



Atlantic Council

VETERANS ADVANCED
ENERGY PROJECT

2020 Year in Review: Leading from the Front



Atlantic Council

VETERANS ADVANCED ENERGY PROJECT

The Veterans Advanced Energy Project is designed to drive US leadership in advanced energy by recruiting, equipping, and empowering military veterans who understand the importance of the evolving energy landscape to our future security and prosperity.

Advanced energy is defined by leading edge energy technologies including solar, wind, batteries, microgrids, advanced nuclear, electric vehicles, and end-user energy efficiency.

The Veterans Advanced Energy Project mission applies to veterans of the US armed services and national guard, reservists, active-duty service members, and their spouses.

The Veterans Advanced Energy Project is housed within the Atlantic Council Global Energy Center, which promotes energy security by working alongside government, industry, civil society, and public stakeholders to devise pragmatic solutions to the geopolitical, sustainability, and economic challenges of the changing global energy landscape.

For more information, please visit www.AtlanticCouncil.org

Cover image: Jerimie Williams, Wind Technician and Air Force Veteran, stands atop a wind turbine at Invenergy's Goldthwaite Wind Energy Center. Invenergy is the Founding Sponsor of the Veterans Advanced Energy Project.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTORS

Leading from the front

The Veterans Advanced Energy Project continued to see momentous growth in its impact and reach while adapting to the challenging virtual environment during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Veterans Advanced Energy Week, held August 10-13, 2020, was the Atlantic Council's first entirely virtual conference. According to CEO Fred Kempe, the event underscored Council efforts "not just to operate in our increasingly digital world but to innovate in a manner that increases our relevance." Kempe added that the event team met "crucial challenges head-on with a steady stream of innovations and intellectual entrepreneurship that remain at the core of the Council's ethos" setting the "gold standard" for conferences in the all-new virtual format. *Read more on Page 4.*

In September 2020, the second cohort of the Veterans Advanced Energy Fellowship commenced a yearlong leadership and policy development program following a national call for applications and competitive interview and selection process. The Fellows are future leaders in advanced energy industry and policy hailing from all corners of the country. The program includes monthly policy webinars, the development of a persuasive policy proposal, and local community building events. Applications for the next cohort opens on May 31, 2021. *Read more on Page 5.*

The Veterans Advanced Energy Project was featured in numerous outlets, including a commentary in Midwest Energy News and interview with Yale Climate Connections. Website visits and Twitter impressions increased 100% and followers across social media increased an average 150% over the prior year. In November 2020, the Atlantic Council Global Energy Center hosted its Veterans Day event with perspectives from veterans in the advanced energy industry.

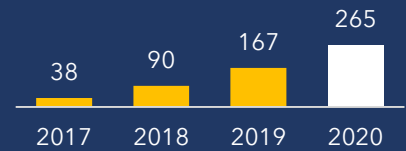
2021 PRIORITIES

The year ahead looks promising for the advanced energy industry, and the need to help military servicemembers find meaningful and sustainable employment through mission driven opportunities continues. The following are our priorities for the year ahead:

1. Facilitate and advocate for veteran and military spouses' transition to career opportunities in advanced energy. Public and private investment in advanced energy will create good paying jobs and rewarding careers for veterans and military spouses for decades to come.
2. Continue to increase the Veterans Advanced Energy Project's reputation as a leader for converging people and ideas for innovative advanced energy solutions with an emphasis placed on the national security impetus to educate and elevate the voices of military veterans through quality programming throughout the year.
3. Leverage political changes advancing a clean energy agenda by availing our community of leaders and trends in public, private, non-profit advanced energy.

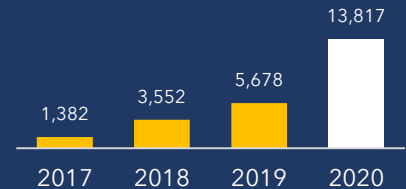
Attendance by Year

#VetsEnergySummit
#VetsEnergyWeek



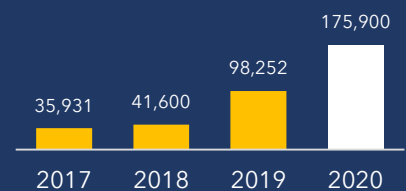
Annual Website Visits

www.vetsenergyproject.org



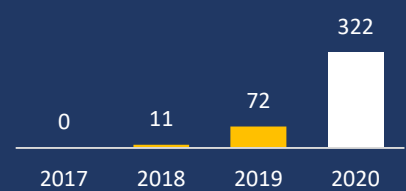
Annual Twitter Impressions

@vets_energy



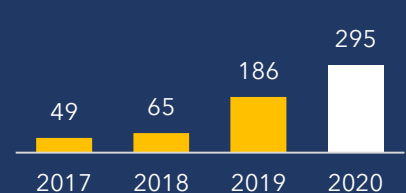
LinkedIn Followers

Veterans Advanced Energy Project



Twitter Followers

@vets_energy



Facebook Followers

@vetsenergyproject



VETERANS ADVANCED ENERGY WEEK

Veterans Advanced Energy Week was held August 10-13, 2020 as an interactive virtual learning and networking experience dedicated to veterans and military spouses working to strengthen US national security through careers in the advanced energy industry.

The event brought together over 250 veterans, military spouses, and their supporters for a week of expert panels, movie screenings, and networking events. Participants gained insights into the technology, policy, and economic trends that are driving the global energy transition from senior leaders and experts across industry, academia, and government. New offerings were provided to help participants develop networks with other veterans and potential employers through introductions to company recruiters, a resume database, and job board postings.

Featured speakers included Senator Tammy Duckworth, Congressman Jason Crow, Former Governor and Secretary of Energy Rick Perry, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Honorable Rita Baranwal, Honorable Dennis McGinn (VADM Retired), and Honorable Sherri Goodman.

Now in its fifth year, the Veterans Advanced Energy Week & Summit have become a leading forum for experts to share perspectives on new technologies and emerging trends in energy. The Atlantic Council Global Energy Center is planning for the 2021 Veterans Advanced Energy Week & Summit as a hybrid online and in-person event, if possible, due to potential travel and gathering restrictions related to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic.

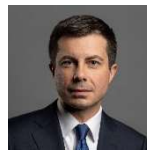
#VETSENERGYWEEK BY THE NUMBERS

- 4 days, 21 events, and 60+ speakers including expert panel discussions, fireside chats, networking sessions, and film screenings
- 616 registered participants, 343 app downloads, 265 unique visitors, and 10,000 views on social media
- #VetsEnergyWeek on Twitter: 408 mentions, 172 users, 3 million impressions

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Senator Tammy Duckworth
US Senator (D-IL)
Illinois National Guard Veteran



Pete Buttigieg
Former Mayor, South Bend; Democratic Presidential Candidate; Founder, Win the Era PAC; US Navy Veteran



Rick Perry
Former Governor, State of Texas; Former Secretary of Energy; US Air Force Veteran



Congressman Jason Crow
US Congressman, Colorado's 6th District (D-CO); US Army Veteran

2020 SPONSORS

GOLD



SILVER



VETERANS ADVANCED ENERGY FELLOWSHIP

The Veterans Advanced Energy Fellowship seeks to create a cadre of future leaders within the advanced energy industry. The program provides a select group of high-performing, high-potential leaders with policy training in energy diplomacy, markets, and technology, mentorship from senior national security and energy leaders in the Atlantic Council's network, and participation in high-profile settings, including in Atlantic Council events and publications.

In 2020, the first cohort of Fellows completed its tenure and initiated a new alumni network. "The Veterans Advanced Energy Fellowship has helped me understand my corner of the energy world within the broader ecosystem of the US and globally," said Cohort 1 Fellow Sarah Nielsen. "I am thinking critically about my day-to-day in different ways with the tools and network to become a thought leader in this space."

The second cohort of Fellows commenced its yearlong program in September 2020 with monthly policy webinars, the development of a persuasive policy proposal, and planning for regional events that will build a network of communities for veterans in advanced energy around the country.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW Cohort 2

- September 2020 to August 2021
- Policy Proposal Project including a Persuasive Memo and Flash Talk with guidance from an assigned Policy Advisor
- Local Community Building Event in each fellows' hometown*
- 10 Monthly Policy Webinars with experts in academia, government, and industry
- Travel to and participation at 2021 Veterans Advanced Energy Week*
- Virtual Social Events and Peer Mentorship (optional)

**Dependent on regional pandemic travel and gathering restrictions*

COHORT 3 APPLICATIONS OPEN MAY 31, 2021

VETERANS ADVANCED ENERGY FELLOWS

Cohort 2 (2020-2021) Cohort 1 (2019-2020)



WHO WE ARE



VETERANS ADVANCED
ENERGY PROJECT

Questions/comments?

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Energy Center, Director



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Energy Center, Deputy
Director, Climate &
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Zachary Strauss

Atlantic Council Global
Energy Center, Assistant
Director

ADVISORY COMMITTEE



**General James Jones Jr
(Honorary Chairman)**

Atlantic Council Executive
Chairman Emeritus; Former
National Security Advisor to the
President of the United States



Sherri Goodman

Board Director, Atlantic
Council; Senior Fellow, Wilson
Center; First Deputy Under
Secretary of Defense for
Environmental Security



Vice Admiral Dennis McGinn

Former Assistant Secretary of
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Nonresident Senior Fellow,
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Dr. Morgan Bazilian

Director, Payne Institute,
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Division of Economics and
Business, Colorado School of
Mines; Former Lead Energy
Specialist, World Bank



Liz Ramsay Dalton

Vice President of Strategy,
Powerhouse; Former
Principal Deputy Assistant
Secretary of Energy



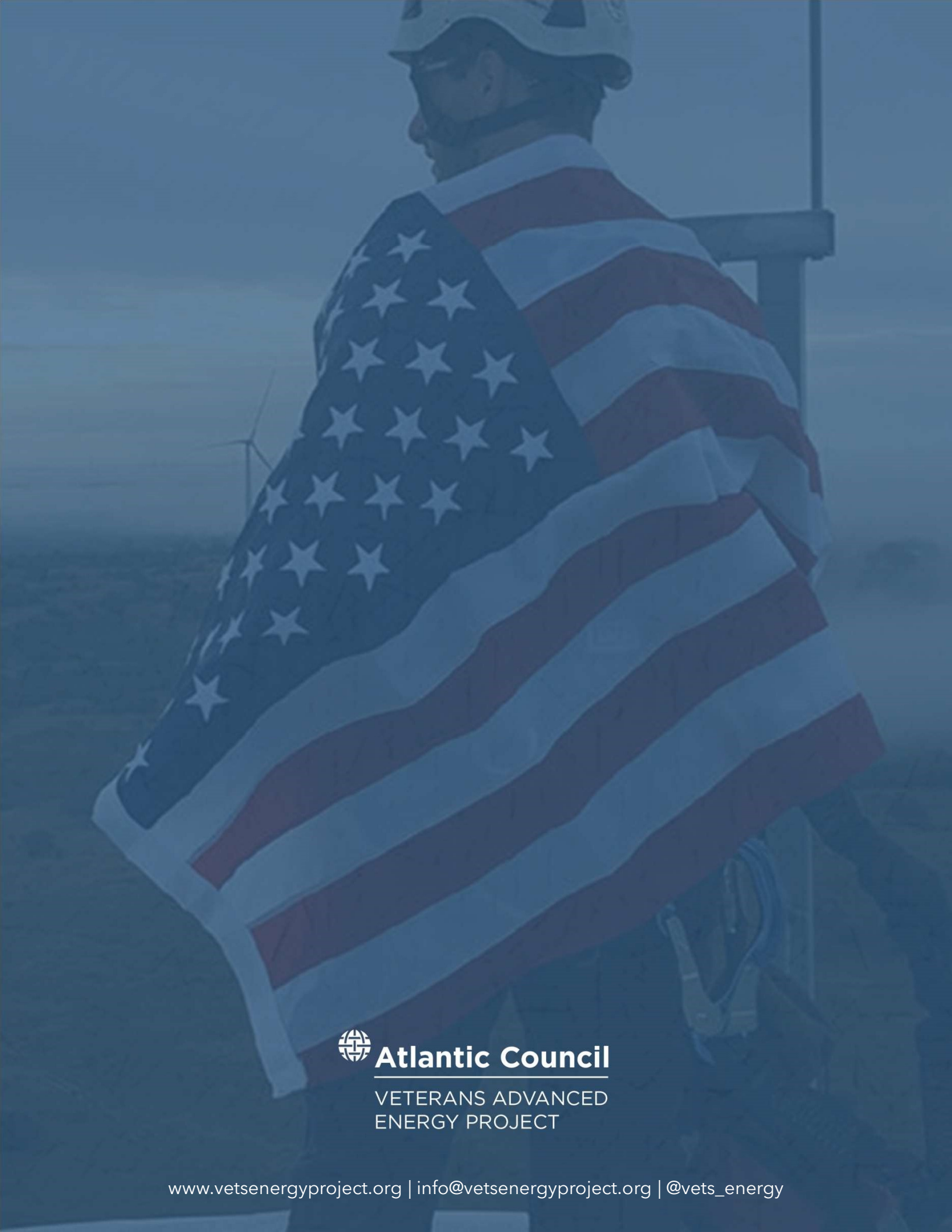
Kevin Johnson

US Army Veteran;
President, GlidePath
Federal Solutions; Co-
Founder, Clean Capital



Jon Powers

US Army Veteran; Co-Founder
and President, Clean Capital;
Former Federal Chief
Sustainability Officer



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