavation, monitoring well installations, and soil borings.

## **Malcolm Pirnie Engineering Firm (since acquired by Arcadis)** 2003 – 2007

- Project Engineer:
  - Lead developer and calibrator of the 2-D geospatial hydraulic model of the water distribution

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- system of NYC, commissioned by the NYC DEP;
- Performed formal and informal briefings and presentations to internal high-level engineering management, NYC DEP officials, and NYC FDNY supporting the field assessment and community outreach;
  - Implemented tools and techniques to identify risks and operational weaknesses by managing a 5 borough, 100 fire hydrant water pressure test procedure, and conducting several site visits to water distribution branches and wastewater treatment facilities for model calibration;
  - Evaluated, summarized, and prepared reports on those risks and operational weaknesses;
  - Trained entry-level engineers on hydraulic principles and modelling software.

## BOARDS OF GOVERNANCE

### **Sol Systems Community Impact Funding Advisory Board Member** 2021– 2023

- Communicated issues, justified conclusions reached, and recommended courses of action to the solar energy finance and development firm Sol Systems, in collaboration with the Just Transition PowerForce:
  - Oversight of Sol Systems \$1.5M grants and investments to support transformative community-led sustainability and resiliency projects towards their long-term solar energy PPA with Microsoft.

### **Climate Reality Leadership Corps. NYC-Metro chapter** 2017 – 2020

- DEI Co-Chair for 1<sup>st</sup> regional chapter of the international charitable organization founded by Vice President Al Gore:
  - Performed monthly formal and informal briefings, presentations, and mentorship to local members;
  - Evaluated, summarized, and prepared reports on risks and operational weaknesses of outreach and advocacy to national executives.

### **Center for Diversity & the Environment, NYC chapter** 2013 – 2017

- Co-Chair of NYC Environmental Professionals of Color chapter:
  - Performed formal and informal briefings and presentations to BIPOC professionals defending outreach and advocacy for diversity, equity, justice, and inclusion in environmental sectors.

## PHILANTHROPIC GRANTMAKING ADVISORY

### **Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. DEI Capacity Building Grant Initiative** 2020

- Performed formal and informal briefings and presentations to high-level management of DDCP defending my position for grant support to community-based organizations around the nation:
  - Resulted in regranting over \$1M to 18 conservation organizations to help support their diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.
- Evaluated, summarized, and prepared reports on internal risks and operational weaknesses of DDCF to identify ways to practice grantmaking in a more inclusive way

### **WE ACT for Environmental Justice. NYS Environmental Justice Grant Initiative** 2020

- Performed formal and informal briefings and presentations to high-level management in the non-profit environmental justice organization WE ACT, and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, to defend my positions to regrant to New York State community-based organizations:
  - Resulted in regranting \$1M to bolster the capacity of 18 groups advancing environmental justice.

## CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY

### **US Action for Climate Empowerment (US ACE). Strategic Planning Framework** 2020

- Communicated issues, justified conclusions reached, and recommended courses of action for developing progressive framework for US climate change adaption policies:
  - Resulted in the publication *Resetting Our Futures: Empowering Climate Action in the United States*. Bowman, Tom & Morrison, Deb, editors. 2021.

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- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County. Energy Navigators** 2020
- Performed formal and informal briefings and presentations on energy efficiency advocacy to gain support from renters and homeowners across New York State.
- ENRAC / EnergySmart Homes** 2019 – 2021
- Communicated issues, justified conclusions reached, and recommended sustainability and energy efficiency courses of action for the City of New Rochelle, NY:
    - Performed formal and informal briefings and presentations to City officials and local citizens to gain support.
- Sustainable United Neighborhoods (SUN)** 2019 – 2020
- Communicated issues, justified conclusions reached, and recommended courses of action for sustainability initiatives in Bushwick, Brooklyn
- Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Green Fund** 2015 – 2018
- Communicated issues, justified conclusions reached, and recommended courses of action to administrators, faculty, staff, students, and alumni for how the 100+ HBCUs can expand their endowments and improve energy efficiency
- Demos. Climate Equity Advisory Committee** 2015 – 2017
- Communicated issues, justified conclusions reached, and recommended courses of action to high-level management, including President Emeritus Heather McGhee, for organizational expansion into climate justice
- The Raben Group. Green 2.0 Working Group Advisor** 2014 – 2019
- Communicated issues, justified conclusions reached, and recommended courses of action to high-level management at the nation's leading NGOs, government agencies and philanthropy around environmental diversity
  - Developed tools and techniques to support efforts to evaluate, summarize, and prepare reports to advance these initiatives, as featured on <https://diversegreen.org/>
  - Researched and recommended several of the nation's leading BIPOC climate and environmental justice professionals for features circulated in the monthly newsletter

## PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

- New Rochelle, Westchester County, NY.** 2005 – Present
- Landlord and Property Manager of 2-family, 3-story, 19<sup>th</sup> century rental property.
  - Retrofit steam boiler to all electric air source heat pumps utilizing the NYSERDA Clean Heat Program:
    - Decommissioning and removal of the 30-year-old gas-fired steam boiler, asbestos remediation, removal of 14 cast iron radiators, installation of 13 ceiling mounted mini splits with 4 outdoor condensers and 3 toe-kick heaters, and complete upgrade of base building electrical panels and internal wiring;
    - Oversight and project management with expert advice of the Cornell Cooperative Extension Energy Advisors and Sustainable Westchester to streamline the process.
- Brooklyn, Kings County, NY.** 2014 – 2017
- Co-op Board Secretary and Property Manager of 21-unit, 5-story, pre-war HDFC multi-family mixed co-op & rental property.
  - Communicated issues, justified conclusions reached, and recommended courses of action around base building systems O&M, energy efficiency retrofits, and resident management.