

Diane Cherry

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HIGHLIGHTED QUALIFICATIONS

Diane Cherry has worked for 25 years in the energy and environmental fields. Prior to starting her own consulting firm in 2019, she worked in both local and federal government positions, within private industry, the education field, and at a sustainable energy-focused non-profit. Diane has consulted for clean energy businesses, environmental and clean energy advocates and non-profits, local governments, higher education institutions, military facilities, and individual entrepreneurs. She has extensive experience in policy and communications on environmental issues, energy markets, clean energy technology, and renewable energy finance throughout the United States. She is an adept strategic advisor for industry and others around decarbonization and new business models arising from clean energy policy. Diane presents regularly on clean energy issues around the country.

EXPERIENCE

Principal Consultant, Diane Cherry Consulting, Raleigh, NC

March 2019 – Present

- Own/operate a Woman-Owned Small Business, managing 5+ client portfolios at any given time
- Provide services in business development, public policy, regulatory analysis, communications, and facilitation in the environmental/energy fields, ensuring client success and growth in the rapidly-changing environment and energy landscape
- Execute both ongoing and short-term contracts and interdisciplinary projects, including:
 - Developing a carbon plan for the City of Durham
 - Performing energy market and policy analyses for cities, businesses, NGOs, and others
 - Crafting written content on energy and environmental policy, technologies, finance, etc.
 - Speaking on and facilitating informational panels and webinars with 50+ attendees
 - Providing advisory services around opportunities available through new legislation

Director of Engagement, North Carolina Sustainable Energy Association, Raleigh, NC

February 2016 – February 2019

- Managed a team of professionals responsible for all print and social media
- Collaborated with stakeholders to develop deployment strategies for clean energy sectors including biogas, energy storage, and electric vehicles
- Managed and facilitated working groups with dozens of stakeholders to resolve contentious issues
- Communicated policy positions and clean energy regulatory dockets to internal and external stakeholders throughout North Carolina and Southeastern United States
- Fundraised and developed key relationships to support organizational needs

Adjunct Faculty, NC State University, School of Public & International Affairs, Raleigh, NC

August 2014 – 2017

- Designed/taught four new courses for NC State University's Master in Public Administration Program. Subjects included U.S. Environmental Policy, Written Communication for Public Policy Professionals, Special Topics in Public Policy, and Effective Communications

Energy and Environment Policy Manager, NC State University, Raleigh, NC

March 2006 – February 2016

- Planned, developed, executed, and communicated the annual Emerging Issues Forum and dozens of other policy forums throughout North Carolina
- Facilitated numerous community and stakeholder meetings on issues such as manufacturing, the creative economy, and workforce development
- Worked with state leaders to restructure the way North Carolina decides energy policy
- Advised the community college system on training the state's green workforce

Budget Analyst, *City of Raleigh*, Raleigh, NC

September 1998 – February 2006

- Managed the City’s public safety, solid waste, technology, public works’ budgets for 7 years
- Planned and executed the City’s transition from backyard to curbside solid waste collection
- Developed City of Raleigh’s disaster policy
- Staffed City Manager for special projects

Senior Policy Advisor, *NC Department of Environment, Health, & Natural Resources*, Raleigh, NC

June 1994 – August 1998

- Served as an advisor to the Assistant Secretary for Environmental Protection in charge of 2,200 employees across 7 regulatory divisions
- Implemented regulatory reform legislation for the North Carolina General Counsel

Presidential Management Fellow, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*, Washington, D.C.

1993 – 1994

Research Assistant, *Resources for the Future, Inc.*, Washington, D.C.

1989 – 1991

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recipient of Toastmaster’s Certificate for Public Speaking Skills
- Graduate of Leadership North Carolina
- Awarded Highest Distinction in Economics at the University of Virginia
- Awarded Best Policy Analysis Exercise at Harvard Kennedy School

EDUCATION

Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge, MA

Master’s in Public Policy, Energy and Environmental Economics

May 1993

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

Bachelor of Arts in Economics

May 1989