

Meera Fickling Building Decarbonization Manager



Meera Fickling is the building decarbonization manager at Western Resource Advocates (WRA). As part of the clean energy team, she leads the organization's work to shape state-level building decarbonization policy and reduce emissions from the building sector in the Interior West.

Fickling coordinates with stakeholders including utilities, building professionals, environmental advocates, and electricity consumers to develop and build support for building decarbonization solutions. She educates key decision makers across the region about the economic and environmental benefits of building decarbonization. In her role, she is called on to testify in regulatory, legislative and executive agency policy forums and advocate for investments in cleaner energy sources.

Fickling's background makes her particularly well-suited for her role. She came to WRA in February 2021 with more than a decade of experience in the energy sector. Most recently, she was an industry economist and principal commercial demand modeler for the National Energy Modeling System (NEMS) at the U.S. Energy Information Administration. There she used energy models to project future building energy outlook predictions to 2050, including markets trends, pricing, and more. She has also helped manage USAID energy projects in the Caribbean, Central America, and Central Asia, and she has research experience in carbon markets and climate change economics.

But all of that wasn't enough – Fickling wanted to take a more active role in this critical sector. She wanted to use her unique skillset to confront climate change in a more impactful way. Though her education had been focused on the economy, her interest was quickly driven to how the environment impacts trade and how countries, states, and municipalities tackle the climate crisis.

A second-generation Indian immigrant, Fickling attaches special urgency to WRA's mission. She's seen firsthand how the climate crisis is devastating the Indian subcontinent and how it disproportionately affects countries that lack resources to mitigate its impact. She's seen similar changes in the Interior West, where climate change can be readily viewed through historic droughts, longer wildfire seasons, and more.

Through her work with WRA, Fickling submitted several rounds of testimony as Colorado prepared to decide the future of the Comanche 3, the state's last operating coal-fueled power plant. Together with Xcel Energy, Fickling's team helped solidify the mutually agreed plan that would retire that plant nine years earlier than anticipated, avoiding millions of tons of carbon dioxide emissions.

It's that intersection of technical analysis and advocacy where Fickling shines. She has a capacity for digging through the details to get to the core of the issue and arrive at a just solution that's both beneficial for the environment and good for the residents of Colorado.

Fickling's expertise was tapped for Colorado's Environmental Justice Action Task Force, which developed a report providing recommendations for how state agencies can incorporate environmental justice issues in decision-making. She was also part of a clean heat working group through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the College of William and Mary, as well as a Master of Environmental Management from the Nicholas School of the Environment at Duke University. A resident of Colorado, Fickling enjoys rock climbing, hiking with her dog, and playing Dungeons and Dragons.

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