



Atlantic Council

VETERANS ADVANCED
ENERGY PROJECT

2021 Year in Review

Celebrating Five Years

www.vetsenergyproject.org | info@vetsenergyproject.org | [@vets_energy](https://twitter.com/vets_energy)



Atlantic Council

VETERANS ADVANCED ENERGY PROJECT

The Veterans Advanced Energy Project is designed to drive US leadership in advanced energy by recruiting, equipping, and empowering military veterans who understand the importance of the evolving energy landscape to our future security and prosperity.

Advanced energy is defined by leading edge energy technologies including solar, wind, batteries, microgrids, advanced nuclear, electric vehicles, and end-user energy efficiency.

The Veterans Advanced Energy Project mission applies to veterans of the US armed services and national guard, reservists, active-duty service members, and their spouses.

The Veterans Advanced Energy Project is housed within the Atlantic Council Global Energy Center, which promotes energy security by working alongside government, industry, civil society, and public stakeholders to devise pragmatic solutions to the geopolitical, sustainability, and economic challenges of the changing global energy landscape.

For more information, please visit www.AtlanticCouncil.org

Special Thanks: The Veterans Advanced Energy Project would like to extend special thanks to Zack Strauss and Maggie Jackson for their contributions to the success of the program. Farewell and following seas on your future adventures.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

Celebrating Five Years

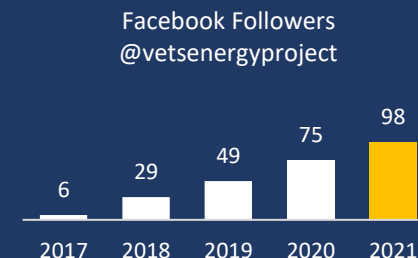
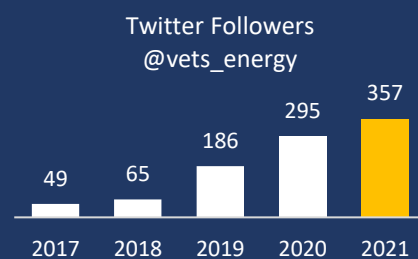
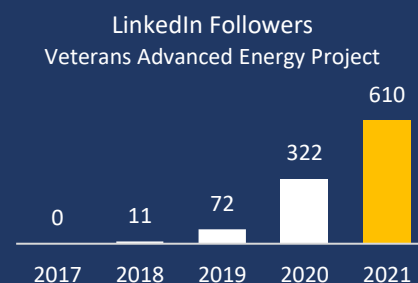
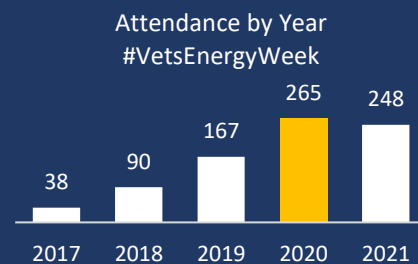
The Veterans Advanced Energy Project is celebrating five years of helping military veterans and military spouses find meaningful and sustainable employment through education on the importance of the clean energy transition to US national security and by building a community within the advanced energy industry.

Since 2016, the Veterans Advanced Energy Project has continued to expand its programming, community, reach, and the nationwide conversation at the intersection of clean energy and national security by elevating the voices of our nation's veterans.

In 2021, the annual Veterans Advanced Energy Week was once again held as a virtual conference due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. While attendance was lower than the year before, we are optimistic about increased participation in this important learning and networking event as we make plans for an in-person 2022 Veterans Advanced Energy Summit.

The Veterans Advanced Energy Fellowship also continued into its third year with continuous improvement by incorporating feedback into the program from each outgoing cohort has to maximize the fellows' experience.

In addition to these two main program pillars, the summit and fellowship, the Veterans Advanced Energy Project also held a number of events throughout the year, in-person and virtual, and increased its social media presence through story-driven content. We are pleased to share some of the highlights of the past year in the pages ahead.



"I appreciate the opportunity to connect with like-minded veterans, learn about their journeys, and look for ways to align our shared passion and purpose to support the transition to a clean energy economy that fosters and improves the energy independence of America while creating economic growth."

Chris Valle, US Air Force Veteran

2021 PUBLIC EVENTS



MICHIGAN VETERANS IN ADVANCED ENERGY

June 25, 2021 (Virtual)

Hosted by Taylor Searcy, Veterans Advanced Energy Fellow



GREEN CAREERS FOR VETERANS IN ENERGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

July 21, 2021 (Virtual)

Hosted by Jessica Klinge, Veterans Advanced Energy Fellow



NEW HAMPSHIRE NETWORKING EVENT: VETERANS IN ADVANCED ENERGY

July 22, 2021

Hosted by Robyn Tyner, Veterans Advanced Energy Fellow

VETERANS ADVANCED ENERGY WEEK

AUGUST 2 – 6 | 2021



2021 VETERANS ADVANCED ENERGY WEEK

August 2-6, 2021

For the second year, the annual summit was held as an online, interactive conference due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. During the five-day event, panel discussions and keynote speakers discussed the green economic recovery, technological solutions to achieve net zero emissions, innovation and geopolitics in advanced energy, and career opportunities for veterans. See highlights on the next page.

DEFENSE TECHCONNECT
INNOVATION SUMMIT & EXPO

NEXUS OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND ENERGY SECURITY

October 19, 2021

Hosted by Defense Techconnect Innovation Summit & Expo

Atlantic Council
GLOBAL ENERGY CENTER

SALUTE TO SERVICE: THE ROLE OF VETERANS IN THE ENERGY TRANSITION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30 | 10:00 A.M. (ET)



SALUTE TO SERVICE: THE ROLE OF MILITARY VETERANS IN THE ENERGY TRANSITION

November 30, 2021 (Virtual)

Veterans Month event hosted by Atlantic Council Global Energy Center

“Veterans Advanced Energy Week furthered my company's reach into veteran related events for hiring transitioning service members.”

Daniel Dietmeyer, USMC Veteran

VETERANS ADVANCED ENERGY WEEK

Program Highlights

DAY 1: THE GREEN ECONOMIC RECOVERY

- Post Pandemic Energy Employment and Economic Recovery
- Veteran Careers in the Renewable Energy Economy, Hosted by Jesse Medlong, Veterans Advanced Energy Fellow

DAY 2: THE PATHWAY TO NET ZERO

- Achieving Carbon-Free Electricity
- New-Energy Mobility
- The Role of Nuclear in Net Zero

DAY 3: LEADING IN CLEAN ENERGY TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

- Military Microgrids and Veteran Workforce Opportunities
- Energy Innovation for the Department of Defense
- The Geopolitics of the Energy Transition
- *Nation in Transition* Film Screening and Discussion

DAY 4: CAREER TRANSITION TO THE ADVANCED ENERGY INDUSTRY

- Breaking into Clean Energy: What Makes for Successful External Hires, Hosted by Mike Petersen, Veterans Advanced Energy Fellow
- Solar Ready Vets Career Connect and Networking Discussion
- Climate Security and the Energy Transition: A View from the Department of Defense

“Attending the Veterans Advanced Energy Summit opened my eyes to many elements of the energy industry outside my immediate purview. The eclectic crowd and presentation diversity gave me new perspectives which have since steered me into new business relationships and a new professional role.”

*Joshua Junge
US Marine Corps*

Featured Speakers



Miranda Ballentine

Chief Executive Officer, Renewable Energy Buyers Alliance; Former Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment, and Energy



The Hon. Mike Braun

US Senator (R), Indiana; Co-Chair, US Senate Bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus



Edward Dee

Executive Director, Navajo Government Development Office; Army Veteran



The Hon. Donald McEachin

US Representative (D), Virginia's Fourth Congressional District



The Hon. Mariannette Miller-Meeks

US Representative (R), Iowa's Second District; US Army Veteran



Julia Nesheiwat

Distinguished Fellow, Atlantic Council; Former Homeland Security Adviser to the President; Former Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Energy Resources; Army Veteran



James Rodriguez

Acting Assistant Secretary for Policy; US Department of Labor, Veterans' Employment and Training Services; Marine Corps Veteran



Amanda Simpson

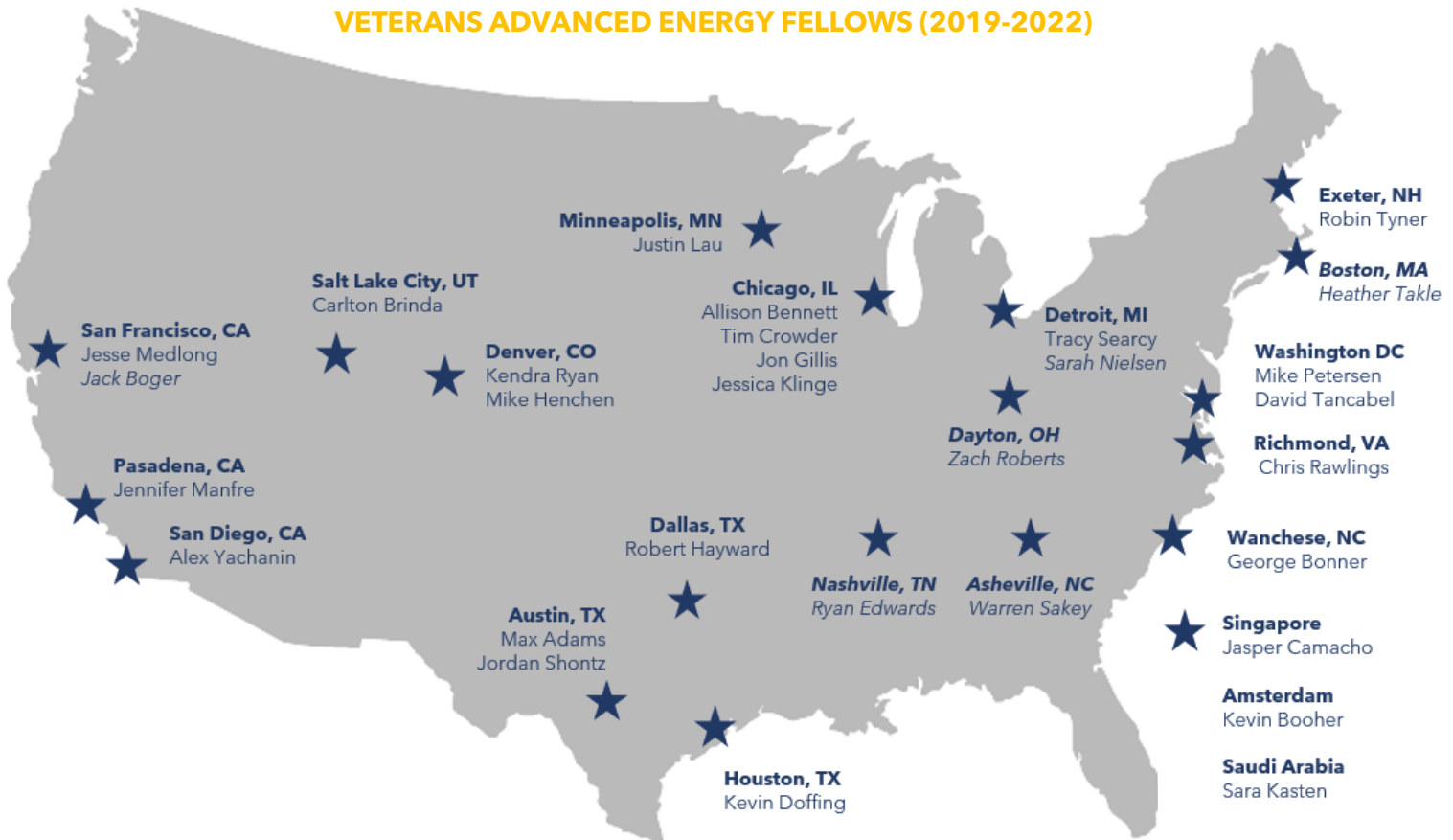
Vice President for Research and Technology, Airbus Americas; Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Operational Energy

VETERANS ADVANCED ENERGY FELLOWSHIP

The Veterans Advanced Energy Fellowship seeks to create a cadre of future leaders within the advanced energy industry. The program provides a select group of high-performing, high-potential leaders with policy training in energy diplomacy, markets, and technology, mentorship from senior national security and energy leaders in the Atlantic Council's network, and participation in high-profile settings, including in Atlantic Council events and publications. In 2021, the second cohort of Fellows completed its tenure and the third fellowship cohort began. Each year, the fellows participate in monthly webinars for in depth conver-

sations with experts from industry, academia, and government about energy diplomacy, technology, and policy. In addition, each fellow develops their own policy proposal with the help from a Policy Advisor from the Atlantic Council network. See the next page for highlights from the 2021 papers. Lastly, fellows participate in team building activities like peer mentorship, skills-based training such as public speaking and persuasive writing, and host events in their hometown to build a community of veterans in advanced energy.

VETERANS ADVANCED ENERGY FELLOWS (2019-2022)



"The Veterans Advanced Energy Fellowship is expanding my network and enabling me to connect with key contacts that help me in my current role."

Jennifer Manfre, US Army Veteran

FEATURED STORY

These military veterans are solving our energy and climate problems, one idea at a time

Editor's Note: This article was originally posted on the Veterans Advanced Energy Website on July 26, 2021 to highlight the Veterans Advanced Energy Fellowship Policy Proposals. Click the image to the right to read the proposals.



Robin Tyner (left), a US Navy veteran living in Exeter, New Hampshire, sees the need to bring creative energy solutions to remote locations in Northern US states like hers and others such as Maine, North Dakota, Montana and Alaska. An emerging technology called marine hydro-kinetic (MHK) energy may be that solution for areas near lakes and streams, like it was for the Village of Igiugig in Alaska. Tyner is calling on the US Department of Energy's Water Power Technology Office and the Deputy Director for Environmental Justice to allocate funding from the new Justice40 program for similar MHK projects.

Taylor Searcy (right), a US Navy veteran in Detroit, Michigan, has a long history of living on and near the water. After leaving the Navy, Searcy moved to Fiji where he researched low carbon transport solutions between the Pacific islands. Today, he sees a major opportunity to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from seaports around the globe and wants to use these ports as "green gateways" to achieve other climate change goals. Searcy proposes an interagency port decarbonization policy under the American Jobs Plan to capitalize on the joint efforts across the US Departments of Transportation, Energy, and the Environmental Protection Agency.



Jon Gillis (left), a US Marine Corps veteran in Chicago, Illinois, wants to boost US competitiveness in the solar battery market now dominated by China and other Asian countries. Historically, the US has tried to drive the demand for electric vehicles through subsidies and tax breaks to consumers. Jon proposes a new "Made in America" subsidy and tax credits for battery producers in the United States to improve the supply side economics.

These are just three examples of the many ideas generated as part of the 2020-2021 Veterans Advanced Energy Fellowship. As part of the yearlong leadership program, each fellow prepared a policy proposal related to national security and advanced energy with the assistance of an advisor from the Atlantic Council network. The policy proposals diagnose a problem and propose a solution to a specific actor or actors. The Fellows consider the counterarguments of the policy prescription to strengthen the proposed pathway and were encouraged to select a topic that they have a professional and personal connection.

"The biggest impact of the Veterans Advanced Energy Fellowship is giving me a voice to support veterans and our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity efforts within our company—and in the context of the energy transition in general."

Taylor Searcy
US Navy Veteran

WHO WE ARE



Dan Misch

*Co-Director and Founder,
Veterans Advanced Energy
Project, US Navy Veteran*



Greg Douquet

*Co-Director, Veterans
Advanced Energy Project,
US Marine Corps Veteran*



Randolph Bell

*Atlantic Council Global
Energy Center, Director*

ADVISORY COMMITTEE



**General James Jones Jr
(Honorary Chairman)**

*Atlantic Council Executive
Chairman Emeritus; Former
National Security Advisor to the
President of the United States*



Dr. Morgan Bazilian

*Director, Payne Institute,
Professor of Public Policy,
Division of Economics and
Business, Colorado School of
Mines; Former Lead Energy
Specialist, World Bank*



Liz Ramsay Dalton

*Vice President of Strategy,
Powerhouse; Former
Principal Deputy Assistant
Secretary of Energy*



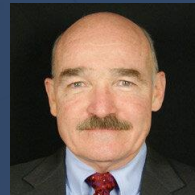
Sherri Goodman

*Board Director, Atlantic
Council; Senior Fellow, Wilson
Center; First Deputy Under
Secretary of Defense for
Environmental Security*



Kevin Johnson

*US Army Veteran;
President, GlidePath
Federal Solutions; Co-
Founder, Clean Capital*



Vice Admiral Dennis McGinn

*Former Assistant Secretary of
the Navy for Energy,
Installations, and the
Environment*



Jon Powers

*US Army Veteran; Co-Founder
and President, Clean Capital;
Former Federal Chief
Sustainability Officer*



Colonel Al Trimble

US Marine Corps, Retired

“Attending the Veterans Advanced Energy Summit was a great opportunity to re-connect with former colleagues and examine what possible roles I could find in the advanced energy sector after retiring from the Navy.”

Greg Zacharski, US Navy Retired



Atlantic Council

VETERANS ADVANCED ENERGY PROJECT

www.vetsenergyproject.org | info@vetsenergyproject.org | [@vets_energy](https://twitter.com/vets_energy)