



ARKANSAS
CITIZENS'
CLIMATE
LEAGUE

The University of Arkansas-Fort Smith
College of Arts and Sciences
College of Business and Industry and
Center for Economic Development

in association with

Arkansas Citizens' Climate League
present

The River Valley Green Energy and Education Workshop
October 20, 2022
Program



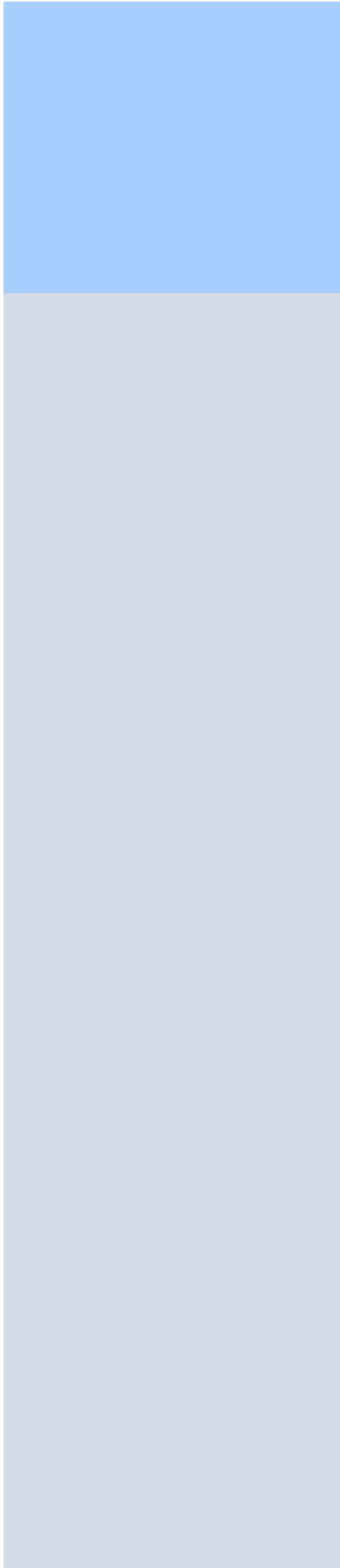
UAFS
Center for Economic
Development
The Bakery District
70 S. 7th Street, Suite D

One of the most exciting opportunities created by renewable energy technologies like solar is the ability to help the world's poorest develop faster - but more sustainably too. *Ed Davey*



Workshop Objectives

- To dissect, discuss, and disseminate information on green energy issues and their application to the River Valley
- To promote the development and use of green energy in the River Valley
- Contemplate UAFS and the City of Fort Smith's role as potential leaders in green Energy Transition (UAFS/City of Fort Smith Energy Efficiency Plans)
- Ascertain how low-income families can participate in the green energy transition
- To establish a River Valley Green Energy and Education Network.

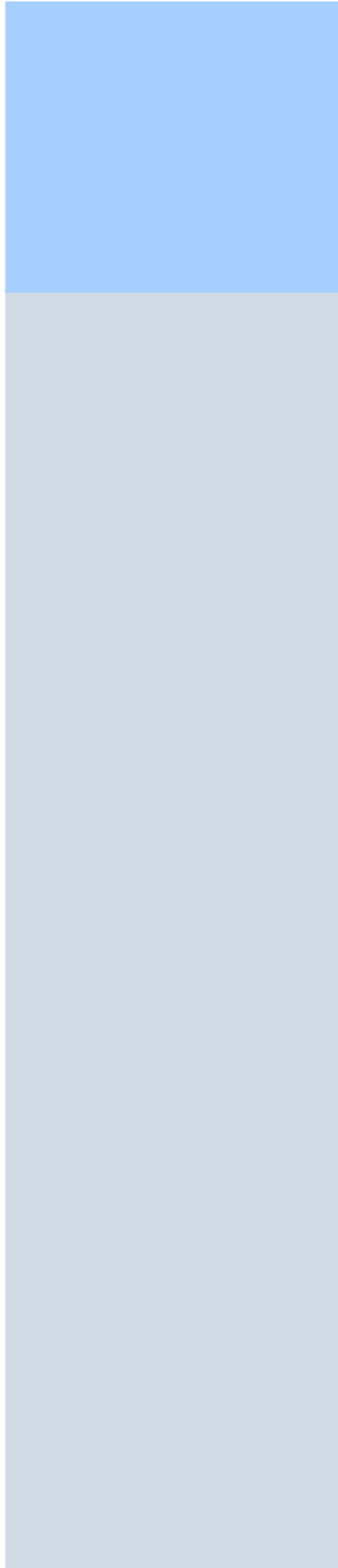


- **Target Audience**

- NGOs
- Grassroots participants
- The Chamber of Commerce
- Academicians
- Students
- Local community development groups
- Practitioners in the green energy industry, etc.

- **Solar under the Sun Display**

- Solar under the Sun (solarunderthesun.org) offers participants a mini session on how to design and build a small-scale solar system. Solar under the Sun will also demonstrate how to run and power small appliances and lights with battery backup. The solar trailer has all the components of a larger-scale solar system that powers homes or businesses.



- **Hatco Solar Booth Display**

- CEO Mr. Corey White, born and raised in the River Valley Area, believes solar-powered energy is the future. He enjoys helping clients find the right solar energy solutions. At his display booth, he will have several solar energy apparatuses (solar panels, inverters, charge controllers, optimizers, etc.), and he will explain the process of solar energy generation and use. He will hand out Hatco-branded bags to 50 workshop participants and speakers.



- **SMILES Bike Project Display**

- The City of Fort Smith, the University of Arkansas, and the National Science Foundation have launched a community-based bike-share program in Fort Smith-named "RIDE 4 SMILIES". The program currently operates 8 stations with 40 bikes. The goal is to provide low-cost, alternative transportation options for residents of affordable housing communities in Fort Smith. The Ride 4 SMILIES bike-share program offers free 1-hour trips. After the first hour, 50 cents is charged for every 30 minutes of riding.

Ride 4 SMILIES locations

- Convention Center, 55 South 7th St., Fort Smith
- MLK Park, 1815 North Greenwood Ave., Fort Smith
- North Pointe - Clayton Heights, 3408 North 6th St., Fort Smith
- 32nd and Grand - Family Dollar, 3201 Grand Ave., Fort Smith
- OK Foods, 4601 North 6th St., Fort Smith
- 58th and Kinkead, Fort Smith
- Mercy Hospital, 7301 Rogers Ave., Fort Smith
- Chaffee Crossing, 7309 Chad Colley Blvd., Barling

Program of Activities

8:00 Continental Breakfast

8:30 Registration

9:00 Program Chair: Dr. Paulette Meikle, Associate Dean and Professor of Sociology,
College of Arts and Sciences, University of Arkansas - Fort Smith

9:05 Mayor George McGill, City of Fort Smith: Greetings from the City

Welcome and Remarks

- Mr. Kendall Ross, Executive Director, Center for Economic Development
University of Arkansas - Fort Smith, The Bakery District, 70 S 7th St, Fort Smith, AR
- Dr. Paul Hankins, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
University of Arkansas - Fort Smith, 5210 Grand Ave, Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649
- Dr. Latisha Settlege, Dean, College of Business and Industry
University of Arkansas - Fort Smith, 5210 Grand Ave, Fort Smith, AR 72913-3649

9:25 Green Energy and Education Workshop Goals

Speaker: Ms. Jan Schaper, Program and Education Director, Arkansas Citizens' Climate League,
2610 W Hackett Road, Hackett, AR 72937

Summary: Discussing and disseminating information on River Valley green energy issues with a particular focus on a) addressing energy insecurity and efficiency, b) promoting green energy utilization, c) contemplating local energy transition plans, d) exploring income-inclusive energy transition participation, and e) networking.

**9:35 Opportunities for Green Energy and Education in the River Valley:
The River Valley Green Energy and Education Program (RV- GEEP)**

A presentation of the River Valley Green Energy and Education Program (RV-GEEP), a project designed to be home to various energy equity programs serving communities across the River Valley and developing green energy community partnerships across Arkansas. Through this project, communities will be able to; take advantage of green energy opportunities, establish educational programs, and change the energy usage culture so that River Valley communities and beyond can reduce dependency on conventional energy generation.

Speaker: Dr. Paulette Meikle, Associate Dean and Professor of Sociology, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Arkansas - Fort Smith, and Arkansas Citizens Climate League Board member.

10:00 Coffee Break

10:15 Keynote Address: Green Energy in Arkansas: Opportunities, Gaps, and Intervention: Existing legislation in Arkansas and how it dovetails with FERC 2222 and the Inflation Reduction Act to position Arkansas as a national leader in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors. In addition, a discussion on the explosion of solar projects in Arkansas over the past three years.

Speaker: Mr. John Coleman, Regional Director of Business Development, Entegriety, Fayetteville, AR 72701

Introduction by Mr. Robert McAfee, Administrator, ARKCCL

11:30 Buffet Luncheon, Participant Networking, and Check out the Displays

12:30 Concurrent Sessions: Energy Insecurity, Energy Efficiency, Weatherization, Green Energy Infrastructure, and Education in the River Valley.

1. State of Energy Insecurity in the River Valley

Session Chairs:

Mr. Corey White
CEO
Hatco Solar 2591
Dallas Parkway
(Pkwy) Ste.300
Frisco, TX 75034

Ms. Beverly Vaughn
Director
Low Income Home
Energy Assistance
Program Crawford-
Sebastian Community
Development Council,
Inc. 1617 Zero St, Fort
Smith, AR 72901

Mr. Herbert McGill
Director
Elizabeth McGill
Center
521 N 6th St
Fort Smith, AR 72901

Session Summary: Approximately 17 million households do not have adequate energy in the United States. Almost 5 million households could not pay at least one energy bill in 2020. A similar number received a notice from their utility company that they faced the threat of disconnection from energy service. Energy insecurity poses a public health threat among low-income families in the River Valley and the United States. In this session, Mr. Corey White, Ms. Beverly Vaughn, and Mr. Herbert McGill will discuss energy insecurity in the River Valley, causes of energy insecurity, and opportunities/resources for energy insecurity solutions responsive to the needs (energy and non-energy) of low-income families.

2. Renewables and Energy Efficiency in the River Valley

Understanding green power and its technology and how to make it applicable in the River Valley.

Session chair: Mr. William (Bill) Ball, Owner, and CEO, Natural Environments Inc., dba Stellar Sun, 1301 Westpark, Little Rock, AR 72227-4035

Session Summary: As we enlarge awareness of energy insecurity in the River Valley, we seek to understand the fundamentals of green power, its technology, and how to make it applicable. Our long-term goal is to promote the development and use of green energy and educate and facilitate low-income families' participation in the green energy transition. In Mr. Bill Ball's dynamic session, you will learn about:

- The basics of green power technology
- The business of "going green," market conditions, costs, and economics

- Own, lease, power purchase agreements, and utility programs
- From feasibility to fruition, how green energy projects happen
 - Next steps discussion

3. Financing Renewable Energy Infrastructure

Session chair: Mr. John Coleman, Regional Director, Business Development, Entegriety, Fayetteville, AR 72701.

Session Summary: Detailed discussion of the Inflation Reduction Act. Green energy infrastructure/projects. Arkansas as a national leader in the energy efficiency and renewable energy sectors.

- Next steps discussion

4. Energy Efficiency Plans: UAFS and the City of Fort Smith

Session chairs:

Mr. Carey Tucker, Vice Chancellor for Finance & Administration Finance & Administration, University of Arkansas - Fort Smith, 5210 Grand Ave

Mr. Robert Airo, Executive Director of Plant Operations, University of Arkansas - Fort Smith, 5210 Grand Ave Fort Smith, AR 72913.

Mr. Jarred Rego, Vice Mayor of Fort Smith, Fort Smith, AR

Session Summary: The University of Arkansas, Fort Smith, is leading the way in energy efficiency in the River Valley by implementing an innovative energy conservation plan designed to reduce energy use on campus and improve building performance. This is part of a long-term plan for energy savings and green energy generation. The City of Fort Smith has for many years addressed energy insecurity among low-income families through its Project Concern program; the city is poised to expand its work in energy efficiency and green energy transition. In this session, Mr. Carey Tucker and Mr. Robert Airo will discuss UAFS's Energy Efficiency plan and the University of Arkansas System-wide solar energy plan, among other conservation and sustainability matters. Mr. Jarred Rego will discuss the City of Fort Smith's energy efficiency and green energy transition prospects and their work with low-income families.

5. Weatherization - Homes/Buildings

Session chair: Mr. Caleb Brown, Director of Weatherization and Home Revitalization Crawford-Sebastian Community Development Council, Fort Smith, AR

Session Summary: Energy insecurity is an increasing public health problem among low-income families that can lead to risky coping strategies. Weatherization of homes improves energy efficiency and reduces energy bills. In this session, Mr. Caleb Brown will explore; the essentials of weatherization, weatherization audits, energy efficiency retrofits and inspections, techniques for maximizing energy efficiency, the priority of energy conservation measures, and a DIY guide for home energy projects. He will also cover efforts to address the energy burden faced by low-income families through the Department of Health and Human Services Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and the Department of Energy's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP).

1:30 Small Groups/Participants' feedback to help establish priorities for Green Energy and Education in the River Valley – What can we learn from each other? Where do we go from here?

2:30 Panel Discussion

A panel of experts discusses priorities for Green Energy and Education in the River Valley - Future Direction

Session Moderator: Jo Elsken, Citizens' Climate Lobby, Fort Smith Chapter Leader

3:30 Wrap-up and Evaluation - Program Chair: Dr. Paulette Meikle

3: 55 Poem - King Solar

4:00 Vote of thanks - Ms. Fay Knox, Chair, Arkansas Citizens Climate League Board

Our Sponsors

Thank you for investing in our mission and our event. Your sponsorship is vital to our ability to promote green energy education and the development and use of green energy to improve our quality of life.

Arvest Bank

5000 Rogers Ave, Fort Smith, AR 72903

First National Bank of Fort Smith

602 Garrison Ave, Fort Smith, AR 72901

Our Allies

We would like to offer grateful appreciation to the following groups who have contributed to building the grassroots connections in Fort Smith and the River Valley

- Citizens' Climate Lobby, Fort Smith Chapter
- The Elizabeth McGill Center
521 N 6th St, Fort Smith, AR 72901

Speakers and Session Leaders - Biodata



Mayor George McGill was elected Mayor of Fort Smith in August of 2018. As the first African American to ever be elected as Fort Smith Mayor, McGill is a trailblazer who has used his dedication to public service to advance the common good at the federal, state, and local levels. Prior to serving as Mayor, McGill represented Fort Smith, his hometown, in the Arkansas House of Representatives for three terms. As a State Representative for District 78, McGill earned the respect of his legislative peers on both sides of the political aisle and was elected to key leadership positions even though he was in the legislative minority. McGill's leadership experience as a U.S. army veteran, as a former small business owner, and as a community leader has been recognized through the many awards McGill earned his Bachelor of Science in education and a Master of Business administration from the University of Arkansas.



Dr. Paulette Meikle is an Associate Dean and Professor of Sociology in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Arkansas, Fort Smith. Dr. Meikle has extensive experience as a community development specialist in international settings. She has conducted extensive studies in international settings in community development, asset accumulation among low-income families, women's leadership, education, justice and race equality, and environmental management. Her work has been published in *Community Development: Journal of the Community Development Society*; *Journal of Rural Social Sciences*; *Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion: An International Journal*; *Administrative Sciences Journal*; *Journal of Extension and Caribbean Geography*. She also has publications with Sage, Emerald, and Nova Science publishers. She served as a Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Community Development Advisory Council member. She is a member of the Arkansas Citizens' Climate League board.

Speakers and Session Leaders - Biodata



Mr. Kendall Ross is the executive director at the University of Arkansas Fort Smith Center for Economic Development. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Oklahoma and a Master of Arts in Leadership from Hillsdale College. Mr. Ross was employed as an Engineering Manager of Research and Development at Rheem Manufacturing and operated a private consulting firm for a number of years. He also is a Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt certified instructor and serves as a leader and organization developer for the Center for Economic Development. Under his leadership, the UAFS Center for Business and Professional Development developed and launched the Future Fit Program for unemployed and underemployed individuals in 2019 in coordination with the Arkansas Economic Development Commission and the Arkansas Department of Commerce. He most recently oversaw the design and completion of the new economic development hub at UAFS that includes 10,000 square feet of educational and office space in downtown Fort Smith.



Paul Hankins, Professor of Music and Dean at UAFS since 2015, serves as Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Prior to his appointment at UAFS, he was a member of the Delta State University community, where he served as chair of the Department of Music and interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Upon his appointment to UAFS, he led the newly formed College of Communication, Languages, Arts, and Social Sciences. Dr. Hankins began service as Dean of Arts and Sciences in 2021. He also is a member and President of the Fort Smith Symphony Board of Directors and is a member of the Fort Smith Regional Art Museum Board of Trustees.

Speakers and Session Leaders - Biodata



Dr. Latisha Settlage serves as Dean of the College of Business and Industry at the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith, where she leads all academic operations and business outreach efforts, including a Center for Economic Development and Western Arkansas Technical Center. She is a professor of economics and holds the Joel R. Stubblefield Endowed Business Chair. She received her B.S. and M.S. degrees from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville and her Ph.D. from Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana.



Mr. John Coleman's responsibilities include overseeing Entegriety's business development team, sales operations and marketing, and serves on its strategic council which provides guidance for the company on future services. In 2012, John opened Entegriety's Northwest Arkansas Office and has since helped grow Entegriety's presence in NWA and expansion into Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri along with key consulting clients nationally.

John is a graduate of the University of Arkansas' College of Engineering, a licensed Professional Engineer, a LEED Accredited Professional in Building Design and Construction, and a PV Associate of the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners. He also serves as chair of the Urban Land Institute's NWA Board of Advisors.

Speakers and Session Leaders - Biodata



Mr. William (Bill) Ball is President of Natural Environments, inc, and owner of the renewable energy business, Stellar Sun, in Little Rock. Mr. Ball established his company in 1976 and has been designing and marketing renewable energy systems for over 40 years. In 1992, he founded the Arkansas Renewable Energy Association, a non-profit organization that educates Arkansans about renewable energy. Mr. Ball is a solar engineer by training and certified by the National Association of Board Certified Energy Professionals. He has been a strong advocate for solar friendly state policies, including aggregation for net metering. Past Projects include Design of 80kW PV system for LR Main Downtown Library. (1996). Current work includes commercial scale projects either under construction or planning in ten states around the country for several large national companies.



Mr. Carey F. Tucker joined the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith as vice chancellor for finance and administration in July 2021. In that position, he oversees the departments of Finance & Business Services, Budget, Human Resources, Plant Operations, Procurement & Contracts Management, Technology Services, and the University Police Department. Mr. Tucker has a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's degree in logistics management. A 30-year veteran of the United States Air Force, Mr. Tucker came to UAFS from South Arkansas Community College where he served as vice president for finance and administration.

Speakers and Session Leaders - Biodata



Mr. Robert Airo C.E.M., C.E.A., C.H.F.M., M.B.A. Robert is the Plant Operations Director for the University of Arkansas - Fort Smith, in Fort Smith, Arkansas. He oversees all campus facilities, including maintenance and repair, construction, health and safety, energy management, custodial, grounds and landscaping, and all facilities operations.

Previously, he was Assistant Director of Engineering and Operations at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, and oversaw the department's support services. Before his career in facility management, Robert had a 25-year career as a Paramedic in Little Rock, Arkansas. He is a Certified Energy Manager, Certified Energy Auditor, Certified Healthcare Facilities Manager, and possesses a Master of Business Administration from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.



Mr. Jarred Rego serves as Vice Mayor of Fort Smith and was elected to the City Board of Directors in 2020. For his day job, he is the Senior Development Officer for the Mercy Health Foundation. Prior to moving to Fort Smith, he served in high ranking leadership roles for federal and municipal elected officials in Colorado Springs. Jarred also serves on the Board of Directors for the Arkansas Family Alliance, a local nonprofit supporting foster families.

Speakers and Session Leaders - Biodata



Mr. Corey White is the owner and founder of Hatco Solar. Corey, a graduate of Northside High School and UAFS attendee, was born and raised in the River Valley Area, where he enjoys visiting his friends and family. Corey wholeheartedly believes that solar-powered energy is the future. He loves helping clients find the right solar energy solution that suits their needs. In his free time, he can be found exploring new alternative energy technologies, attending car shows, doing charitable work in the community, spending time with his dog in the woods, and spending quality time with his family, including his grandmother, for whom Hatco Solar was named.



Mr. Herbert McGill is the director of the Elizabeth McGill Drop-In Center at 521 North 6th Street. The McGill Center is one of the oldest minority non-profits in the city of Fort Smith; its mission is the service of mankind. Mr. McGill is also a mentor at Howard Elementary and served as head of Fort Smith Juneteenth from 2012 - 2019. He is a member of the Fort Smith Roundtable and owns Studfast Construction and Fry Daddy's Food Truck.

Speakers and Session Leaders - Bio data



Ms. Beverly Vaughn is the Li-Heap Director for Crawford Sebastian Community Development Council. The Li-Heap Program provides electrical utility assistance to low income households that meet the government's income and household size requirements. Ms. Vaughn holds a BBA from the University of Arkansas."

Speakers and Session Leaders - Biodata



Mr. Caleb Brown is the Home Director for Crawford-Sebastian Community Development Council (CSCDC) in Fort Smith, AR. He joined CSCDC as Weatherization Director in March of 2019 and was named Director of the Home Ownership Center in 2020. He served as President of the Arkansas Weatherization Director's Association from 2020 until 2022. In 2020, he was named Assistant Deputy Director of CSCDC. He is also a member of NeighborWorks America's Southern Region Leadership team. He is from Alma and graduated from the University of the Ozarks with a BS in Mathematics.



Panel facilitation Ms. Jo Anne Buchanan Elsken earned a B.S. from Our Lady of Holy Cross College and an MLA from Arkansas Tech University. She served as an educator for 49 years; is an avid community volunteer, including leading the Fort Smith Citizens' Climate Lobby Chapter. She is also on the planning committee for today's event. "Why me? I've experienced environmental degradation from flooding and drought. I've experienced hurricanes, pollution, and systemic social injustice in New Orleans. Finally, my grandson, academic and soccer standout, competes in 100 degrees. I must work for a healthy, equitable, sustainable future."

Speakers and Session Leaders - Biodata



Ms. Fay Knox has 20 years of staff experience in nonprofit development working in local community development and state wide public policy. Retired, she has lived in Newton County Arkansas within the boundaries of the Ozark National Forest since 1975. She is Board Chair of the Arkansas Citizens' Climate League.



Ms. Jan Schaper is the Program and Education Director for the Arkansas Citizens' Climate League. She is a licensed social worker and a volunteer with Citizens' Climate Lobby - Arkansas Chapters

Planning Committee

Chris McRae: "You may have heard the expression to think globally and act locally. Well, RV-GEEP is a way to act locally in addressing climate reality while at the same time making a difference globally. My affiliation with Solar under the Sun (solarunderthesun.org) has allowed me to act internationally as well."

Ruthie McRae "Inspiration for Green Energy and the Green Energy workshop, in particular, comes from the legacy I want to leave behind for my children and grandchildren. I want them to know that I have done everything I can to preserve our earth, thereby allowing them the privilege of the beauty I personally have experienced and enjoyed in my lifetime. I have witnessed firsthand in countries like Haiti and Honduras where there is little electric power, and what exists is often unreliable. A small stand-alone solar system in a school or church(usually the center of the community) can breathe life into an area whose day usually ends when the sun goes down."

Shelley Buonaiuto "Climate disruption is here. Governments have been too partisan to act with the requisite urgency, but we see some effective development of renewables and public power movements coming from grassroots initiatives. More attention is needed on low-income, often primarily BIPOC, communities that are also often the communities bearing the brunt of fossil fuel toxic pollution. A greener energy system should benefit lower-income communities. I am very excited about working within the River Valley, learning about energy insecurity, and bringing in experts to educate about energy efficiency practices and, eventually, community solar projects. I've worked with the Citizens Climate Lobby and the Citizens Climate League on a number of issues, recognizing the intersections of poverty, race, and climate change."

Robert McAfee "To empower a community is to love a community. The River Valley Green Energy & Education Program will provide a voice to those marginalized to attain clean energy transition equity. I am currently the volunteer Administrator of the Arkansas Citizens' Climate League. For most of my adult life, I have worked to bring awareness to climate change and seek just and equitable solutions for a fossil fuel free future."

Leah Lane: "I am concerned for low-income families who cannot afford energy-efficient technology. They are stuck with higher energy bills to pay for their less efficient refrigerators, ovens, and air conditioning. And electric companies are charging more for the energy to run these inefficient appliances. These families often live in places most affected by intense weather episodes caused by fossil fuel burning for electrical production. They need access to cost-efficient, cost-stable energy, and not energy produced with life-risking methods. Solar energy is one of these methods."

King Solar

by Paulette Ann Meikle

We are in awe of your affluence
We love your energy and conscience.
Crowned in iridescent gold, you warm
the earth, our homes, and our souls.
King Solar reigns!

You selflessly give, always replenishing
Freely restoring, your core is light
your portfolio is the energy of life.
You are the foundation of science
the master of ecology. Naturally synergistic
and you gently whisper, have a heart, people
People, please play your part.

Thoughtful throughout the ages
the glee on future generation
faces you see.
Without a plea, you lavishly give
you give to live.

You reign, you give; we live
Again and again, you warmly whisper
won't you play your part?

Your golden energy replenishes.
it royally restores. Uncompromising generosity!
Always fueling the earth, illuminating our minds
and souls, even as glimmering streams reflect
your golden beams, and we want more.

They call your energy green.
They call you clean because you are never mean.
Abundant clean energy! You are so strong
and inclusive, powering our fertile and
productive systems, warming our hearts
and often puzzling our thoughts.

You fuel the galaxies and never ask for taxes.
You reign without strain decade after decade
through human escapades and their reckless oblivion.

Indomitable King Solar, you shine through the ages,
photosynthesizing in plants, and they never have wants.
Solar energy beaming, enlightening our paths, and
cozily warming our hearts. Yet you stand in
your power, fueling complex human systems.

You charge us nothing, and we take you for granted
We know you feel slighted in your core
because we ignore the gifts, you impart.
We apologize; forgive us, King Solar.
As stewards here and now, we vow to play our part
in the River Valley.