



**Rising Star Awardee**

# **Kate Bashford Epsen**

**Executive Director**

**NH Sustainable Energy Association**

Kate Epsen is the Executive Director of the New Hampshire Sustainable Energy Association. She has been in this role since May of 2013, before which she had served as the President of the Board for nine months. Prior to her board and staff roles at NHSEA, Kate worked as an energy analyst from 2010-2012 at the NH Public Utilities Commission and a Senior Consultant with Navigant Consulting and Tucson Electric Power. Kate currently sits on the Granite State Hydropower Association Board, the Granite State College Business Advisory Board, and the NH Energy Efficiency and Sustainable Energy Board and has volunteered with the Goodbridges program, mentoring women transitioning out of prison.

Kate was raised in both New Hampshire and Vermont. She moved back to New Hampshire in 2010 with her then-husband to buy and start a pig farm, after living in Arizona, Pennsylvania and New York through her twenties. Kate studied Environmental Policy and Economic Analysis for her BA from Boston University (graduating summa cum laude in 2003), then went to work for a nurses union in Philadelphia for two years before deciding to specialize in energy. In order to help confirm this career choice, she interned in Washington DC for four months with an NGO, the Atlantic Council, assisting with a project to create a Marshall Plan for Clean Energy. After DC, Kate was accepted and enrolled in a Masters program at Columbia University, and in 2008 received her MIA (Masters in International Affairs) in International Energy Management and Policy. This was an interdisciplinary program that covered economics, finance, policy, engineering and real-world project work.

While international and global energy issues are critically important, Kate decided that she wanted to pursue these issues on the local level. She applies her degree and her past work experiences to her current work in NH every day, from data and policy analysis, to communications, evaluating technology, building relationships with opinion leaders and members, public speaking, and much more.

Kate lives happily in Newmarket, NH, on the Lamprey River in a energy-efficient former textile mill.