

Nancy Kelly **Senior Policy Advisor, Clean Energy**



Nancy Kelly is a veteran policy advisor for Western Resource Advocates (WRA) who works to accelerate the transition to renewable energy in the West, which includes integrative resource planning and advancing regional areas of cooperation. She represents WRA in regulatory, political, and other policy forums, and works directly with the region's electric utilities and commission staff, consumer advocates, and the business and environmental community.

From a very early age, Kelly wanted to change the world. She saw the study of economics as a pathway to that goal, and ultimately earned a Bachelor of Science in Economics from Idaho State University. While pursuing a doctorate from the

University of Utah Department of Economics, a book was published on the same subject of her planned dissertation, throwing a wrench in her progress.

As she worked to develop a new thesis topic, Kelly waited tables in Salt Lake City. But in 1998, a different door opened. By chance, Kelly bumped into an old classmate who asked her to help with analysis reports requested by the Utah State Legislature on a proposal to deregulate retail electricity in the state. As an economist, Kelly initially felt some trepidation jumping into this new field, but she quickly found that she loved the work. And thus, began her career in the electric industry.

For the next 10 years, Kelly worked as a consultant and utility economist with the Committee of Consumer Services, a board within the Utah Office of Consumer Services that advocates for small customer interests in energy and utility matters. She focused primarily on regional electricity issues. In 2002, she joined the Western Electricity Coordinating Council Board of Directors, and was influential in promoting energy and market balance in the West. Due to this expertise, Kelly was recruited to join WRA in 2008.

With decades of work in the energy field under her belt, Kelly is proudest of the relationships she's forged, the respect she's earned by colleagues and industry professionals, and influencing how the integrated resource planning (ISP) process is done for PacifiCorp, one of the largest grid operators in the West. But it's the group efforts that Kelly enjoys the most; rather than point to specific accomplishments, she prefers to speak of the behind-the-scenes work done with others to move matters and policy in a needed direction.

Kelly is currently an at-large board member of Renewable Northwest, an advocacy organization that focuses on the renewable energy policies and markets of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. She was the staff economist for the Center for Business Research and Services at Idaho State University, and taught a number of courses at Idaho State, Westminster College, and the University of Utah.

A longtime Idaho resident, Kelly is passionate about the outdoors and riding horses. She also enjoys spending time studying spiritual texts and landscaping work.

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