Erik B. Olson

Consultant, (520) 652-3644, eolson@currentenergy.group

Education

Bachelor of Science Mechanical Engineering
Utah State University – Logan, UT (2019)

Work Experience

Consultant, Current Energy Group, (June 2025 – Present)

- Work with consumer advocates and public interest organizations on gas and electric regulatory issues before state public utility commissions.

Innovative Partnering Specialist, U.S. Department of Energy, (July 2023 – June 2025)

- Core part of establishing and managing Partnership Intermediary Agreement (PIA) service; oversaw and advised an $820M portfolio; received of Secretary of Energy Achievement Award.
- Developed deep expertise with program design and management as well as government funding tools (grants, cooperative agreements, PIAs, other transactions) and relevant regulations and statutes (2 CFR 200)

Research Associate, Energy Futures Initiative Foundation, (April 2022 – July 2023)

- Advanced EFI's strategic goals via analytically-driven and fact-based advisement on energy and climate policy issues to government, corporate, and NGO stakeholders and clientele and effective project management.
- Co-led energy policy research projects, including legislative and budget analysis of Department of Energy demonstration and commercialization activities. Produced report with policy and strategy recommendations.

Energy Analyst, Virginia Department of Energy (2021-2022)

- Produced research briefs, memos, and white papers on mitigation of regional natural gas supply constraints, offshore wind supply chains, low-carbon fuels alternatives, and other topics of interest at direction of agency and Governor's Office staff.

- Directly informed Virginia's net-zero by 2045 strategy via co-leading a new, statutorily established, decarbonization working group with diverse stakeholders; produced detailed modeling report and policy brief for General Assembly.
- Executed on the agency's regulatory strategy with the State Corporation Commission – supporting creation of testimony and participation in working groups.

Climate and Energy Analyst, The Breakthrough Institute (2019 – 2021)

- Scoped and completed original and creative research projects on deep decarbonization policy pathways, enhanced geothermal energy expansion, and variable renewable energy integration to expand Breakthrough's energy portfolio and develop a thought leadership profile.
- Developed 5 Python and Excel based models and interactive data visualizations in response to project needs.

Selection of Relevant Experience

"Transforming the Energy Innovation Enterprise: Enhancing the Pace, Agility, Effectiveness, and Efficiency of the U.S. Department of Energy Management Structures and Processes."
Report (November 2023), Energy Futures Initiative Foundation

I was a co-author and lead analyst for a report assessing federal energy policy opportunities for the Department of Energy to maximize the impact of unprecedented funding and mission expansion from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.
Report

"SD17 - Modeling Decarbonization: Report Summary and Policy Brief for Virginia Governor's Office Administration and Policymakers (Chapter 1194, 2020)."
Legislative Report (2021), Virginia Department of Energy

I co-led a statutorily-required decarbonization working group to produce report to the General Assembly modeling and assessing decarbonization pathways for the Commonwealth of Virginia. Presented recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly on steps to align Virginia policy with the Virginia Clean Economy Act.

Report

“Future Demand for Electricity Generation Materials Under Different Climate Mitigation Scenarios.”
Peer-Reviewed Article (March 2023)

I co-authored a peer reviewed article in *Joule* quantifying global material requirements (e.g., metals, minerals) for building low-carbon electricity infrastructure from 2020 to 2050, showing how deployment patterns influence CO_2-equivalent emissions and supply-chain pressures.
Article

“Quadfecta” Database Development
Analysis (February 2023), Energy Future Initiative Foundation

I led analysis for and development of a multidimensional database (internal) cataloguing and quantifying impact of all provisions in federal level major energy policy legislation from 2019-2023. Used to inform EFI analytical work and policy strategy.

“What New Net-Zero Studies Tell Us About Electricity Decarbonization.”
Analysis (April 2021), The Breakthrough Institute

I co-led an analysis of net-zero power-sector roadmaps—including Princeton, Vibrant Clean Energy, and USF studies—to assess strategies for meeting hourly electricity demand and transmission requirements in a decarbonized U.S. grid. Presented findings in a public brief.
Analysis

“Assessing Lulls in Variable Renewable Generation.”
Analysis (March 2020), The Breakthrough Institute

I led analysis and authorship for a project examining the occurrence and duration of low production periods (“lulls”) in wind and solar generation across countries with high variable renewable energy (VRE) levels, and introduced the FAR (Flexibility, Area, Resource) framework to explain differences in integration success. Produced recommendations for effective integration of high penetration levels of VRE in web article format.
Analysis

Partnership Intermediary Agreement – FY24 Annual Report
Report (January 2025), U.S. Department of Energy

I co-authored DOE's Fiscal Year 2024 annual report on the FY24 Partnership Intermediary Agreement pilot, which supported 46 projects and facilitated over $13 billion in program activity, emphasizing engagement with small and non-traditional partners through Partnership Intermediaries.
Report

"It's Time to Take Geothermal Energy Seriously."
Analysis (August 2020), The Breakthrough Institute

I analyzed the historical and forward technology development of and policy support for enhanced geothermal energy. Based on my analysis, I authored a public piece arguing that geothermal energy deserves much greater investment as a scalable, firm, clean energy source in low-carbon power systems. Informed U.S. Department of Energy leadership and influenced decisions to increase funding levels.
Analysis | Companion Opinion Editorial

"Bringing Down Dams Doesn't Have to Threaten Climate Goals."
Article (August 2020), The Breakthrough Institute

I authored this article discussing how dam removal and river restoration can proceed without undermining climate mitigation objective based on analysis of the risk profile and energy generation from U.S. dams. I highlight strategies to increase alignment of ecological and energy transitions goals.
Article