



AWE NEWS



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Announcing AWE Leadership Changes!



Advancing Women in Energy is happy to welcome Theresa Schmidt to the AWE Board! We're excited to have her insights and strong energy background on the team.

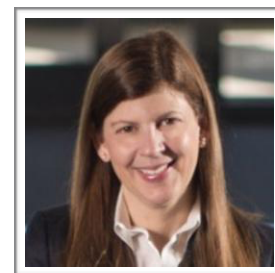
Theresa began her career at Consumers Energy in 1990 and since then has held many positions with the company. She began working with energy conservation programs in 2011, specifically with smart grid projects and load management programs. Ms. Schmidt was promoted to Energy Efficiency Residential Program Manager in 2012, where she provided her expert experiences in the planning and implementation of the multiple residential energy waste reduction (EWR) programs. In 2017, because of her substantial role in these valuable customer programs, Theresa was promoted to Residential Energy Efficiency Operations Director, which expanded her responsibilities to include supervising the development and implementation of Consumers Energy's residential EWR programs. Ms. Schmidt holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration & Organization Development from Spring Arbor University.

What we're listening to:

The Energy Gang Podcast

Katherine Hamilton, Jigar Shah, and Stephen Lacey cover a wide range of current topics in energy from federal policy to solar growth to the future of Tesla, all with knowledge, humor, and well-meaning jabs.

Katherine joined AWE in February to discuss federal policy, her work at the World Economic Forum, and what it's like to talk to Stephen and Jigar every week.



After two years of service on the AWE Board, Mary Templeton and Laura Chapelle stepped down from their board positions as of May 1, 2018. We will miss their commitment to the purpose of the organization, thoughtful and invaluable insights and fantastic ideas for member events and services. Both will continue their relationship with AWE as members of the Advisory Board.

Member Highlight: Mary Templeton



What follows is an excerpt — Read the [full interview on the AWE website!](#)

Please describe your current role:

I serve as executive director of Michigan Saves, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to stimulate and support investment in energy efficiency and renewable energy systems in homes, businesses, and public buildings.

[See [Mary's complete bio here!](#)]

How did you get into the energy industry?

I had a keen interest from an early age, instilled by my mom who was a supporter of passive solar and radiant floor heating before it was considered mainstream.

What has been the key to your success?

I am so grateful to have smart, driven, competent people on my team and in my network. Having the right team in place has been the largest contributor to success in every position I have ever held.

What's the best advice you've received?

Listen to your inner voice and do what you love and love what you do.

What inspires you in your work?

I'm committed to contribute in whatever way I can to leave the earth more healthy and sustainable for my wonderful grandchildren and for all future generations.

What would you tell a young person considering a career in energy?

Take time to find an aspect of the very broad energy industry that inspires you. Network with those that inspire you. And, most importantly, commit to developing and growing your inner voice and building your communication style to be authentically and uniquely you.

What we're reading:

Despite the significant strides made by women who have opened businesses, women entrepreneurs still face challenges. According to AWE member, Shelley Sullivan, finding successful role models and mentors is critical. "We all need mentors and we can all be mentors, role models and provide support to other women." Read more in a [recent article](#) profiling Shelley in Corp! magazine!

It's probably not surprising to many of you that women compose only 22% of the utility workforce. A recent [article from Utility Dive](#) explores what can be done to remake the power sector into an industry that attracts, supports, and retains women.

Upcoming Events

- * May 23: [Informal networking](#) at the UP Energy Summit
- * June 11: [Networking reception](#) with Michigan Energy Innovation Business Council at CLEAResult in Detroit.
- * July 17: [Members-only lunch](#) at Lansing Brewing Company with Michigan Public Service Commission Chairman Sally Talberg

[CONTACT US](#) if you are interested in hosting an event!

Quote of the Quarter

"Life begins at the end of your comfort zone." Neale Donald Walsch