

Press Release  
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## Community Wind Awards Presented at Distributed Wind Energy Association Conference (DWEA) in Arlington Virginia

**Brent Summerville**, Systems Engineer at the National Renewable Energy Lab, was presented the Windustry **2023 Distinguished Service in Community Wind Award**. Brent's work is focused on numerous distributed wind energy projects, including standards development, the Competitive Improvement Project, and deployable wind energy systems.

Distributed and community scale renewable energy has solidly been Brent's focus in many different capacities. After teaching at Appalachian State University as a Practitioner-in-Residence in Sustainable Technology for five years and working as Technical Director for the Small Wind Certification Council since its inception, Brent's career took another turn in 2020 when he took a systems engineering position at NREL.

Brent is a licensed professional engineer in the State of North Carolina with a BS in Mechanical Engineering from North Carolina State University and a Masters in Appropriate Technology from Appalachian State University.

This award is given annually to a person or program that has made exceptionally significant contributions, over several years, to the establishment and growth of locally owned and distributed wind as a uniquely valuable form of clean, renewable energy. When an individual is the recipient, he or she possesses outstanding dedication, excellence and achievement and has worked over many years to further the goals of community wind and distributed renewable energy.



*Photo caption: Brent Summerville (left) of NREL, Golden, CO and Devon (Rocky) McIntosh of Sonsight Wind, Atlanta, GA*

The **2023 Innovator in Community Wind and Sustainable Energy Award** went to **Dr. Devon "Rocky" McIntosh**, President of Sonsight Wind, a small company located in Lawrenceville, GA. Dr. McIntosh is applying research in electromagnetic interactions to problems related to energy efficiency and renewable energy. This award is presented annually to an individual who has made significant progress in forging ahead with new policies, new approaches or new research to further community and distributed wind energy. This person has demonstrated creative vision and about implementing community and distributed wind; is immensely generous in sharing his/her time for the promotion of community and distributed wind and is a person of great heart.

After patenting thermal radiation transfer in scattering media for improving lighting efficiency and consulting on ultrasonic wave scattering for steel weld nondestructive evaluation and on

novel incandescent illumination for movie lighting, Dr. McIntosh began working to improve small wind turbine cost effectiveness. Sonsight has developed a patented advanced light-weight low-RPM generator for direct drive turbines, and is working to advance other wind turbine components including control electronics. Currently, Sonsight's generators range between 3 kW and 5 kW at around 160 to 200 RPM, but are easily scalable.

A main focus of Rocky's team's work has been to develop advanced extended blade turbines that will significantly lower generation costs and increase energy production over a wide range of wind speed sites in general, and will economically generate energy within moderate wind areas in particular. Also, due largely to their low RPM, the turbines are quiet and are projected to be longer lived and more dependable with less maintenance. Rocky has a PhD in Physics from Howard University.

<http://voyageatl.com/interview/meet-devon-mcintosh-sonsight-wind-lawrenceville-gwinnett-county/>

The **2023 Groundbreaking Community Wind & Sustainable Energy Project** went to **Fire Island Wind**, a 17.6 wind energy project installed three miles off the coast of Anchorage, Alaska, owned by Cook Inlet Region, Inc (CIRI). Suzanne Settle, now VP, Energy, Land & Resources with CIRI, was a leader on the wind project team. The high performing project began delivering clean renewable energy to Anchorage homes in the fall of 2012 and helps to relieve Anchorage's short supply of natural gas during the winter months. Currently, the 11 wind turbines located on Fire Island have the capacity to power approximately 7,000 homes in South central Alaska. CIRI is studying the feasibility of building additional wind turbines to expand the project.

<https://fireislandwind.com> Cook Inlet Region, Inc., Anchorage, Alaska.



*From left to right-  
2023 Community  
Wind Peer Group  
and Awardees:  
Padma  
Kasthurirangan,  
Buffalo, NY; Lloyd  
Ritter, Washington,  
DC; Alice Orell,  
Richland WA; Jim  
Duffy, Boston, MA;  
Trudy Forsyth,  
Denver, CO; Brent  
Summerville and  
Devon McIntosh;  
Heather Rhoads,  
Lacey, WA; and Lisa*

*Daniels, Minneapolis, MN*

Windustry and its Board of Directors along with a peer group of professionals who are past award recipients and work in community and distributed wind present the three annual *Community Wind Awards*. The 2023 national peer group included the folks in the photo above and others not in the photo: Chris Diaz, FL; Mia Devine, Seattle, WA; Britton Rife, Seattle WA; Tom Wind, Jefferson, IA; Jenny Heinzen, Custer, WI; Michael Arquin, St. Paul, MN.

**Windustry** is a non-profit organization based in Minneapolis working locally, regionally and nationally to build a path for clean energy in all communities.