

**Geri Nicholson, President, Sage Energy Consulting, LLC** - Ms. Nicholson has 18 years of experience in the fields of energy, resource economics, and global climate change. Founded in 2004, Sage Energy specializes in energy solutions and greener operations for commercial clients that benefit both the bottom line and our environment. Sage Energy also assists Fortune 1000 companies position for greenhouse gas regulations. Sage Energy offers the unique perspective and experience of drafting regulations and policies to achieve government sector goals and mandates – with unparalleled experience in Maryland - and then applying this government sector perspective toward maximizing value for its commercial customers. Through sustainable, green building practices and technologies, Sage Energy assists clients to create a built environment that reduces operating costs and improves the health and productivity of residents and workers.

Prior to founding Sage Energy Consulting, LLC, Ms. Nicholson served as director and deputy director of the Maryland Energy Administration. Ms. Nicholson oversaw the State energy efficiency programs and Maryland's renewable energy program that promotes the construction of wind, solar, landfill gas, and biomass projects. Ms. Nicholson advised Republican and Democratic governors on energy policy formation, and served as legislative liaison on energy policy matters. Her work included crafting renewable energy and energy efficiency legislation, developing diverse markets for renewable energy, and providing incentives for the construction of renewable energy facilities. She has also worked on siting power plants and renewable energy facilities.

Ms. Nicholson established and managed Maryland's Climate Change Program. She coordinated State greenhouse gas emissions reduction efforts, including management of an impacts analysis, and a greenhouse gas reduction strategy of cost-effective actions. She has provided technical expertise on the feasibility and benefits of carbon sequestration, and developed a comprehensive model to project future stocks and flows of carbon in U.S. forest products. This methodology is currently being used in the California Climate Action Registry Protocols.

Before coming to Maryland, Ms. Nicholson worked as an economist for the USDA Forest Service. For the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, she oversaw development of a comprehensive Geographic Information System (GIS) tool to promote sustainable management of watershed resources. She also served as a Fellow in the Botany Department at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, while working as a consulting resource economist for Yale University. Ms. Nicholson worked for the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Power Plant Research Program as Administrator of Economic Studies. She is published in the fields of resource economics, industrial ecology, climate change, and renewable energy policy. She has a Master of Science in Sustainable Development and Conservation Biology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the College of William and Mary in Virginia.