

## Kevin J. Daehnke

Even before attending ASU, Kevin Daehnke had a passion for clean renewable energy. In high school interscholastic debate competition, Kevin ran a debate case that called for a 10-year all out U.S. effort (akin to the Apollo moon program) to develop and deploy solar energy, hydrogen fuel and fusion. While an Econ major at ASU (graduating magna cum laude), Kevin wrote his Honors Thesis on *The Economies of Scale in Energy Research and Development*. In law school at the University of Southern California (USC), Kevin co-founded the *USC Journal of Law and the Environment*, served as the Journal's first Editor-in-Chief, and wrote a law school dissertation on *The Legal Implications of Ocean Energy Farms*.

Although jobs in renewable energy were not plentiful when Mr. Daehnke graduated from law school, he pursued a similar pro-environment emphasis, focusing instead on the cleanup of old contaminated manufacturing plants, dry cleaners and gasoline service station sites. Kevin spent several years after law school developing his legal skills with larger law firms, and then trying his hand as an entrepreneur with smaller firms, eventually co-founding his own law firm, Daehnke Cruz Law Group.

Mr. Daehnke's focus as an attorney on cleaning up old contaminated sites naturally led to him becoming one of the pioneers in the "Brownfields" movement that began in the 1990s. While serving on various panels and committees, authoring several published articles, and speaking at numerous conferences and events, Kevin also assisted in the development of key state and federal initiatives designed to clean up and revitalize old contaminated Brownfield sites, and make them productive again.

In the late 1990s Kevin founded a think-tank to help protect critical local infrastructures from the potentially catastrophic impacts of multi-day electric power grid failures. As part of that effort he co-authored and developed an infrastructure business continuity preparedness handbook entitled *Business Continuity Planning for Local Infrastructures*, endorsed by the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties and the ICMA. The think-tank also produced a 30-minute local government training film based on the handbook, which was distributed to hundreds of public T.V. stations nationwide.

One of Kevin's crowning accomplishments was the creation of and passage, in 2007, of California Senate Bill 989, legislation that pioneered the *Bona Fide Ground Tenant* tool to revitalize landfills and other Brownfield sites for renewable energy and other productive uses. As an adjunct to this California effort, Kevin has served in an advisory capacity to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and United States Attorney's office in their efforts to encourage the siting of renewable energy facilities at old landfills and other contaminated sites.

In 2017, Mr. Daehnke was able to find his way back to the world of clean renewable energy, and this time in a big way. By founding the *Center for Strategic Policy Innovation* - a new non-profit think-tank entity - and creating the *Renewable Energy/Smart Grid Buildout Initiative* ("Initiative") Kevin was finally moving head first into the renewable energy world, his first passion from back in high school, at ASU, and in law school. This new Initiative is a collaborative nationwide effort designed to kick-start significant economic development by infusing capital for renewable energy and smart grid

projects in mid-size cities across America. The backbone of the Initiative is a step-by-step Master's degree level urban planning guide ("Template") which utilizes sophisticated business incubation techniques and is designed to serve as a roadmap for local government planners to create distributed energy, smart grid-oriented local economies - those that will support the crowd-sourced business opportunities of the future.

As an adjunct to the buildout of shovel-ready renewable energy and smart grid infrastructure using the urban-planning and business incubation techniques set forth in the Template, Kevin and his strategic partners are involved presently with the direct buildout of clean, renewable energy "microgrids," designed to operate independently of the regional energy grids in the event of a power outage. The *Smart Grid Buildout Initiative's* model for resilient renewable energy microgrids combines the vision of clean renewable energy with the urgent need to protect critical local infrastructure facilities - like hospitals - from the threat of long-term electric power outages due to catastrophic storms, floods, wildfires, earthquakes, electromagnetic pulse (EMP) events, and cyber attacks. This social impact business model is designed to provide not just the clean renewable energy (like solar photovoltaic - PV - power), but also a resilient, hardened microgrid, with energy storage capabilities and hardened microgrid components, that is able to stand alone and "island" in the event of a power outage.

Kevin believes that a massive nationwide buildout of a clean, renewable energy distributed power model will launch our country into its next industrial revolution. He firmly believes that this exciting time will result in a crowd-sourced economy here in the U.S. and worldwide that will utilize the world's natural resources much more efficiently and provide for millions of new entrepreneurial opportunities here in the U.S. alone. The main reason for Kevin's visit to campus is to share his excitement for the future with the already-visionary and cutting edge faculty and students here at ASU.