

Cheri Davis began her 34-year energy career at the California Energy Commission (CEC) as an Energy Specialist, where she was a major contributor to California's renewable energy policy established under California Assembly Bill 1890 – the landmark legislation that deregulated California's electricity industry. She then led the development of the Power Content Label and the audit process for verifying power sources. During her time at the CEC, Cheri also served as a project manager for the CEC's power plant siting process and managed innovative energy projects as part of the Public Interest Energy Research (PIER) program.



In 2007, Cheri joined the Office of Climate Change at the California Air Resources Board (CARB), where she played an instrumental role in the development of energy policy recommendations for the groundbreaking Assembly Bill 32 *Climate Change Scoping Plan*.

After more than 16 years at the CEC and CARB, Cheri moved to the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) as a Principal Demand Side Specialist. There, she led the development of the residential LED lighting program, the small and medium business Complete Energy Solutions program, and the Retail Products Platform. When asked about her role, Cheri would say that she was “saving the world, one light bulb at a time.”

In 2017, Cheri was promoted to supervisor of the Residential Efficiency and Electrification Delivery Team, which develops and delivers programs that help Sacramento-area households and businesses save energy, save money, and protect the environment. There, she spearheaded the SMUD Contractor Network, which now includes more than contractors who support SMUD's building electrification programs. Since 2020, this network has enabled over 25,000 heat pump conversions, driving clean tech adoption across the region. Cheri has also championed the induction cooking program, hiring local chefs to demonstrate the benefits of induction cooking at events throughout the community.

Cheri's personal commitment to the environment fuels her involvement in several grassroots initiatives as well. She co-founded a sustainable-concept community in Costa Rica, applying her expertise to develop guidelines for land restoration and environmentally friendly development. Cheri is also a founding member of the “Curtis Park Electric Stars,” a Sacramento neighborhood advocacy group that promotes home electrification and energy efficiency upgrades through community education and engagement. As a passion project, Cheri enjoys spreading the word (and the worm) about composting with worms and the critical importance of returning nutrients to the earth.

Cheri served on the Utility Energy Forum conference planning committee from 2016 to 2026, enhancing conference programming and securing the Cambria Pines Lodge as the event's venue beginning in 2019. Cheri's work in energy policy has had an impact across California, while the energy efficiency and building electrification programs she built have been studied and emulated within California and across the country. Cheri's programs have touched the lives of many SMUD customers, helping them reduce their bills and carbon footprint, while fighting climate change one lightbulb, one heat pump, one induction stove, and one contractor at a time.