



Cyclone Energy Group 10th Annual Innovation Rodeo

October 9, 2025
High Noon - 5pm

- 12:00 Networking
- 12:30 Benny Skelton, Welcome
- 12:35 Doug Farr, Farr Associates Architecture
"How Fast Can The Chicago Region Decarbonize?
(The Children Are Asking)"
- 01:30 Jenny Carney, WSP
"Saddle Up Again Series" Video
- 01:41 Katie Kaluzny and Ryan Wilmington, Illinois Green Alliance
"The State of Green Building Policy in 2025: Trends and Tools for
Professionals and Policymakers"
- 02:11 Molly Meyer, Omni Ecosystem
"Saddle Up Again Series" Video
- 02:30 Break
- 03:00 Benny Skelton
- 03:05 Erik Olsen, Transsolar KlimaEngineering
"Saddle Up Again Series" Video
- 03:25 Jean-Christophe Giron and Ashton Comey,
Reflection Window + Wall
Vinit Gala, Cyclone Energy Group
"Gallo Facade and the Path Toward Grid Independent Buildings"
- 04:05 Hongbo Lu, Cyclone Energy Group
"From Hotspots to Cool Solutions"
- 04:12 Megan Baker, Green Building Initiative
"Sustainability at Scale: Market Drivers & Key Considerations
Shaping the Future of Data Center Development"
- 04:52 Amir Rezaei, Cyclone Energy Group
"AI Implications for AEC: A View of History"
- 05:00 Post-Rodeo Reception



Douglas Farr
FAIA, LEED AP, CNU-A
Founding Principal
Farr Associates

Douglas Farr, FAIA founded Chicago-based Farr Associates, identified by the New York Times as "the most prominent of the city's growing cadre of ecologically sensitive architects." The award-winning firm has designed many of the Chicago region's most sustainable buildings including 13 LEED Platinum-Certified projects and several net-zero buildings. In 2023, Planetizen readers named Doug one of "the 100 most influential urbanists of all time." Doug Co-Chaired the creation of LEED-Neighborhood Development and authored two books: Sustainable Urbanism (2008) and Sustainable Nation (2018). In 2023 he co-founded the Climate Action Museum, the world's eighth museum devoted to climate.





Jenny Carney

Senior Vice President, WSP Sustainability, Energy, and Climate Change

Adjunct Professor, Northwestern University Trienen's Institute for
Sustainability and Energy

Senior Advisor, Sustain Our Future Foundation

Jenny has been working in the realm of sustainability in the built environment since 2004, pivoting from her early work as a field ecologist. She has over 20 years of experience scaling climate and clean energy solutions, and was deeply involved in the development and launch of the LEED for Operations and Maintenance green building rating system. More recently, her focus has been working with companies and municipalities to plan and implement climate action plans that deliver both environmental and community benefits. She helps train the next generation of sustainability leaders through her teaching and advisory roles, including teaching circular economy principles and practices to masters degree candidates at Northwestern University.

She has received numerous awards and recognition for her industry-leading work, including:

- LEED Fellow
- Illinois Green Alliance Mission Award
- WSP USA Community Outreach Award
- Environmental Analyst Sustainability Consulting Award for Creating Resilient & Sustainable Communities
- WSP Global Excellence Award for Future Readiness in the Chicago Climate Action Plan





Katie Kaluzny
Deputy Director
Illinois Green Alliance

As the Deputy Director at Illinois Green Alliance, Katie directs and implements education programming, fosters organizational partnerships and collaborations, works with all staff on their program goals, and oversees day to day activities of the organization.

Before Illinois Green, Katie worked for the Chicago Department of Environment leading volunteer and education programs at the Chicago Center for Green Technology (CCGT) for two years. For four years, she also led the volunteer programs at the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum in Lincoln Park.

Outside of work, Katie serves on the Village of Brookfield's Board of Trustees.





Ryan Wilmington

Policy and Communications Associate
Illinois Green Alliance

Ryan joined Illinois Green Alliance in summer 2023 as the Policy and Communications Associate. He works to advance building decarbonization and efficiency policy across Illinois by educating policymakers and connecting them with industry voices. He also supports communications & marketing efforts.

Ryan is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs. Before joining the team, he worked at the Cook County Forest Preserve as a Policy Fellow. In this role, he researched and developed Forest Preserve policy across a variety of subjects including sustainability, equity, and land use. Previously, he interned with the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative and Illinois PIRG.





Molly Meyer
CEO and Founder
Omni Ecosystem

Molly leads Omni's strategy and business development and oversees Omni's product innovation and field operations. She founded Omni with the mission to democratize access to natural spaces, and to create an organization that continuously engages in bold endeavors that elevate the triple bottom line: ecological, financial, and social.

Molly's background couples her academic training at Stanford University in systems problem-solving and biogeochemical research with field experience in construction means and methods, gained working as a carpenter and green roofs installer as a Robert Bosch Fellow in Germany. Her unique and rich experience in Germany was foundational in redefining the American green roof industry with Omni's groundbreaking comprehensive green roof system. Molly is adept at developing and actualizing creative solutions to needs across the field; her inventions include Omni's patented living wall panel and patent-pending green roof drainage system.

She is a Board Member at Openlands, a Certified Green Roof Professional, a LEED Green Associate, a Member of CREW Chicago, and a Full Member of Urban Land Institute, where she serves as a member of the Public Development and Infrastructure Council and co-chair of the Women's Leadership Initiative Chicago Executive Board. Molly won the 2018 Illinois Green Alliance Emerald Award for Individual Leadership; 2014 ULI Chicago Vision Award, Young Visionary; 2014 National Curbed Young Gun Winner; and 2014 ENR Midwest Top 20 Under 40.





Erik Olsen
Managing Partner
Transsolar KlimaEngineering

Erik is a managing partner at Transsolar KlimaEngineering, an international climate engineering firm that creates exceptional indoor, middoor, and outdoor spaces with a positive environmental impact. He leads the New York team in collaborating with architects, engineers, and building owners worldwide to develop and validate low-energy, architecturally integrated climate and energy concepts.

Erik is recognized for his unique blend of simple, clear communication, technical rigor, and passion for creating delightful, human-centric environments that contribute to our low-carbon future. Educated as a mechanical engineer, he is most excited when sketching and applying first physical principles to explore new ideas.





Jean-Christophe Giron , PhD

Director of Advanced Product Materials

Reflection Window + Wall

Jean-Christophe has 30 years of experience in the glass and coating industry in Europe and the United States. He is the inventor or co-inventor of more than 50 patent families. He won the Ferrari Technology Award in 2005. He has been nominated for the 2015 European Inventor Award and the French Marius Lavet 2018 prize.





Ashton Storey

Assistant Project Manager

Reflection Window + Wall

In his role as a Product Manager, Ashton is responsible for driving commercial success in the AEC industry by connecting innovative building technology with real world demand. Prior to joining Reflection Window + Wall, Ashton graduated from Indiana University's Kelley School of Business with degrees in Economics and Entrepreneurship. In his free time, you can find Ashton grilling, hiking, and listening to his record collection.





Vinit Gala

EIT, LEED AP BD+C

Senior Building Analyst

Cyclone Energy Group

As Senior Building Analyst, Vinit supports design teams by creating detailed energy models of new construction projects using IES <VE>.

A native of Mumbai, India, Vinit graduated from KJ Somaiya College of Engineering with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and followed up with a Master of Energy Engineering from the University of Illinois at Chicago. During his time at UIC, Vinit was a Teaching Assistant for HVAC and Energy Auditing and he worked as a Graduate Research Assistant at the Energy Resources Center.

While at UIC, Vinit was President at ASHRAE & IBPSA student chapter. He has been a board member for IBPSA-Chicago and Auxiliary board member for USGBC Illinois Green Alliance and he is a planning committee member in ASHRAE's Young Engineers Association (YEA).

In his free time, you can find Vinit watching and rooting on Cubs and Bears, hiking and exploring a new city.





Hongbo Lu

LEED Green Associate

Building Analyst

Cyclone Energy Group

As a Building Analyst, Hongbo specializes in building performance simulation using IES Virtual Environment (IESVE). His work spans a wide range of project scopes, including energy code compliance, LEED certification, and Green Globes assessments. In addition to his modeling expertise, he also supports carrying out WELL Performance Verification, focusing on evaluating air, water, sound, thermal, and light quality to enhance indoor environmental performance and occupant wellness.

A native of Chongqing, China, Hongbo earned a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and a Master of Science in Civil Engineering (Architectural Engineering) from Purdue University. His graduate research explored the intersection of indoor environmental quality (IEQ), energy consumption, and human-building interactions in compact residential spaces. His passion for the HVAC industry led him to become an ASHRAE student member at Purdue. He also served as a graduate teaching assistant, mentoring students across various engineering courses.





Megan Baker

Vice President, Engagement
Green Building Institute

As Vice President of Engagement, Megan Baker is responsible for development and implementation of GBI's global marketing and communications strategies. She joined GBI in 2017 and held roles in client services, business development, and education before rising to her current role in 2023.

Megan is a passionate advocate for increasing accessibility of sustainable, healthy, and resilient buildings through education and assessment. She creates strategic partnerships, identifies recognition opportunities, and opens markets to increase the visibility of GBI's flagship offering: Green Globes certification. Her outreach efforts helped GBI reach nearly 1B certified square feet in 2025 and more than quadruple membership in three years.

As GBI's data center lead, Megan serves as an Ambassador for Nomad Futurist, to promote access and opportunities for workforce development in the digital infrastructure industry and is a recipient of the 2024 IM100 Award. Megan served on ASAE's Marketing Professionals Advisory Committee from 2022 – 2025 and was a subcommittee chair in 2022. She also held the position of Membership Chair for the SAME Pikes Peak Post in Colorado in 2022-2022.

Megan has significant experience in content creation, event management, public speaking, stakeholder relations, and strategic planning, and has worked in luxury hospitality and environmental consulting. She holds an MBA from Regis University with a specialty in Operations Management and a BA in Geography from the University of Mary Washington. She resides in Colorado with her family and two dogs.





Amir Rezaei

PhD, BEMP

Simulation Team Leader

Cyclone Energy Group

As Simulation Team Leader, Amir delivers high-quality results for diverse national and international clients, setting a high standard of care and technical excellence. With over a decade of energy engineering experience, he blends data-driven analysis and visual storytelling to translate complex building science into actionable insights. Known for turning technical concepts into compelling, design-driven narratives, Amir empowers teams and clients to make informed, timely decisions.

Before joining Cyclone, Amir led CannonDesign's Environmental Performance Lab, advising on energy-efficient strategies across healthcare, education, and commercial projects. He also spearheaded the firm's climate action planning service line, contributed to business development, and presented nationally on simulation and building performance. His achievements include net zero energy analyses, a nationally recognized climate action plan, and a winning ASHRAE LowDown ShowDown entry.



2025 Cyclone Energy Group Notable Achievements

Client/Project Achievements

- Pritzker Military Archives Center - Awarded AIA Chicago Honor Award
- 24 E Washington - TOBY Award: Historical Building
- Accenture Tower - TOBY Award: Over 1 Million Square Feet
- The Hearn Group Portfolio achieved WELL Health Safety Rating Renewal
- Wight & Company Darian Office achieved WELL Performance Certification

Cyclone Team Achievements

- Cyclone won the 2025 CIBSE Building Performance Award for Building Performance Consultancy of the Year

Project Certifications

- 300 South Riverside Plaza - LEED Platinum
- Hogan ORS Bioscience Lab - LEED Gold
- Penske Logistics Livonia - LEED Gold
- Penske PTCR Prototype - LEED Gold
- Ventas Chicago Headquarters - LEED Gold
- Penske Byron Center - LEED Gold
- Elmhurst University Health Science Building - LEED Gold
- Public Storage Pleasanton - LEED Silver
- S&C Electric Palatine - LEED Silver
- Unitus Tigard - LEED Silver
- Penske Linden - LEED Silver
- Marginetti Phase 2 - LEED Silver
- Penske Forest Park - LEED Certified
- Penske Logistics Atlanta - LEED Certified
- Medline Hammond - LEED Certified
- Penske Lowell - LEED Certified
- High Hill Road - LEED Certified
- Penske Ocala - LEED Certified
- RUSH Specialty Hospital - Three Green Globes
- 869 Blackhawk - Two Green Globes
- 739 S Clark - Two Green Globes
- 1723 S Michigan - Two Green Globes
- 150 N Ashland - Two Green Globes
- 1000M - Two Green Globes
- 1045 W Fulton - WELL v2 Core Gold Certified

Cyclone Team Member Achievements

Mary Anderson

- Earned LEED AP Accreditation

Bahar Behforooz

- Passed LEED GA Exam
- Passed LEED AP BD+C Exam
- Achieved Green Globes Professional Certification

Cole Kincart

- Phius Certified Consultant

Hongbo Lu

- Passed LEED GA Exam

Li Pan

- Earned WELL AP Certification
- Earned LEED AP BD+C Certification
- Earned LEED AP O+M Certification

Emmy Riley

- Served on the IGA Building Energy Resource Hub Advisory Board

New Team Members

- Ok-Kyun Im
- Roselyn Ybarra

Emerging Engineers

- Cole Kincart
- Anum Khan

Simulation Team

Completed more than 30M SF of new and existing energy modeling projects spanning services from code energy compliance to third party certification. Contributed to design of five (5) hyper-scale Datacenter projects via CFD and energy modeling.

Commissioning Team

This year Cyclone commissioned over 4,000,000 sq ft of building across the country. This included multiple markets such as healthcare, High rise residential, commercial and data centers. Some highlights include:

- NEMA Miami
- 1000 S Michigan
- Rush Atrium Central Plant AHU replacement
- Elmhurst University Health Science Building
- 400 Lake Shore Drive
- Womens Leadership Center by Studio Gang

