

Donna U. Hope

www.uhope-consulting.com

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

UHOPE CONSULTING CONTRACTS

NYSERDA / Cornell Cooperative Extension Dutchess County 2022 - 2026

- Sub-Contractor of the Mid-Hudson Regional Clean Energy Hub to support a more inclusive clean energy economy that benefits the most historically underserved of the 2.5 million residents in these 7 counties of NY.
- The Mid-Hudson region is tied with NYC for highest percentage of disadvantaged communities at 45% of the census tract. Counties include Ulster, Putnam, Dutchess, Sullivan, Orange, Rockland, and Westchester.

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

- Sub-Contractor for strategic advisement on first of its kind environmental justice evaluation, analysis, web portal development and strategic reporting by the City of New York.
- Led stakeholder interviews with 16 EJ and community based organizational leaders around the 5 boros.

The JPB Foundation – Environment Division 2015 – 2020

- Discovery and advisement of monetary support of youth climate justice organizations, resulting in new partnership with FCYO to establish the Youth Organizing for Climate Action and Racial Equity (YO-CARE) Capacity Building Fund, granting \$4M to 40 organizations.
- Advisement, Progress Report reviews and grantee group meeting coordination of grantees supporting the State Implementation Plans of the Obama Administration Clean Power Plan addressing environmental justice.

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

- Strategic advisement for targeted outreach to DMV- regional HBCUs and other national Minority Serving Institutions for recruitment of full-time, high-level jobs.
- Organizational diversity, equity and inclusion assessment and advisement for improving internal relations and retention of staffers and board members of color.

Sustainable Westchester & City of New Rochelle 2019 – 2020

- Sustainable advisor and Campaign Director leading outreach and advocacy of energy efficiency incentives and rebates to LMI homeowners and renters in New Rochelle.

EcoDistricts 2019 – 2020

- Racial equity advisor to staff and Board for expanding outreach and recruitment to environmental professionals of color to become EcoDistricts Accredited Professionals.
- Drafted first environmental justice training manual and presented on DEI at Minneapolis annual summit.

The Trust for Public Land 2018 – 2019

- Equity consultant assisting with 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

- Strategic advisement initiatives to expand audience reach and inclusivity of the Collegiate Wind Competition to Minority Serving Institutions. Led to increased participation of women engineering students from a Hispanic Serving Institution, and the entry of the first HBCU collegiate competitor.

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) 2015

- Analysis and site visits of the affordable building portfolio in the Center for Market Innovation division.
- Recommendations to advance economic equity for low-income residents of color in Energy Efficiency for All.

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FULL TIME POSITIONS

Emerald Cities Collaborative

2021-2022

- Just Transition PowerForce Director of 15 energy democracy and environmental justice leaders leading climate justice strategic advisement for Microsoft's Cloud Operation + Innovation, and Corporate External and Legal Affairs Divisions.
- Led several multi-day virtual EJ workshops for Microsoft C-Suite executives; co-created new Measurement & Evaluation Framework scorecard rubric for equitable engagement; drafted Best Practices manual for renewable energy developers; launched \$200,000 Atlanta zero-waste pilot supporting local businesses; and supported creation of new OKRs for corporate-wide EJ implementation.

NYC Mayor's Office of Sustainability / Institute for Market Transformation (IMT)

2012 – 2015

- Policy Advisor hired by partnership between IMT and NYC, supported by Kresge and Rockefeller Family Foundation grants, during administrations of Mayors Michael R. Bloomberg and William de Blasio.
- Led 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.
- NYC representative for LL84 input tool US EPA ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager; led analysis of energy and water benchmarking results and co-authored first three Benchmarking Reports.

New York City Local Law 84 Benchmarking Help Center

2011 – 2012

- Supervisor managing staff of 10 handling 1,200 assistance calls to constituents benchmarking energy and water usage for the first time. Tech liaison between City, state, and federal partners.
- Instrumental in NYC achieving 75% compliance in first year of LL84 adoption.

Vokashi Compost Kitchen Waste Solutions

2009 – 2011

- Increased clientele 40% by expanding business model and streamlining distribution and delivery methods.

Roux Associates Engineering Firm

2007 – 2009

- Project Manager and Site Safety Officer for several multi-million-dollar EIS phase III remediation projects.

Malcolm Pirnie Engineering Firm (since acquired by Arcadis)

2003 – 2007

- Lead developer of 2-D NYC water distribution system hydraulic model, commissioned by the NYC DEP.
- Managed fire hydrant water pressure testing with the NYC FDNY around the 5 boros for model calibration. Conducted several site visits to water distribution branches, and wastewater treatment facilities.

BOARDS OF GOVERNANCE

Microsoft - Sol Systems Community Fund. Impact Advisory Board Member

2021– Present

- Advisory member, representing the Just Transition PowerForce, to solar energy finance and development firm Sol Systems, to evaluate and advise on solar energy procurement investment in under-served and disproportionately impacted communities.
- Over Microsoft's 20-year procurement horizon, approximately \$50M will be allocated to grants and investments that support transformative community-led sustainability and resiliency projects.

Climate Reality Leadership Corps. NYC-Metro chapter

2017 – 2020

- DEI Co-Chair for 1st regional chapter of the international charitable org founded by Vice President Al Gore.

465 Eastern Parkway HDFC. Co-op Board Secretary, Property Manager

2014 – 2017

- Energy efficiency advisor of 21-unit multi-family co-op building in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, NYC.

Center for Diversity & the Environment. Environmental Professionals Of Color

2013 – 2017

- Co-Chair of NYC chapter of professional networking group for people of color in environmental sectors.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

New Rochelle, Westchester County, NY.

2005 – Present

- Landlord and Property Manager of 2-family rental property.
- Managed conversion from gas-fired boiler steam heat to all electric air source heat pumps, which will be highlighted as a case study for the Mid-Hudson Regional Clean Hubs.

PHILANTHROPIC GRANTMAKING ADVISORY

- Doris Duke Charitable Foundation. DEI Capacity Building Grant Initiative** 2020
- Advisory Community Member reviewing over 300 applications for 2-year capacity building grants.
 - Led to granting 18 conservation organizations over \$1M to help support their DEI work.
 - Assisted DDCF self-evaluate and identify ways to practice grantmaking in a more inclusive way.
- WE ACT for Environmental Justice. NYS Environmental Justice Grant Initiative** 2020
- Review Panel Member to regrant \$1M from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to bolster the capacity of 18 organizations and groups advancing environmental justice throughout New York State.

CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY

- US Action for Climate Empowerment (US ACE). Strategic Planning Framework** 2020
- Public/private collaboration developing progressive framework for US climate change adaptation policies.
- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Dutchess County. Energy Navigators** 2020
- Intensive virtual course on energy efficiency advocacy for renters and homeowners across New York State.
- ENRAC / EnergySmart Homes** 2019 – 2021
- Energy efficiency advisory board member for the City of New Rochelle, NY.
- Sustainable United Neighborhoods (SUN)** 2019 – 2020
- Advisory member of sustainability organization based in Bushwick, Brooklyn.
- Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Green Fund** 2015 – 2018
- Advisory member of organization providing education around HBCU endowments and energy efficiency.
- Demos. Climate Equity Advisory Committee** 2015 – 2017
- Advisory member assisting organization broach into climate justice, under leadership of Heather McGhee.
- The Raben Group. Green 2.0 Working Group Advisor** 2014 – 2019
- Advisory member of the environmental diversity initiative for NGOs, government agencies and philanthropy.

PUBLIC SPEAKING & PRESENTATIONS

- “Making Justice40 a Reality – Regional Perspective” 2022 BIPOC Climate Justice Dialogue. HBCU Green Fund, the Land Peace Foundation, the BIPOC Scholars Project, and the U.S. ACE (via video) April 2022
- “[The Power of this Moment: Recommendations from the BIPOC Climate Justice Dialogue on Collaboration Efficiency for Justice40](#)” U.S. Climate Action Center at COP26, Glasgow, Scotland (via video) Nov 2021
- “[Cooperative Works Report Launch Event](#)” Urban Design Forum Forefront Fellows (via video) Feb 2021
- “[Environmental Justice & Black Lives Matter](#)” Ecological Institute | Post Carbon Cities of Tomorrow June 2020
- “[Women Advancing Climate Policy Solutions](#)” Omega Institute, Project Drawdown Learn. Oct 2019
- “[Unpacking the Green New Deal: The Critical Importance of Equity](#)” “ “ “ “ Oct 2019
- “[More Green, Less White: Diversity in the Environmental Movement](#)” The City Club of Cleveland. Mar 2019
- “[Climate Reality Leaders: Who We Are.](#)” Climate Reality Leadership Corps. Pittsburgh, PA Oct 2018
- “[The Green Hour](#)”. WURD 900AM Philadelphia Radio Show. Sept 2016

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Climate Reality Project – Mentor
- Doris Duke Conservation Scholars – Mentor
- EcoDistricts – Accredited Professional
- ELP, Environmental Leadership Program – Senior Fellow
- LEED USGBC – Green Associate
- POCATIO, Post Carbon Cities of Tomorrow – Fellow
- Urban Design Forum – Forefront Fellow
- WRISE, Women of Renewable Industries and Sustainable Energy – Member