

California Bioresources Alliance Symposium 2020 Speaker and Moderator Bios



Dan Noble is a Founder of Noble Bioresources, Inc. (NBI; NobleBioresourcesInc.com), a majority owned subsidiary of Noble Resources Group, LLC. NBI is a bioproducts market & industry development firm, based in California. He is also Executive Director of the Association of Compost Producers (ACP) (healthysoil.org; the [US Composting Council California State Chapter](#)) since 2002, and has over 40 years of science & business-based environmental education, market research, publishing, strategic consulting, enterprise and association management experience.



Sara Hammes has been at the forefront of environmental sustainability and climate action planning beginning with energy efficiency and conservation and most recently with a focus on greenhouse gas emissions and organics management. She has worked across the spectrum with regulators, generators, private industry, public utilities, and communities to develop viable regulations, new infrastructure, and end-use markets. She is an experienced leader with boots on the ground experience in bringing about emerging technical and environmental transformations and brings a deep understanding of the market forces and challenges guiding transformation. Through her consulting firm, The Vita Group, Sara delivers strategic marketing services including market advisory, go-to-market strategies, marketing and communications and project development.



Dr. Tyler Barzee received his BS in Biosystems Engineering from Clemson University and MS and PhD degrees in Biological Systems Engineering from UC Davis. His research interests include controlled environment engineering, agricultural nutrient and waste cycling, renewable energy, algal and fungal biotechnology, and technoeconomic and life cycle assessment. He is passionate about innovative ideas in engineering education, sustainable development, and interdisciplinary planetary health solutions.



Tim Hall is the supervisor in the Organics Unit of the Statewide Technical and Analytical Resources Branch at CalRecycle. Tim is the lead author of the Analysis of the Progress Toward the SB 1383 Organic Waste Reduction Goals. He successfully oversaw two contracts that supported this report and worked on the SB 1383 regulatory economic impact assessment. He spent the last four years analyzing California's organics recycling infrastructure, gaining an in-depth understanding of the issues facing the industry, including climate change implications, regulatory and economic barriers to permitting facilities, markets for products generated by these facilities, available incentives and funding, and the economic and environmental costs and benefits of organics collection, transportation, and processing.



Tom McGrath, PMP has for over more than 20 years successfully collaborating with diverse stakeholders, working with multi-media departments, break-through technologists, finance specialists, and academic researchers. Tom focuses on wise use of available resources to design sustainable opportunities today - both for communities and businesses. Tom is CEO of VITALcleantech.com, CSO of BioProducts.Center, holds Zero Waste and Sustainable Management Certification from the CA Resource Recovery Association and has presented to California business and government-sponsored forums on the topics of organic waste upcycling, including on LA City Sister City business trips and Cleantech Trade Summits to Sao Paulo, Brazil, Berlin, Germany, and throughout China.



Dr. Yaniv Scherson is the Managing Director for the western U.S. region for Anaergia. Yaniv is based in Carlsbad California where he leads Anaergia's projects integrating organics recycling from solid waste with anaerobic digestion and wastewater for production of renewable power and renewable natural gas. Yaniv leads Anaergia's turnkey system offering and supports Anaergia's Design, Build, Own, Operate, and Finance arm. He is a licensed professional engineer in California and holds Ph.D. and Master degrees from Stanford University



Chad White leads the startup Climate Tech Finance initiative at the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. This technology acceleration platform works on developing financial tools that help entrepreneurs bring GHG-lowering technologies to market faster and that encourage public sector organizations to adopt them. Chad is interested in ways to bring these tools to accelerate the emerging biomass recovery industry. He is also a member of the Marin Biomass Study Group, which is working to maximize the drawdown potential of biomass recovery. Chad has a background in research and program development. He holds a PhD in energy and resources from UC Berkeley.



Joe Maceda leads ZNC Farms technology, systems optimization and build-out program. Previously, he was the founder of Gibbs Energy, LLC, a privately held business products and technology development firm dedicated to renewable energy technologies including anaerobic digestion where he managed a team that developed the bio-gas and bio-liquid platform for a major U.S. oil and gas company. His experience developing integrated solutions for energy and agriculture spans nearly 20 years. Some of the more notable achievements include the development of a liquid-phase, “step change” hydrogen generation carbon capture technology to reduce the cost of hydrogen by 50%. Prior to this, Joe was the founder and CEO of Ocean Power Corp., a developer of modular, renewably powered desalination systems listed on NASDAQ, and H Power Corporation, a developer of fuel cell technology which raised \$120M in an IPS on NASDAQ using a valuation of \$1B. Gibbs was also a two-time finalist in the Department of Energy’s ARPAE competition seeking transformational technologies



Aaron Tartakovsky is co-founder and CEO at Epic CleanTec, a San Francisco-based sustainability startup that is redefining how cities manage their water resources. He previously served as Director of Business Development and Marketing for CB Engineers, where he ran its R&D division. Prior to that he worked in federal politics and has remained active in affecting public policy on the local, state, and national levels. Aaron speaks frequently on water and cleantech at universities and at industry gatherings throughout the U.S. Aaron is also a founding partner and investor in Silicon Valley-based J-Ventures Fund. Most recently, he was recognized as a GreenBiz 30 under 30 honoree.



Jim McNelly is a managing member of Renewable Carbon Management LLC. A professional in the bio-processing industry since 1975, Jim McNelly has been a pioneer and visionary in source separated organics composting, co-composting with wastewater biosolids, biosolids land application, in-situ evaporation of wastewater treatment solids, vermistabilization, value-added fertilizer conditioning, mixed waste composting, and containerized composting, biodestruction and biofiltration. After managing Procter and Gamble’s diaper composting study, Jim founded the US Composting Council in 1989. As a Council volunteer, he has fostered the development of Best Management Practices in composting, compost operator training, testing methods for composting and compost and public and professional education promoting the value of organics recovery. The author of numerous state guidebooks and publications on composting, he has worked in dozens of states, provinces and countries, including extensive work in China which continues today.



Michael Martinez is the founder and Executive Director of LA Compost. Michael is a certified Master Gardener, a former elementary school teacher. Michael has over 8 years of experience building gardens and compost systems throughout the County of Los Angeles as well as other parts of the country. Michael has grown LA Compost from a group of volunteers collecting organics with bikes to a decentralized network of community compost hubs that span across the most populated county in the country.



Joerg Blischke is a Senior Process Specialist within Black & Veatch's Water and NextGen Agriculture businesses, with over 25 years of experience. His expertise includes process engineering services for wastewater and organics management, encompassing anaerobic digestion and co-digestion, alternative protein production, composting and biogas utilization. He was involved in the design and construction of some of the largest organic waste digestion facilities in North America. Joerg is currently working on optimizing the synergies between organic waste management and wastewater treatment.



Lauren Fondahl is Biosolids Coordinator for US EPA Region 9, which covers EPA programs in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, the Pacific Island territories, and Tribal nations within these areas. Her tasks include tracking biosolids compliance by POTWs, other treatment facilities, domestic septage facilities, and land appliers; as well as compliance assistance, guidance on EPA's biosolids requirements, and biosolids language in NPDES permits. She coordinates with EPA HQ and EPA's Pathogen Equivalency Committee on interpretation of EPA's biosolids standards in 40 CFR 503



David Rothbart is a professional Civil Engineer with over 30 years of experience in the wastewater and solid waste management field. He is currently a Supervising Engineer in the Air Quality Engineering Section for the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts. In that capacity he is responsible for air quality compliance for all Sanitation Districts' wastewater treatment plants and landfills. One of these facilities is the Joint Water Pollution Control Plant in Carson, California, which has a permitted capacity of 400 MGD. He is also responsible for air quality compliance at Tulare Lake Compost and material recovery and transfer facilities. Most of these facilities are located in the South Coast Air Basin and are equipped with state-of-the-art air pollution controls. He serves as the primary liaison with the South Coast Air Quality Management District and other air quality agencies. Mr. Rothbart is active in several professional societies and is currently the Chair of the Air Quality Committee for the Southern California Alliance of Publicly Owned Treatment Works (SCAP).



Ryan Batjiaka coordinates the biosolids program at the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission. He has worked in both agriculture and the composting industry and has a master's degree in soil science from the University of Washington. Ryan believes strongly that recycling organic matter and the soil nutrients contained therein is critical for our society to meet the environmental challenges it now faces.



Tung Le has over 20 years of experience in the air quality field and currently serves as the Executive Director for the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association, or CAPCOA. CAPCOA is a non-profit association of the air pollution control officers from all 35 local air quality agencies throughout California. CAPCOA was formed in 1975 to promote clean air and to provide a forum for sharing of knowledge, experience, and information among the air quality regulatory agencies around the State. As CAPCOA's Executive Director, Tung oversees and contributes to the daily work of Association staff and its numerous committees to help it achieve its mission of advocacy for air quality programs, and promoting unity and efficiency. The Association strives to encourage consistency in methods and practices of air pollution control. Prior to his time at CAPCOA, Tung served as a manager at the California Air Resources Board overseeing projects related to climate, energy and stationary source regulation. Tung also previously served as a toxics specialist, permit engineer and as a rule development engineer for the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.



Dr. Ruihong Zhang is Professor at University of California, Davis and a world renowned expert in the fields of bioenvironmental engineering and bioenergy systems engineering. Dr. Zhang's innovative research and development in the fields of bioenergy and waste and wastewater treatment has been recognized with many awards and has been widely reported by national and international news media. Dr. Zhang received Environmental Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2007, Achievement Award from California Bioresources Alliance in 2013, and CleanTech Innovator of the Year from Sacramento Regional Technology Alliance (SARTA) in 2014. She was elected as Fellow of American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers in 2016.



Dr. Geetika Joshi is a supervising Senior Environmental Scientist in the CDFA Office of Environmental Farming and Innovation (OEFI) where she leads CDFA's dairy methane reduction and healthy soils incentives programs. She joined CDFA as an environmental scientist for the Department's Dairy Digester Research and Development Program in 2014. She received her M.S. degree in Microbiology at the University of Delhi (India) and Ph.D. in Soils and Biogeochemistry from University of California, Davis. She conducted her post-doctoral project at the Center for Regional Change, UC Davis.



Mr. Guangwei Huang is Associate Director, Food Research & Technology at the Almond Board of California (ABC). He directs and manages research in almond quality, safety and processing technology, co-product utilization, harvesting technologies, etc.. He conducts trade education events and food professional outreach activities. Guangwei had also worked in various food companies for several years and with Chinese central government food safety agency for seven years before he joined ABC in 2001. Mr. Huang has a B.S. degree in sanitary inspection and technology and M.S. degree in Food Science.



Mr. J.P. Cativiela is Director of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs, Dairy Cares coalition (www.dairycares.com), Administrator for Central Valley Dairy Representative Monitoring Program, and Member of Board of Directors for Central Valley Salinity Coalition. Mr. Cativiela is President and co-founder of Sacramento-based Cogent Consulting and Communications. He has worked at the nexus of agriculture and the environment for decades. He has also worked closely with the Almond Board of California, California Rice Industry Association and California Rice Commission. A former professional journalist, Cativiela received awards from the California Newspaper Publishers Association, Columbia School of Journalism and California Farm Bureau Federation.



Abdolhossein Edalati is a PhD Student in the Biological and Agricultural Engineering Department at UC Davis and is advised by Professor Ruihong Zhang. He completed his Bachelors in Biosystems Engineering From UC Davis in 2006 and his Masters in Biomedical Engineering from UC Irvine in 2007. He enjoys the outdoors and field work and his projects over the last several years have focused on waste management and recouping value in food and ag wastes by recycling them on the farm. He is also an avid soccer fan, is a Sac Republic Youth Coach, and has coached a boys soccer team in West Sacramento for the past 5 years.



Greg Kester serves as both the technical and programmatic contact for CASA members and conduit for emerging issues on the state and federal levels on all biosolids, renewable energy, recycled water, and related issues. He works closely with local, state and federal authorities as well as the private sector on biosolids management, climate change mitigation, energy optimization, and all management options, and most recently on the COVID

pandemic. He is the lead conduit of information for emerging technologies and markets for biosolids management and renewable energy opportunities. Prior to joining CASA, Greg served as the state biosolids coordinator for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. He represented all states in the nation, by their election, to USEPA on all biosolids issues. He served on the National Academy of Sciences Committee which evaluated federal biosolids regulations and produced the 2002 report: Biosolids Applied to Land: Advancing Standards and Practices



Ashlee Yee has worked with CalRecycle for over eight years. Ashlee's main focus is SB 1383 implementation. Previously, Ashlee worked in the Local Assistance and Market Development (LAMD) Branch, where she focused on the implementation of state laws such as mandatory commercial recycling, mandatory commercial organics recycling, short-lived climate pollutants, and state agency recycling as well as the State Agency Buy Recycled Campaign. Prior to that, Ashlee has worked as a CalRecycle representative for local jurisdictions and state agencies in the Bay Area and in CalRecycle's Jurisdiction Compliance Unit.



Jason Dow is the General Manager of the Central Marin Sanitation Agency (CMSA), a regional wastewater agency in San Rafael, CA. CMSA's vision is to be an industry leader by providing innovative, efficient, and sustainable wastewater services, capturing and utilizing renewable resources, and delivering renewable power. Mr. Dow has been with CMSA for 27 years, in varying engineering positions, and as the manager for the past 18 years. Since 2009, he has worked with CMSA staff to develop and implement a food-to-energy program with the local solid waste company, and later expanded that into broader organic waste receiving and energy delivery programs. Mr. Dow has a B.S. in Civil Engineering from U.C. Berkeley, an M.S. in Environmental Engineering from San Francisco State, and is a Registered Civil Engineer in California.





Hilary Gans has worked in the recycling and composting industry for over 25 years for private companies and public agencies in Northern California. At his current position at the South Bayside Waste Management Authority (RethinkWaste), Hilary oversees the operations, capital projects, and contracts for Shoreway Environmental Center that handles 400,000 tons per year of recyclables and waste from the Agency's half-million residences located between San Francisco and San Jose. Hilary completed a \$50 million master plan design and construction project to modernize the Shoreway Environmental Center into a state-of-the-art recycling and transfer center that has been nationally recognized and received LEED Gold and SWANA Gold awards. Current projects include MRF equipment upgrades and Organics to energy projects.



Chris Hyun recently joined the Climate and Conservation team of the State Water Resources Control Board as a senior environmental scientist - specialist for climate. Previously, he was at the University of California, Berkeley as a researcher of the Berkeley Water Center and a PhD candidate of development engineering in the Energy and Resources Group. Chris's experience includes research and capacity building training for water and sanitation innovation in low-income regions, particularly in India.



Corinne Scown is the Vice President and founder of the Life-cycle, Economics, and Agronomy Division (LEAD) at the Joint BioEnergy Institute (JBEI), Deputy Director for Research of the Energy Analysis and Environmental Impacts (EAEI) Division at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, and Head of Sustainability at the Energy and Biosciences Institute (EBI). Scown's expertise includes life-cycle assessment, technoeconomic analysis, biofuels and bioproducts and co-management of energy and water. She has led projects funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, California Energy Commission, California Air Resources Board, and Energy Biosciences Institute. She also frequently collaborates with companies ranging from small startups to large multinational corporations in the bioenergy and bioproducts domain. Scown earned a B.S. in civil engineering with a double-major in engineering and public policy at Carnegie Mellon University, and she received her Ph.D. and M.S. in civil and environmental engineering at UC Berkeley.



Chelsea Preble is a UC Berkeley postdoctoral researcher and Berkeley Lab affiliate. She's a Golden Bear through-and-through, earning her BS in Environmental Sciences and MS and PhD in Environmental Engineering from UC Berkeley. Her research includes characterizing in-use air pollution emission sources and their controls, developing community-based air quality sensor networks, and evaluating the real-world emissions impacts of new regulations and alternative energy technologies.

Sarah Smith is a Senior Scientific Engineering Associate in the Sustainable Energy Systems group. Her current research focuses on modeling the organic waste management system to better understand the economic and environmental impacts of various landfill diversion and energy recovery pathways. Some of her other work includes electricity use modeling in the areas of data centers and demand response applications. She is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from U.C. Berkeley.



Kelly Sarber has worked as CEO of Strategic Management Group (SMG) as a business developer operating at the nexus between renewable energy, waste residuals and wastewater. She has over 6,000 megawatts of utility scale, solar and energy storage projects in development in California and New York and an expert in developing public private partnerships that lever stranded land or interconnect assets to generate reoccurring revenue streams for municipalities, sanitation districts and private companies. Her current development partners include EnCap Investments, Hanwha 174 Power Global, Berkshire Hathaway Renewables and long-time utility clients Southern California Edison and SDG&E. In her early career, she worked as a developer for Waste Management and Wheelabrator, becoming one of the earliest employees at Synagro where she specialized in developing and operating anerobic digestion and composting projects. In 2010, she pivoted to develop renewable energy after successfully siting the nation's largest solar project nearing construction in Arizona. With energy storage being the fastest growing niche in energy, Sarber is pioneering co-locating large, stand-alone battery projects for the grid at wastewater plants and landfills.



Chuck White leverages over 25 years of regulatory and environmental consulting experience, providing clients integrated, strategic advice on complex issues related to environmental policy. With a strong analytic background in the waste industry, government affairs and several professional trade associations, Chuck can advise on a range of matters, including solid waste, hazardous waste, air quality and water quality public policy issues.



Denis Arguin is Vice-President, Commercial Development of Enerkem Gasification Technologies. He is responsible to bring Enerkem's commercial opportunities across the globe to project execution readiness through collaboration with Enerkem's business partners. Mr. Arguin brings over 30 years of experience in industrial process/product development, new technology commercialization, engineering and operational management experience. He led over 20 plant start-ups across the globe in a wide range of industries from oil & gas refining, petrochemicals, biofuels, process minerals and metallurgy.



Alex Lewis is Co-founder and CEO of Electro-Active Technologies where they are working to power cities with waste. He earned his PhD in Energy Science and Engineering from the University of Tennessee and Oak Ridge National Laboratory, where the underlying technology for the company was developed. Before that he studied at the University of California - San Diego and worked for Synthetic Genomics. He is an expert in developing microbial communities for complex organic waste conversion in bioelectrochemical systems. Along with Co-founder Dr. Abhijeet Borole, they have led the company through multiple accelerators and raised \$1.4M to scale up their system for pilot demonstrations to convert food waste into hydrogen.



Jean-Louis Kindler is CEO of Ways2H, a leading commercial provider of Waste-to-Hydrogen solutions for mobility and grid applications. Jean-Louis and his team are developing projects that transform the world's worst waste - MSW, plastics, medical refuse - into clean energy and fuel. A 30-year veteran of the cleantech industry with work experience in Europe, Asia and North America, Jean-Louis led the development of various technologies including electrochemical water treatment, bio-based waste-to-energy as well as fuel cell components manufacturing.



Harry Allen is an On-Scene Coordinator at USEPA Region 9, based in Los Angeles. He is a nationally recognized environmental leader, teacher and speaker with over 20 years of operations experience in large scale, multi-agency responses to major natural disasters, hazardous waste sites, oil spills and many other types of pollution incidents. Research interests include studying the extent of microplastic particles in the environment and identifying and quantifying pollution in water and soils. He has a BS in Environmental Science from Rutgers University and an MS from the University of San Francisco.



David Crohn earned his doctorate in 1992 from Cornell University in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering. Since then he has been a Cooperative Extension Specialist in the Department of Environmental Sciences at the University of California, Riverside. His research emphasizes the beneficial use of municipal and agricultural residues as soil amendments and fertilizers. Dr. Crohn is also Chair of the Board of Riverside Public Utilities.



William Stewart is a Cooperative Extension Forestry Specialist and Co-Director of the Berkeley Forests at the University of California, Berkeley. His current areas of research and extension focus on the linkages between managed forests and climate change, increasing fire resiliency of western forests, and modern reforestation practices. He has a M.S. and Ph.D. in forest economics and policy from the University of California Berkeley and a B.S. in Environmental Earth Sciences from Stanford University.