

Richard E. White

Enduring Green Globe Consulting

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Dick White has experience as an educator and scientific researcher, as a community sustainability and climate protection advocate, and as a local elected official. Increasing concern about climate change first prompted him to develop and teach an undergraduate public policy course on the associated science and policy, then to take early retirement from academe to more actively pursue the issue.

His community activities included helping to organize and then to serve as founding board chair of the Sustainability Alliance of Southwest Colorado and to play an active role in the development of the La Plata County Climate and Energy Action Plan. In turn, these contributions led him to election for two terms on the Durango City Council, including two 1-year terms as Mayor.

He now combines his scientific knowledge and experience as educator and as elected official to help local governments and companies address the risks and opportunities arising in the climate emergency. Since 2019 he has consulted with the Association of Climate Change Officers to develop a Study Guide for their Climate Change Professional certificate exams. Recent writing includes editorial page contributions for the *Durango Herald*.

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION

Association of Climate Change Officers, Climate Change Professional (CC-P), 2019

Zero Emissions Research & Initiatives, practitioner certification, 2002

Columbia University, New York, NY: Ph.D. (Astronomy) 1971

Saint Joseph's College, Rensselaer, IN: B.S. (Math-Physics, *Summa Cum Laude*, Valedictorian), 1965

EXPERIENCE

Consulting

Enduring Green Globe Consulting (2007-08; 2019-)

- **Association of Climate Change Officers**: Developed study guide for CC-P curriculum (2019-)
- **Louis Berger Group**: Served as zero-emissions expert for on team screening proposals in architectural competition for the headquarters building for Masdar Initiative, Abu Dhabi, UAE (2007)

Local Government

City of Durango, CO (2011-2019)

- Mayor (2013-14, 2017-18): Chaired meetings and study sessions and spoke at public events; co-moderated Town Hall meeting with Colorado Governor, both U.S. Senators, and Congressman (2017)
- Mayor Pro-tem (2012-13, 2016-17): Presided or spoke in the Mayor's absence
- City Councilor (2011-2019): attended City Council meetings and study sessions, attended other meetings or public events with or on behalf of City Council; served as Durango representative on board of Southwest Colorado Council of Governments (2012-2018), Secretary/Treasurer 2013, Vice-Chair 2014, Chair 2015); served as Council liaison to six city boards or commissions
- Compact of Colorado Communities for addressing climate change (2017-19): Attended organizational meeting (Aspen, CO, 2017), served on steering committee (2017-19) and on training working group (2018); spoke as local government representative in opening plenary panel discussion at Colorado Communities Symposium (Aurora, CO, 2018); participated as Compact representative in three panel discussions at EarthX (Dallas, TX, 2018)
- Colorado Local Resilience Project (2014-15): Served with other local government stakeholders to develop recommendations for climate actions at various levels of government in Colorado
- Professional meetings attended:
 - National League of Cities, Annual meeting (3 days, Seattle, WA, 2013)
 - Colorado Municipal League, Annual meeting (4 days, Breckenridge or Vail, CO, 2011-17); Mayors' Summit (2 days, Denver, CO, 2017); multiple semiannual Southwest Colorado regional meetings
 - Western Slope Mayors Meeting (1 day, Montrose, CO, 2013)
 - La Plata County Economic Summit (1 day, Ignacio, CO, October 2011-18)
- Authored monthly "From the Mayor" columns in the *Durango Herald*; authored, co-authored, or drafted other op-eds or letters to the editor on behalf of City Council; gave multiple radio or TV interviews.

Climate, Sustainability, and Policy Advocacy

Durango, CO (2003-2022)

- *Durango Herald*, contributed biweekly editorials (9/2021-3/2022) and monthly column (3/2022-), usually on climate, sustainability, or public policy issues
- Served on City Council (2011-2019, see above)
- La Plata County Comprehensive Plan working group (2009-11)

- BP Community Advisory Panel (2009-2016)
- La Plata County Climate and Energy Action Plan (Chair, Scientific and Technical Advisory Working Group, and member of Steering Committee, 2008-11)
- Four Corners Office of Resource Efficiency (Steering Committee member, 2007-08)
- Focus the Nation (Southwest Regional Coordinator, 2007)
- La Plata County Grassroots Visioning Project (Sustainable Systems Team & Energy Subcommittee, 2006-07)
- Sustainability Alliance of Southwest Colorado (SASCO: co-organizer, 2004-05; Board member, 2006-2011, founding Chair, 2006-08; Policy Committee Chair, 2008-11; Smart Energy Committee, 2008-11)
- Served as board member for three other sustainability-related non-profits
- Green House Network Speakers Bureau (2002-2007)
- Attended more than a dozen non-local meetings; presented at three (see below)
- Authored many op-eds and letters to the editors in local newspapers; gave numerous presentations to local audiences, including guest lectures in Fort Lewis College classes; attended many local seminars, workshops, and symposia.

Northampton, MA (2001-2003)

- Northampton Citizens for Climate Protection (Chair, 2002-03)
- Attended four non-local professional meetings; presented at one (see below)

Higher Education and Scientific Research

Five College Astronomy Department, Smith College, Northampton, MA (1974-)

- Professor Emeritus of Astronomy (2002-); Professor (1992-2002); Associate Professor (1982-92); Assistant Professor (1974-82)
- Environmental Science and Policy Program (authored sustainability report, 2002); co-organized sustainability workshop, 2002
- Public Policy Program (created and taught undergraduate course, Science and Policy of Climate Change (1995, 1998, 2001)
- Taught undergraduate astronomy courses, plus occasional graduate course; advised majors and non-majors; supervised undergraduate research students; reviewed textbooks, articles, research grant proposals, and fellowship applications
- Received education and research grants from National Science Foundation, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and American Astronomical Society; observed at seven major observatories; attended many professional meetings; published 19 refereed articles in astronomical journals, plus many abstracts of meeting presentations and non-refereed contributions; gave many astronomical presentations to professional, college, or lay audiences

- Served on national observatory users committee and two university or college department review committees; co-chaired year-long interdisciplinary liberal arts project; served as faculty coordinator for \$19 M science building project; authored Five College Astronomy governance document; chaired Five College Astronomy Undergraduate Program Committee or Senate for 7 years; chaired Smith Astronomy Department for 21 years; served extensively on elected and appointed college and departmental committees, sometimes as chair; organized several lecture series

Other Affiliations (Sabbaticals, Fellowships, and/or Adjunct Faculty Positions, 1970-97)

- University of Wyoming (1987-88; 1994-97)
- Smithsonian Institution (1980; 1982-83; 1984)
- Columbia University (1974)
- NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies (1972-74)
- Hale Observatories (1970-72)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

White, Dick. 2022, 5 August, *Durango Herald* (Durango, CO), 4A, Column, “Climate change action is not a spectator sport.”

———. **2022**, 17 July, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Durango, pulpit guest remarks, “Climate Justice.”

———. **2022**, 6 May, *Durango Herald* (Durango, CO), 4A, Column, “Political forces compound climate-change difficulties.” (<https://www.durangoherald.com/articles/political-forces-compound-climate-change-difficulties/>)

———. **2022**, 4 March, *Durango Herald* (Durango, CO), 4A, Our View, “Sustainability.” (<https://www.durangoherald.com/articles/our-view-sustainability/>)

———. **2021**, 29 October, *Durango Herald* (Durango, CO), 4A, Our View, “Climate and health.” (<https://www.durangoherald.com/articles/our-view-climate-and-health/>)

———. **2021**, 28 August, *Durango Herald* (Durango, CO), 8B, Op-ed, “Climate change warnings demand action now.” (<https://www.durangoherald.com/articles/climate-change-warnings-demand-action-now/>)

White, D. 2019, 14-15 December, *Durango Herald* (Durango, CO), 7C, Op-ed, “Is growth really what we want?” (<https://www.durangoherald.com/articles/dick-white-is-growth-really-what-we-want/>)

Vanegas, J., White, D., Wright, D., Leibman, A., & Dutta, J. 2018, April 21, EarthX (Dallas, TX), Climate Resilient Cities symposium, panel discussion: Resiliency: Recovering from a Climate Disaster, “Climate Resilience and Recovery in Colorado.”

Kreeger, D., White, D., & Messner, J. 2018, April 20, EarthX (Dallas, TX), Meeting of City/County Leaders, panel discussion on the Compact of Colorado Communities.

Kreeger, D., Lynne, D., Eaves, D., Lochhead, J., White, D., & Goldin-Dubois, J. 2018, 31 January, Colorado Communities Symposium, Aurora, CO, local government representative on opening plenary panel.

White, D. 2018, 27 January, *Durango Herald* (Durango, CO), 1D, From the Mayor, "Join efforts to deal with a changing climate" (<https://durangoherald.com/articles/205745>); reprinted in *Estes Park News* and *Estes Park Trail Gazette*.

White, D. & Blake, B. 2017, 4 August, Moderators, Town Hall meeting with Governor Hickenlooper, Senators Bennet & Gardner, and Congressman Tipton (Durango, CO).

White, R. E. 2016, June 27, "Food Security: Inconvenient Questions," International Society for Ecological Economics, Washington, DC. (<http://www.isecoeco.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/White-Richard-E..pdf>)

White, R. E., Becker, Stan, Grossman, R., & Schrater, A. F. 2016, *Nature*, **529**, 283, Correspondence: "No myth: population rise unsustainable."

White, R. E. 2015, "Food Security: Some Inconvenient Questions," in *Food Security, Challenges, Role of Biotechnologies and Implications for Developing Countries*, Harvie, Annabelle (ed.), ISBN: 978-1-63463-653-7 (Nova Science Publishing: Hauppauge, NY), pp. 1-11.

White, R. E. 2014, "Food Security, Population, and Reproductive Health," in *Global Population and Reproductive Health*, McFarlane, D. R. (ed.), **ISBN: 978-144-96-8520-1**, (Jones & Bartlett: Burlington, MA), pp. 309-339.

White, R. E. 2012, "Fossil Fuel and Food Security," in *Fossil Fuel and the Environment*, Kahn, S. (ed), **ISBN: 978-953-51-0277-9**, (Intech: Rijeka, Croatia), pp. 279-304. (<https://www.intechopen.com/books/fossil-fuel-and-the-environment/fossil-fuel-and-food-security>)

White, R. E., & Grossman, R. 2010, 9 April, *Science*, **328**, 173, "Food Security: Fossil Fuels" (Letter).

White, R. E., & Myles, M. M. 2009, 21 October, workshop, "Nature's Best Sustainability Technologies and Natural Systems," Grassroots Recycling Network conference, Devens, MA.

White, R. E. 2009, 13 April, Southwest Colorado Community Design Academy (Durango, CO), Invited Presentation, "Planning for Sustainability: Global, Regional, and Local Challenges and Opportunities."

White, R. E. 2007-08, Focus the Nation climate change presentations at seven regional colleges or universities, plus meetings to garner support at six others.

White, R. E. & Gonzalez M., G. E. 2007, *World Watch*, May/June, pp. 18-23, "Sustainability in the Tropics."

Grossman, R. A. and White, R. E. 2006, 29 September, *Science*, **313**, 1886-1887, "Balancing Fertility Rates with Resources" (Letter).

White, R. E. 2006, 9 May, workshop presentation, "Zero Emissions: Upsizing Through Business Clustering," EPA Environmental Partnership Summit, Atlanta, GA.

White, R. E. 2002-2003, five global warming talks on behalf of the Greenhouse Network to local groups, and regional university and prep schools.

White, R. E. 2003, 23 May, U. S. Society for Ecological Economics meeting, Saratoga Springs, NY, display presentation, "Sustainable Development through Biologically-based Systems."