

# Sustainable Visions



## **E2 1 HOTELS FELLOWSHIP**

supports innovative thinkers and doers who are building a cleaner, more sustainable and more equitable economy for all Americans



# E2 1 Hotels Fellows and Where It's Headed Next

Since 2017, the E2 1 Hotels Fellowship has helped support and develop young entrepreneurs, emerging business leaders who seek to make the world a better place through projects that are good for our economy and good for our environment, across sectors ranging from agriculture to zero-emission vehicles.

Thanks to the generous support of 1 Hotels founder Barry Sternlicht, the program will fund 30 more fellows over the next five years — turning more of the brightest ideas at the intersection of climate, the environment, policy and business into reality to help change the world.

Crucial to the success of each individual project is the pairing of Fellows with mentors. Drawn from E2's seasoned business leaders from across the country, mentors offer strategic guidance and they open up their vast professional networks to a new generation of business and policy leaders.

For more about the latest class of Fellows and how you can get involved, read on <https://e2.org/fellowship>.



Neda Deylami

Campaign Organizer, Electrification Coalition / Chicago, Illinois

**Themes & Industries**  
EVs, Car Dealerships, Utilities

**Project Description**  
Neda, a longtime EV advocate in Chicago, noticed a crucial knowledge gap in the market: new car dealers were inadequately trained in communicating to buyers the benefits of EVs and available incentives. Working with national EV advocates and a regional utility company executive, she devised a training program tailored to new car dealers in the Windy City. "I have been an EV advocate in Chicago for many years, but had not figured out my career path yet," Neda said. "This Fellowship allowed me to work in EV advocacy in a professional capacity and gain meaningful experience in the field."



## Class of 2019–20 / Projects Completed



Grant Behnke

Associate, Rockbridge / Columbus, Ohio

**Themes & Industries**  
Hotels, Sustainability, Commercial Real Estate, Municipalities

**Project Description**  
Leveraging his experience in hotel finance and development and his passion for sustainability, Grant's project is designed to help hotels reduce their carbon footprints and become more sustainable. Grant's project is based in Columbus, Ohio where 3,000 hotel rooms were in the development pipeline in 2020. Grant's collaborative project set out to help local hoteliers by showcasing best practices and providing resources on hotel sustainability initiatives. "[This] has been a year that has strengthened my connection to my community and my industry and deepened my sense of purpose, which is largely thanks to the opportunities I was afforded by the 1 Hotels Fellowship," Grant said. "I most importantly feel more confident than ever to go forward and press on with my goal of educating my industry on the opportunities that lie within the sustainability realm."

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Jock Gilchrist

Policy Analyst, The Climate Center / Boulder, Colorado

**Themes & Industries**  
Agriculture, Science

**Project Description**  
Jock's Fellowship connected him with dozens of farmers, investors and policy experts on one of the hottest topics in agriculture: regenerative farming. The result? A 150-page report that now ranks among the most comprehensive reviews of scientific literature in the entire field. "I am prouder of this professional product than of anything else I have worked on in my career," said Jock, who considers the self-directed educational experience the Fellowship provided as comparable to his graduate school education.



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## Jesse Goldstein

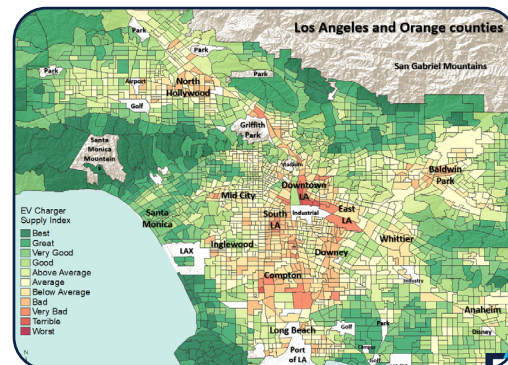
Geographic Information Systems Analyst, Natural Capital Project / Redwood City, California

### Themes & Industries

EVs, Cartography, Environmental Justice

### Project Description

Using reams of data to log and visualize the locations of EV charging stations in various California cities, Jesse proved that California's biggest urban EV charging station deserts closely correlate with areas that are majority minority, are home to people who live on low incomes, and already struggle with poor air quality. To help accelerate EV adoption by renters who live in these areas and otherwise might be unable to charge EVs, Jesse's project identified prime, high-impact locations for building more community EV charging networks. "The Fellowship provided me with great resources and opportunities to refine my cartographic skills and to gain experience learning new spatial analysis techniques," Jesse said.



## Nicole Mendoza

Senior Researcher in Wind Energy Systems, National Renewable Energy Laboratory / Longmont, Colorado

### Themes & Industries

Carbon Capture, Energy Policy

### Project Description

How can we harness the power of the market to convert captured carbon into valuable consumer and industrial products? That was the question at the heart of Nicole's project, which resulted in a white paper on federal carbon capture policy, a technical report and introductions between startup entrepreneurs and California legislators who may be in a position to craft policies supportive of carbon capture and utilization markets. For Nicole, the Fellowship is helping her make a career pivot: "I will be looking toward starting my own company in the carbon capture and utilization industry, and this project has given me a great head start," she said.



## Bonnie Gurry

Research Director, Pirque Ventures; Founder, GreenPortfolio / New York City

### Themes & Industries

Finance, Investments, Web Platforms

### Project Description

At first glance, the primary result of Bonnie's project is a consumer-facing website for environmentally minded investors and consolidates reviews of ETFs, mutual funds, credit cards, bank accounts and other financial products that directly support renewable energy developments. Dig deeper, though, and a more significant outcome surfaces: "The Fellowship has turned me into an entrepreneur," Bonnie said. "Turning this from a project into a business — GreenPortfolio — has changed the course of my career."



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## Caroline Normile

Senior Policy Analyst, Bipartisan Policy Center / Washington, D.C.

### Themes & Industries

Soil, R&D, Agriculture Policy

### Project Description

Caroline's project focused on something we rely on every day but rarely give a second thought to — healthy soils. She surveyed state soil programs in Maryland, Illinois, Nebraska, New Mexico, California and Hawaii, as well as federal soil policies at the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. Caroline found that the demand for these programs' benefits often far outweighs their supply, and that when it comes to outreach around soil testing, plenty of work remains. "Not all farmers trust the government, and trust is huge in this kind of work," she said. Solutions she identified include: Increasing payment rates for compost and investing in R&D for low-cost, rapid, in-situ, air-based soil monitoring technologies.





## Mary Sketch

Coordinator, Virginia Soil Health Coalition / Richmond, Virginia

### Themes & Industries

Rural America, Agriculture, Forestry, Communications

### Project Description

Rural America is home to 20 percent of our nation's people — and 70 percent of its land. Historically, rural America has been home to extractive industries like mining and logging. As rural America's economy shifts, what do we need to do to keep its land — and communities — healthy? Mary's project set out to elevate the often-overlooked story of innovation in rural economies. From solar developers in southwest Virginia, to farmers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed, to foresters in California's Sierra Nevada mountains, "there's a need for deeper investment in rural communities and giving rural communities a seat at the sustainability and clean economy table at the state and federal levels," she said.



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## Scott Tate

Associate Director, Virginia Tech Office of Economic Development / Roanoke, Virginia

### Themes & Industries

Energy Policy, Solar, Just Transition

### Project Description

Small clean energy businesses in the six-state central Appalachian region face unique challenges. For instance, in a coal state like West Virginia, power-purchase agreements are prohibited and there are few incentives available for commercial-scale solar projects. This makes developing clean energy projects at hospitals, schools and other community institutions difficult. By collecting and disseminating the stories of people who are working in the sustainable economy in Appalachia, Scott's project is changing the narrative around energy in the region while helping identify the resources and policies needed to expand rural economies and create good jobs.



## John Young

Renewable Energy Consultant / Washington, D.C.

### Themes & Industries

Solar, Environmental Justice

### Project Description

John's project was based on a practical but potentially high-impact idea: build a toolkit to help local businesses as well as the governments of the State of New Jersey and the District of Columbia better understand the nuances of establishing community-owned and controlled solar PV programs. By identifying best practices, John wants to expand solar PV ownership so that it penetrates the marginalized communities and communities of color which for too long have been overlooked by policymakers and underserved by the solar industry.



## E2 1 Hotels Fellows Alumni

### Class of 2018–2019

Jesse Barlow / Colorado  
Thomas Dowling / Illinois  
Lauren Hafford / Colorado  
Tasfia Nayem / New York  
Vanessa Perkins / Illinois  
Tremaine Philipps / Michigan  
James Ray / Washington, D.C.  
Abe Serrano / California  
Daniel N.M. Turner / Washington, D.C.  
Jordan Wildish / Washington state

### Class of 2017–2018

Salem Afeworki / California  
Cory Connolly / Michigan  
Alex DeGolia / Colorado  
Adam Fisher / Washington, D.C.  
Kevin Fitzwilliam / Louisiana  
Adam Hasz / Washington, D.C.  
Greg Hopkins / Colorado  
Genevieve Lang / California  
Bronte McGarrah / Massachusetts  
Marilyn White / California

The Class of 2019–2020 at the Fellowship launch event in San Francisco.



## Jump In!

E2's 1 Hotels Fellows and others in their generation will be heavily impacted by climate change. And they're also the ones who will solve it.

We're always on the lookout for passionate and innovative Fellowship applicants, as well as mentors willing to share their time, expertise — and most importantly their enthusiasm.

Please contact Gail Parson at [gparson@e2.org](mailto:gparson@e2.org) to discuss how you can support the E2 1 Hotels Fellowship.

As a mission-driven luxury lifestyle hotel brand inspired by nature, 1 Hotels cultivates the best of eco-conscious design and sustainable architecture, together with extraordinary comfort and an unrivaled level of service.



E2 is a national, nonpartisan group of business leaders, investors and professionals from every sector of the economy who advocate for policies that are good for the economy and good for the environment.