Kate Shonk

Senior Consultant, (502) 306-2047, kshonk@currentenergy.group

Education

Master of Arts, Sustainable Urban Development
DePaul University – Chicago, IL (2026)

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science and English Language and Literature
University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, Michigan (2020)

Work Experience

Senior Consultant, Current Energy Group (2026 – Present)

- Advise stakeholders and decision-makers on gas and electric utility programs and regulatory filings, including long-term gas planning, gas utility regulation, building electrification and efficiency, non-pipeline alternatives, and gas demand forecasting.

Policy Principal, Advanced Energy United (2024 – 2026)
Policy Associate (2024)

- Led state-level advocacy efforts on building electrification regulatory and legislative policy.
- Developed organization-wide policy principles to inform engagement on electric rate design, building energy codes, and other building electrification and natural gas transition policies.
- Wrote and filed regulatory comments, drafted legislation, and assisted in drafting discovery questions and expert testimony in electric and gas utility dockets.
- Organized coalition partners around complex regulatory proceedings to build momentum and receive favorable orders in public utility commission dockets.
- Published op-eds, blogs, conducted conversations with reporters, and spoke on webinars, panels, live news, and podcast interviews to increase public and decision-maker awareness on building electrification.

Consultant, Citizens Utility Board of Illinois (2024)

- Wrote public guides on networked geothermal energy supported by the U.S. EPA, including a guide for universities and academic institutions and a guide for real estate developers.

Sustainable Communities Liaison, Citizens Utility Board of Illinois (2022 – 2024)
Outreach Coordinator (2022)

- Led coalition meetings with community organizations, local and state government, and utility companies to represent utility consumer interests in utility energy efficiency programs and income-eligible utility assistance programs.
- Wrote accessible blogs, fact sheets, and guides on complex utility-related issues to distribute to a diverse audience.
- Educated frontline communities on energy efficiency and utility policy through live presentations, one-on-one consultations, and blog posts, saving utility consumers hundreds of dollars on utility costs per year.
- Planned and organized details for over 40 community events per month and managed event details on Salesforce.

Community Resources Researcher, Unite Us (2021 – 2022)

- Conducted research and created a database on community resources across the country, including energy bill assistance, housing and rental assistance, health centers, and food assistance programs.

Researcher, Institute for Social Research (2018 – 2020)

- Conducted research and created literature reviews on quality-of-life indicators in urban environments.

Select Publications

"Higher Education Networked Geothermal Guide," Citizens Utility Board, 2025. Available: https://secure.everyaction.com/lGOyPmJX9EaVnKo0S6Cc5Q2

"Community Networked Geothermal Guide," Citizens Utility Board, 2025. Available: https://secure.everyaction.com/bjRyeYq_SUigGqRJq2TLMw2

Select Presentations

Kate Shonk. "Stalled Federal Funding is Freeing Up to Aid Homeowners Eyeing Energy Efficiency." Factor This Podcast, June 2026.

Kate Shonk. "Policy Recommendations for Illinois' Future of Gas Proceeding: Gas Planning and Non-Pipeline Alternatives." Presentation to the Illinois Future of Gas Proceeding Working Group, February 2026.

Kate Shonk. "Unlocking Heat Pump Markets: How State Policy Can Accelerate Adoption." Advanced Energy United webinar, October 2025.

Kate Shonk. "Illinois Policy Decisions Affecting Renewable Markets." Plenary panel at the Illinois Renewable Energy Conference, October 2024.

Kate Shonk. "Leveraging Today's Trends in Building Electrification and Efficiency." Advanced Energy United webinar, October 2024.

Certifications

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Certification. *DePaul University*. Issued June 2026.