

Prof. Saxon Metzger - MBA, AIPC, MEI

(618) 434-5684

saxon.metzger@polariseco.com

Education - Deans List for all Semesters of Attendance

Wilmington University - Master of Business Administration - *Graduate Student of the Year Award*

University of Utah - Bachelor of Science in Economics

Palomar Community College - AA in Social and Behavioral Sciences

Certifications

NABCEP - PV System Inspector & Technical Sales Professional

AIPC Certified

ISO 14001: 2015 EMS Lead Auditor

OSHA 10/30 Construction + HAZWOPER 40 + NFPA 70E (2023) Standard for Electrical Safety

Experience

Chief Executive Officer | Polaris EcoSystems | *2024–Present*

- Specialize in estimation and project management for commercial and utility-scale energy projects, including installation, maintenance, repowering, and decommissioning.
- Manage technical R&D operations for Lumigrd, oneNode, and cloud integration layers.

Adjunct Assistant Professor | New York University, Wilmington University, and Tulsa Community College | *2023–Present*

- **Courses Taught:** 33 graduate and undergraduate classes in business, economics, marketing, and accounting.
- **Course Development**
 - Fundamentals of Money & Banking (ECO 221) - Fall 2025
 - International Economics (ECO 440) - Spring 2025
 - Urban Economics and Sustainability (ECO 340) - Fall 2024
- **Guest Lectures**
 - **LSU (2026):** Infrastructure Planning and Economic Development
 - **MIT (2025):** Indigenous Environmental Planning (Urban Planning 11.171/11.172)
 - **Virginia Tech (2025 and 2026):** Fish and Wildlife Conservation Policy (Fish and Wildlife Sciences 2514)

Principal Director / Principal Investigator | Eighth Generation Consulting | *2022–Present*

- Serve as PD/PI for local, state, federal, tribal, and international grants and technical programs.
- Manage technical teams for R&D of software and hardware technologies for small businesses.
- Direct grant writing services, team formation, partnership management, and application development.

Project Development Manager | NuLife Power Services | *2023–2024*

- Led commercial and utility scale removal and replacement, decommissioning, and new build solar projects.

Technical Project Manager | StraightUp Solar | *2021–2023*

- Oversaw residential and commercial scale solar and storage project management, supporting internal R&D team.

Director | Solarize Southern Illinois | *2021*

- Built the technical platform for the annual program, provided oversight, and facilitated overall development.

Vice-Chair | City of Carbondale Sustainability Commission | *2017–2021*

- Primary Author for the region's first Sustainability Plan, managing data acquisition and technical drafting.

Fellowships

- **2026:** ACORE Accelerator 2026-2028 Cohort
- **2026:** Indigenous Data Champion - U.S. Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network
- **2025:** Emerging Leaders - Trellis
- **2025:** Indigenous Leadership Academy - American Indian Policy Institute
- **2024-2026:** Tribal Energy Innovators Fellowship - GRID Alternatives
- **2024:** MIT Solver - Indigenous Communities Fellowship Class of 2024.

Selected Projects

- **2026:** Energy efficiency, infrastructure mapping, and utility planning, Shoshone-Paiute/BIA (\$499,950)
- **2025:** Solar Prize Round 8 Semifinalist, U.S. Department of Energy (\$75,000)
- **2024:** Community Energy Innovation Grand Prize - Manufacturing - Department of Energy (\$460,000)
- **2024:** Cross-Sector Consulting Program, U.S. Department of Energy (\$400,000)
 - City of Tacoma: Developed implementation guidance for a fluidized-bed waste gasification facility.
 - Rappahannock Tribe: Managed land use and comprehensive planning for infrastructure development.
 - Upper Mattaponi Tribe: Worked with stakeholder engagement for zoning and development.
 - Piedmont Environmental Council: Worked on implementation guidance for a pilot agrivoltaics project.

Symposium and Conference Presentations

- **2026:** **AISES in Canada** - *Workforce Development and Entrepreneurship Pathways for Microgrid Projects*
- **2025:** **Geothermal Rising Conference:** *Geothermal Solutions for Data Centers and Distributed Energy*
- **2025:** **AISES in Canada** - *Renewables Redefined: Decommissioning as a Pathway to Innovation and Empowerment*
- **2025:** **Transportation and Extreme Weather Symposium:** Tribal Considerations in Infrastructure Planning
- **2023-2025:** **Accredited IABCET and NASBA Trainings**
 - *Case Study: A Life Cycle Analysis of Decommissioned Solar in PJM Territory*
 - *Critical Lessons for Future Installers to Reduce End-of-Life Costs*
 - *Exploring the Regulatory Landscape for Decommissioning and Recycling Solar Panels*
 - *Funding Opportunities and Resources for Entrepreneurs*
 - *Workplace Best Practices in Solar Decommissioning*

Board Positions and Memberships

- **2025–Current:** Member, Renewable Energy Component Task Force, State of Illinois
- **2025–Current:** Honorary Director, North American Branch, Energy Institute’s Professional Network
- **2024–Current:** Advisory Committee Member, Department of Energy PV RESOLVE
- **2023–2025:** Mentor and Member, American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES)

Professional Awards

- **2025:** Verizon Disaster Resilience Prize semifinalist for oneNode, a microgrid technology for disaster response.
- **2025:** Winner, “Ready” phase for the American-Made Solar Prize Round 8.
- **2024:** Shortlisted for the Energy Institute’s International Energy Young Professional Award.
- **2023:** 30 Under 30 in Energy by NextGen for contributions to work in energy economics.
- **2022:** Les Nelson Award by the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners for volunteerism.

Extracurricular Honors

- Marc Ouimet Service Award winner at 17 as Assistant Director of the Palomar College Speech and Debate Team.
- Debater of the Year at 16 as the youngest national champion in Lincoln-Douglas and Parliamentary debate.
- Platformer of the Year at 15 as the youngest award winning public speaker in the collegiate forensics circuit.

Publications

- Metzger, S. and Rose, D. (2026) Wells of Opportunity: Indigenous Perspectives on Geothermal Economics from Orphaned Drilling Operations. *Proceedings*, World Geothermal Congress 2026.
- Metzger, S. (2025) *Prairie-Voltaics: Harnessing Solar Power and Agriculture to Revitalize Rural Economics*. Solar Today, 2025, Vol 39, Issue 2, p16.
<https://ases.org/prairie-voltaics-harnessing-solar-power-and-agriculture-to-revitalize-rural-economies/>
- Metzger, S. (2025) *Building Energy Independence: Resilience and Reliability for Rural and Tribal Communities*. Solar Today.
<https://ases.org/building-energy-independence-resilience-and-reliability-for-rural-and-tribal-communities/>
- Cornelison, C., and Metzger, S. 2025. *Sovereign Systems: Tribal-Driven Geothermal Solutions for Data Centers and Distributed Energy*. GRC Transactions, Vol. 49.
- Metzger, S. (Spring 2024). *Beyond Affirmative Action: The Future of Indigenous Education*. Native Forward.
https://www.nativeforward.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/NF_Spring-2024.pdf
- Metzger, S. (2024). *5 signs your company is not sustainable*. Lasonde Entrepreneur Institute.
<https://lassonde.utah.edu/5-signs-your-company-is-not-sustainable/>
- Metzger, S. (2024). *5 ways to write better grant applications*. Lasonde Entrepreneur Institute.
<https://lassonde.utah.edu/5-ways-to-write-better-grant-applications/>
- Metzger, S. (2024). *5 resources for making your business sustainable*. Lasonde Entrepreneur Institute.
<https://lassonde.utah.edu/5-best-resources-for-making-your-business-sustainable/>
- CREO, et al., (2024). *Seizing an Unforeseen Boom: Giving U.S. Clean Energy Assets a Second Life in Latin America*, Contributor, CREO Syndicate.
https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/ob4oej87n13m373ob86wf/2024_CREO_Seizing_an_Unforeseen_Boom.pdf?rlkey=bu8grx7v4km1xgd19ppkaw1m7&e=1&dl=0
- Metzger, S. (2023). *5 tips to bring sustainability to your business*. Lasonde Entrepreneur Institute.
<https://lassonde.utah.edu/5-tips-to-bring-sustainability-to-your-business/>
- Metzger, S., et al., (2022). *Sustainability Action Plan*. Official Government Document.
<https://www.explorecarbondale.com/DocumentCenter/View/7451/Sustainability-Action-Plan-PDF>
- Metzger, S. (2022) Baseline Inventory of Government Operations Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Official City Document.
<https://www.explorecarbondale.com/DocumentCenter/View/9319/Report-on-City-of-Carbondale-IL-Community-scale-GHG-and-Equivalent-Emissions-Inventory-2019-51023-PDF>
- Metzger, S. (2022). *Collaboratively Integrated Sustainability: Modeled Cross-Sector Collaboration as a Method to Generate Support For and Achievement of Environmental and Economic Sustainability Objectives*. Wilmington University, Masters Thesis Project.

Media Appearances

2025: A Journey to Sustainability Leadership. Wilmington University.

<https://blog.wilmu.edu/news/2025/04/14/a-journey-to-sustainability-leadership/>

2025: Osage News, Pawhuska Oklahoma, "Osage Owned Sustainability Company Opens Pawhuska Office,

<https://osagenews.org/osage-owned-sustainability-company-opens-pawhuska-office/>

2024: Tribal Business News, Grand Rapids MI, "[MIT Solve selects six Native-led startups for Innovation Fellowship](#)"

2024: Energy News Network, Chicago IL, "[Indigenous Solar Consultant Works to Ensure Responsible Development in Communities Scarred by Fossil Fuels](#)"

2023: City Council Meeting April 26, 2022, City of Carbondale, IL, "Resolution Adopting the Carbondale Sustainability Action Plan."

2023: Palomar News, San Marcos, CA. "[Alumnus Credits Palomar College for his Success](#)"

2023: Schmid, M. "[Solar End-of-Life Special Projects: An Interview with NuLife Power](#)"

2023: Matern, M., Metzger, S. *A Climate Change*. "[Saxon Metzger: Solar Project Development Manager of NuLife Power Services.](#)"

2023: Lyderson, K. *Energy News Network*, "[Illinois Wants to Keep Old Solar Panels From Piling up in Landfills.](#)"

2022: Lyderson, K. *Energy News Network*. "[In Southern Illinois There's Growing Faith that Clean Energy Transition Will Pick Up.](#)"

2022: Seabaugh, J. *KFVS 12*. "[Carbondale Recognized as a Leader in Climate Planning](#)"

2021: Briane, J. *WSIL*. [Local expert weighs in on push for more solar power](#)

2021: Gaston, J. *The Daily Egyptian*. [Carbondale Community Resilience Fair introduces environmental changes to the community](#)

2021: WSILTV, Carterville IL, [Solarize Southern Illinois Holds Informational Meetings](#)