



## New York City's Advances in Urban Resource Recovery and Re-use toward a Circular Economy (URR.11)

### Presenters' Biographies



**Manal Bawazir** is an Analyst at the National Zoning Atlas, working to demystify, digitize, and democratize zoning code nation-wide. She has been part of multiple collaborative research projects on industrial waterfronts, circular economy, housing, and sustainability. Manal aims to use her research and analytical skills to support public engagement and advance place-informed urbanism. She holds a Bachelor's degree in biology from the University of San Diego and a Master's in urban planning from NYU Wagner.



**Sylvie Binder** is a Policy Advisor at the NYC Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice (MOCEJ), focused on the intersection of buildings, clean construction, and carbon emissions reduction. Since joining MOCEJ in 2023, she has co-lead the publishing of the City's annual GHG Emissions Inventories, the implementation of the Clean Construction Executive Order (EO23, 2022), the North American Electric Construction Coalition, and citywide sustainability policy development for buildings. Sylvie holds a degree in Sustainable Development and American Studies from Columbia.



**Julia Casagrande** is the Deputy Director of the Clean Energy team at the NYC Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice. The Clean Energy team focuses on ensuring the just transition of NYC's energy systems to clean and renewable energy through coordinating with State, utility, and local partners, leading by example with our own City assets, and working on regulatory and legislative issues to support clean and renewable energy.



**Helen Chanie** is a Senior Policy Advisor at the Mayor's Office of Climate and Environmental Justice (MOCEJ), where she works on adaptation and capital planning. Helen oversees the Local Law 41 Climate Resiliency Design Guidelines program, working with over 20 City capital agencies to apply forward-looking climate science to the design of public buildings, community institutions, and infrastructure like roads, parks, and plazas, ensuring that they are ready to meet increasing threats from extreme heat, stormwater flooding, and coastal flooding. Prior to joining MOCEJ, Helen spent six years at the Building Energy Exchange, where she helped develop educational resources and reports to support the building design, construction, and real estate industries adopt best practices for building electrification and decarbonization.



**Jennifer Gravel** is the Director of Policy Coordination at the Department of City Planning, where she advances the agency's policy research and is part of a senior team that shepherds the implementation of major planning initiatives, including the Citywide Industrial Plan, City of Yes, and the Manhattan Plan. She holds degrees in English and Sociology from Middlebury College and a Master of Urban Planning from NYU.



**Kate Kitchener** is the Director of the Resource Recovery Division at the New York City Department of Sanitation. She oversees programs that provide NYC residents with the opportunity to divert textiles, electronics, organics, and harmful household products. Kate has a strong focus on waste research and policy, leveraging Extended Producer Responsibility and grant funding to develop innovative strategies for managing a challenging and dynamic waste stream.



**Marta Krawczynski** is a Resiliency Planner at New York City Emergency Management, where she applies a multidisciplinary background to support communities facing environmental and disaster-related challenges. She holds a Master of Urban Planning from NYU's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service (2024) and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Environmental Studies from Fordham University (2021). Her academic and professional experiences span Geopolitics of Energy, Energy Consulting, Disaster Risk Analysis, Emergency Management, and Waste Management.

Marta is committed to advancing environmentally sustainable solutions in regions affected by disasters and conflict.



**Jennifer McDonnell** is the NYC Department of Sanitation's (DSNY) Deputy Commissioner of Solid Waste Management. In that role, she oversees a large operating Bureau responsible for all the waste, recycling and organics collected by DSNY. This work also includes citywide resource recovery programs for e-waste, textiles, special and hazardous wastes, food rescue, durable goods reuse and compost distribution. As part of the Bureau's planning work, she is leading the development of the next 10-year comprehensive solid waste management plan for NYC. A resource recovery professional with nearly two decades in the fields of solid waste, recycling and biosolids management, Jennifer brings a breadth and depth of experience to the Department. Prior to joining DSNY, Ms. McDonnell was the Resource Recovery Program Manager for the NYC Department of Environmental Protection. She has held leadership roles across sectors, launching one of the first compost programs in NYC for Whole Foods Market, followed by time at Casella Resource Solutions developing recycling systems. She has a dual BA from Brown University in Human Biology and Organizational Behavior, is a Certified Recycling and Sustainable Resource Management Professional (Rutgers University), a graduate of the Water Environment Federation's Water Leadership Institute, and holds a Graduate Certificate in Public Policy and Administration from the City University of New York.



**John O'Neill** is a Planning Specialist at the Department of City Planning, where he serves as the agency's lead on the Citywide Industrial Plan and advises on other industrial related zoning and development matters. He holds degrees in Urban Studies from Fordham University and a Master of Urban Planning from Hunter College.



**Kathleen Prather, P.E.**, Supervisor, Solid Waste Recovery and Medical Waste Section, NYSDEC Division of Materials Management, leads a group of engineers and scientists whose responsibilities include regulation of recycling facilities and beneficial reuse, in addition to guidance development, rulemaking, and data analysis for these activities across New York State. Ms. Prather herself has 23 years' experience in DEC's beneficial use program, including policymaking for the reuse of soils, concrete and other construction sector wastes. She currently helps oversee DEC-funded academic research into greater use of post-consumer recyclables such as glass, plastic and tire rubber in construction. She contributed to the 2023 New York State Solid Waste Management Plan: *Building the Circular Economy Through Sustainable Materials Management (2023-2032)* in development of goals for increasing recovery and reuse of secondary industrial materials and construction sector waste.



**Noah Williams** is an Environmental Planner with Matrix New World Engineering. He has prepared environmental review documentation and analyses in accordance with New York City Environmental Quality Review (CEQR) and has supported comprehensive planning projects with a focus on sustainability, resilience, infrastructure, and stormwater management. Noah is an Envision Sustainability Professional (ENV SP), and he holds a Bachelors Degree in International Relations from Tufts University and a Master of Urban Planning degree from NYU.