

CIRCULAR CITY WEEK NEW YORK CLOSING CELEBRATION 2021 BOLD LEADERSHIP: FROM ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY TO CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Anna Brown
Resilience Lead, NYSERDA

Anna, Founder and Principal of Aequita Consulting LLC, is an interdisciplinary thinker and practitioner with 20 years of experience working at the intersections of human and environmental systems. Her life and career have focused on addressing two of the most pressing issues of our time: climate and social equity. As a consultant representing the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), Anna is leading an effort to integrate resilience across its portfolios.

At The Rockefeller Foundation, Anna managed the Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network (ACCCRN). She has contributed to the Global Commission on Adaptation, has led a North America regional climate adaptation strategy for The Nature Conservancy, and has supported strategy development for World Resources Institute (WRI). Anna earned an undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies from Brown University and a Master's in City Planning from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Anthony Abbotts
Director Group Sustainability, ROCKWOOL International

Anthony has been leading and driving the global sustainability agenda in the ROCKWOOL Group since 2016. Anthony is responsible for driving the sustainability agenda globally throughout the ROCKWOOL Group through the maximization of the positive impact of its products and the minimization of the negative impact of its manufacturing facilities worldwide. He has broad global experience within sustainability in business and the public sector working within this area for over 30 years. He has held various positions as sustainability consultant, in the public sector and for Environmental NGOs before his move to the ROCKWOOL Group in 2008.

Anthony holds a BA(Hons) in Urban Planning from University of West of England and a MSc in Environmental Planning from Roskilde University. He is an External Lecturer at Copenhagen Business School.

Howard (H.J.) Dewes
Business Development Manager, ABB

Howard is the Business Development Manager, HVAC- Hydronics for the ABB Drives business, and has spent more than thirty years at ABB, where he has contributed to the growth of the business, from the factory floor and logistics to channel management, sales, business development, marketing and acquisition integration. A tenacious learner with the capacity to view matters from multiple perspectives, Howard leverages in-depth research, critical thinking and strong analytical skills to develop effective, broad-based plans.

H.J. served in the United States Navy and holds a degree in from Marquette University with majors in Organization Leadership and Communication Studies. He currently serves on the board of directors for the Hydraulic Institute (HI), and on the National Electrical Manufacturers' Association's (NEMA) Artificial Intelligence Task Force. Previously, he actively participated in The Water Council and Midwest Energy Research Consortium's Strategic Energy-Water Nexus Task Force.

Kinga Szabo Christensen
Deputy Director General, Confederation of Danish Industry

Kinga is a part of DI's Executive Management. She is responsible for the strategic development and operation of six global offices and all consultancy activities including international business development, sustainability, organizational development, digitalization and global talent attraction. A part of her responsibility is to innovate new member services and professional networks together with nearly 200 colleagues worldwide. She has driven several innovative partnerships and has 15 years of experience from business transformation.

Kinga is a strategic thinker and value-driven leader with broad experience from international business development across borders and sectors. She was born in Hungary and has lived and worked in North-Africa, Denmark, Brazil, China, Mexico and the US.

Michael Plaster
Executive Vice President & Lead Business Manager, Electrification, ABB US

Michael joined ABB in 2005 and has held various leadership roles with increasing responsibility in both sales and general management. He has been instrumental in building Electrification's new Utility Sales & Marketing organization as well as significantly growing the Commercial & Industrial market in the U.S.

Prior to joining ABB, Michael worked at Kirby Risk Electrical Supply and Square D. Mike has a BS Mechanical Engineering Technology degree from Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana and an MBA degree from Butler University, Indianapolis, Indiana.

Tom Kennedy
Principle & Circular Economy Lead, Arup

Tom is a Principal with Arup, a global design and consulting firm. He trained as a civil engineer, a skill that has led him to numerous projects and communities around the globe and has the fortune to have lived in various locations around the world including Moscow, Singapore, Doha, Europe and his native UK, but has been based in the US for the last 20 years.

These opportunities have fostered a deep learning and understanding about materials, design and construction techniques and has worked on a number of notable global and NY projects. Tom currently heads up Arup's Civil Engineering skills and Foresight and Innovation team in the Americas as well as directing the Circular Economy business for Arup in the Americas.

Tone Søndergaard,
Director, Circular City Week & Director of Danish Cleantech Hub New York

Tone Søndergaard is the Director at the Danish Cleantech Hub in New York responsible for managing daily operations, and insuring continuous innovation and development of transatlantic partnerships, sustainable business development programs and climate change initiatives across the Danish Cleantech Hub portfolio. As part hereof, Tone is the Founding Director of Circular City Week New York, an open collaborative festival for circular economy related events. Tone joined Danish Cleantech Hub in 2015.

Before joining Danish Cleantech Hub New York in 2015, Tone worked at the Danish-Chinese Business Forum and the Trade Policy Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark, in both Brussels and Copenhagen. Tone holds a Master Degree in International Business and Politics from Copenhagen Business School, partly completed at Columbia University.