



SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Julia N. Griffin, Township Manager, Hanover, New Hampshire

Julia received a BA in Government from Wesleyan University in 1979, a Master's in International Relations from Yale University in 1982 and a Master's in Public and Private Management from the Yale School of Management in 1984.

Julia began her professional career working in the international third world public policy field with the American Friends Service Committee in New York City, the Friends Committee on National Legislation and the U.S. Agency for International Development in Washington D.C. After graduate school, Julia moved into the municipal management field, first working with the Office of Management and Budget for the City of New York in 1984. She then moved west to work as a Senior Management Analyst in the City Manager's Office for the City of Santa Monica, California from 1985 through 1990. In 1990 Julia accepted the position of Assistant City Manager for the City of Concord and went on to become Concord's City Manager in 1992. She accepted the position of Town Manager for Hanover in March of 1996.

Julia particularly enjoys working in the field of municipal and regional transitions to 100%renewable energy. In addition to supporting the work of Hanover's Sustainable Hanover Committee, Julia is also actively supporting regional and statewide efforts in New Hampshire, looking to the much more progressive efforts underway in New England. New Hampshire trails the rest of New England in terms of carbon footprint reduction so the opportunities for improvement are significant. Hanover looks to help lead this effort and it is tremendously satisfying for Town staff to work in support of that effort.

Julia lives with her husband, John Steidl in Hanover. When not providing moral support for her two grown children and parenting two rescue dogs and five rescue cats, Julia volunteers for two dog rescue organizations focused on placing southern rescues in the northeast, enjoys hiking, gardening, reading and horseback riding. She also serves on the board of the Public Health Council of the Upper Valley, CATV (the regional local public access television station), Hypertherm's HOPE Foundation and Granite United Way's Upper Valley Campaign Cabinet.

Jon Leshar, LEED Green Associate - Jon Leshar is a principal environmental planner for the Montgomery County Planning Commission. Jon's duties include writing and reviewing ordinances, reviewing sewage and land use proposals, conducting planning related studies, and public outreach efforts. Jon is a project manager for the County's municipal sustainability efforts, wrote the Renewable Energy Series and leads the County Planning Commission's renewable energy efforts. Jon is also involved in County-wide sustainability and resiliency initiatives. Before joining Montgomery County Jon has related experience working for the Brandywine Conservancy and in stormwater management. Jon earned his undergraduate degree from Ursinus College and a Master's in Regional and Community Planning from Temple University.

Jim Wylie is the volunteer chair of the Sierra Club's Southeastern Pennsylvania Group (SPG). Jim lives in West Chester Borough where he rents and sells electric bicycles in hopes of getting more people out of their cars. Jim is a strong advocate for renewable energy as a solution to environmental impacts of burning, extracting and transporting fossil fuels.

Joanne Kilgour, Esq., serves as the Director of the Sierra Club Pennsylvania Chapter in the organization's Harrisburg office. Before joining the Sierra Club, Joanne held the position of Legal Director at the Center for Coalfield Justice in Washington, PA, working on matters related to underground mining and natural gas extraction. Joanne received her undergraduate education at Carnegie Mellon University and her legal education at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, where she earned a certificate in Environmental Law, Science, and Policy and was awarded the Thornburgh Prize for Legal Service.