

Sheila Townsend

NECO Board

Sheila started her interest in renewable energy with a Master of Politics and Administration of Natural Resources from Colorado State University in 1988. In the years following this she co-founded Golden Earth Days Council (GEDC) the predecessor of New Energy Colorado with Barry Rosenberg and Ron Larsen. Golden Earth Days Council was involved in roadside cleanups and tree plantings. The organization won the Governor's Award for Environmental Groups in 1990. GEDC also won the City of Golden Sustainability Award for Environmental Groups in 2014. After this she worked for a brief time for State Senator (now Congressman) Ed Perlmutter at the State Capitol.



In 2001 she started her job as Executive Director of the Colorado Renewable Energy Society (CRES), which she held until 2011. In this role she coordinated the statewide Colorado Renewable Energy Conference. She began the tradition of moving the event around the state holding conferences in Granby, Colorado Springs, Denver, Montrose, Ft Collins, Pueblo and Steamboat Springs. She also coordinated the Denver Tour of Solar Homes, Colorado's contribution to the National Tour of Solar Homes started by ASES. From 2011 she has been coordinating the Metro Denver Green Homes Tour in her role with NECO. In 2019 she started the Chaffee Green Homes Tour in the Salida and Buena Vista areas. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking and snowshoeing with her dogs and family and is involved in dog and cat rescue in the Denver area.