

Deborah Kapiloff

Transportation Electrification Policy Advisor, Clean Energy



As a transportation electrification policy advisor at Western Resource Advocates (WRA), Deborah Kapiloff advocates for policies which reduce emissions in the transportation sector, focusing on the adoption of electric vehicles (EVs) throughout the organization's seven-state region. Kapiloff's policy work seeks to maximize the environmental and economic benefits of transportation electrification for communities across the West.

With an eye for effective program design, Kapiloff's role largely centers around working with investor-owned utilities in the region to advance transportation electrification and shape utility offerings through the development and implementation of transportation electrification plans. These plans include programs to increase access to EVs and EV charging for utility customers, as well as ways to manage that additional energy load effectively. She also advocates for pro-EV policies such as more stringent vehicle emissions, rate design tailored to EV users to encourage charging at times which benefit the grid, and supporting medium- and heavy-duty vehicle electrification.

Advocating for the environment has been part of Kapiloff's personal and professional journey since childhood. As an elementary school student in the suburbs of Washington, D.C., she wanted to be an environmental regulator at the Environmental Protection Agency. And while in college she became actively involved in the resistance movement against building the Dakota Access and Line 3 pipelines. These experiences cemented in her the need to halt new fossil fuel infrastructure that would be used for decades and lock in devastating climate change and environmental impacts.

Kapiloff joined WRA in 2021 as a regional markets intern, researching how state climate goals and emissions reductions commitments can be accommodated in regional wholesale electricity markets. Prior to WRA, she worked for the Institute for Local Self-Reliance in Washington, D.C., researching environmental justice issues in low-income communities and with the Zero Emission Resource Organization in Oslo, Norway, assisting staff with research on European Union carbon markets.

Kapiloff specifically became interested in electrification while working in Norway to help carry out a cost-benefit study and advocacy campaign for replacing the city of Oslo's ferries with electric models. She is energized by the thought of a future where transportation is powered by clean electricity and vehicles no longer create major greenhouse gas impact nor emit harmful air pollutants. She believes this vision for the future is possible through implementing policies that create long-term resilience and focus on input from and collaboration with the many diverse communities that call the Interior West their home.

Her dedicated efforts have influenced positive change from the very beginning of her time with WRA. As an intern, she authored a greenhouse gas accounting paper that is still utilized in regional markets expansion discussions in the West. Then, just three weeks into her fulltime role, Kapiloff served as an expert witness in a utility transportation electrification plan proceeding, securing many of her recommendations and doubling the program budget.

Kapiloff holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science and environmental studies with an emphasis in environmental economics and social sciences from St. Olaf College in Minnesota. She lives in Colorado with her partner, Jack, and their dog, Apollo, and enjoys reading, hiking, biking to breweries, and cooking.

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