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2024 GREEN JOBS FORUM

Creating A Sustainable Future

Presented by the Education and Workforce Development Committee



Moderator

Dr. Patricia Gómez is a leader in planning and implementing climate adaptation and mitigation programs, with over 20 years of direct experience working on engineering, resilience, and sustainability-related opportunities in both the public sector and private sectors.

Currently serving as the Director of Energy and Interim Chief Resilience Officer in Miami-Dade County's Office of Resilience, Dr. Gómez has successfully implemented several projects that have increased the sustainability and resilience of county operations and the community. These projects include the implementation of the enterprise-wide utility billing management software, the Building Efficiency 305 (BE305) initiative, the Climate Action Strategy, and on-site solar installations for county facilities.

Dr. Gomez holds a Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering from the University of Miami and has numerous certifications, including Professional Engineer in the State of Florida, LEED AP BD+C accredited professional, and Certified Energy Manager. Dr. Gómez is a Board member of the Envision Review Board (ERB) affiliated with the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure (ISI).



Patricia Gómez
Deputy Chief Resilience Officer
Miami-Dade County
Office of Resilience

Speaker Biography

Anya is originally from Ukraine and together with her family lived in Israel, South Africa, and China before settling in Miami to attend law school. Anya worked for the US Attorney's Office and clerked at the United States District Court before opening her own law firm focused on environmental policy. Frustrated with lack of innovation around rising sea-levels which threaten Miami, Anya took on the challenge of finding a technological solutions to this global challenge that both supports the environment and has economies of scale.



Anya Freeman
Co-Founder and CEO
Kind Designs

Speaker Biography

With a remarkable career spanning over three decades in the technical, engineering, and business development sectors, Luis Contreras is the driving force behind groundbreaking innovations in the energy and mobility industries. Founder and CEO of AmePower, he was recently awarded as Florida's Small Businesspersons of the Year alongside President Karina Doracio by the US. Small Business Administration, attesting to his exceptional stewardship of the company, and congratulated nationally by President Biden for AmePower's critical role in fueling the nation's shift to clean energy. Under his guidance, AmePower has evolved into a global technology powerhouse, setting new standards for excellence, which was recognized with a prestigious award given by Siemens Mobility as a Diverse Supplier of the Year in 2023. His dedication to customer-centric solutions and cutting-edge power conversion technology has propelled the company to unprecedented heights, and redefined reliability in the industry.



Luis Contreras
Founder and CEO
AmePower

Speaker Biography

Dr. Arif Sarwat is a professor in the department of Electrical and Computer Engineering and also the Director of FIU-FPL Solar Research Center. Dr. Sarwat received his master's degree from University of Florida, Gainesville, his Ph.D from University of South Florida, Tampa and currently leads The Energy, Power and Sustainability Group at FIU. Dr. Sarwat's research interests include smart grids, Plug-in Hybrid and Electric Vehicle (PHEV & EV Systems), high penetration renewable systems, grid resiliency, large-scale data analysis, advance metering infrastructure, smart city infrastructure and cybersecurity. His outstanding contribution led him to become the recipient of NSF Career Award in 2016 and multiple federal and industry research awards. He was the author/co-author of conference best paper awards at the resilience week in 2017 and a journal best paper award in 2016 from Modern Power Systems and Clean Energy journal. Dr. Sarwat worked at Siemens for more than nine years, winning three recognition awards. He is chair of IEEE Miami Section VT and Communication since 2012.



Arif Sarwat

Director of FIU-FPL Solar Research Center,
College of Engineering & Computing,
Florida International University