

# 2023 CRAIN'S CHICAGO BUSINESS NOTABLE LEADERS IN SUSTAINABILITY

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The 66 leaders profiled here all are innovating, and then some, on sustainability's "reduce, reuse, recycle" mantra. They have launched programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the amount of garbage that goes to landfills. Initiatives they are championing cut back on water waste and save electricity. Buildings they design, both commercial and multifamily homes, make liberal use of existing materials. These leaders have devised ingenious ways to recycle all sorts of objects, from railroad ties to industrial boilers. But wait, there's more. They are conserving our area's local forests, expanding our green spaces, tackling threats to our abundance of clean water and cleaning up neglected areas in underserved communities. Together, their efforts are setting the stage for a greener future.

—By *Lisa Bertagnoli*

**METHODOLOGY:** The individuals featured did not pay to be included. Their profiles were written from the nomination materials submitted. This list is not comprehensive. It includes only individuals for whom nominations were submitted and accepted after a review by editors. To qualify for the list, nominees must serve in a senior leadership role or lead sustainability initiatives at an organization and make a measurable impact on the environment through their efforts. They must live and work in the Chicago area and demonstrate leadership through involvement in professional organizations and civic and community initiatives.

## 2023 Honorees

2023 



**Gerald Adelman**

CEO and president  
Openlands



**Erika Allen**

Co-owner  
Green Era Sustainability Partners



**John Antonoglu**

Sustainability lead/aviation engineer  
Primera Engineers



**Mason Awtry**

CEO  
Wurkwel Ventures



**Steve Berglund**

Founder and CEO  
TiEnergy



**Deeta Bernstein**

Group manager, buildings +  
sustainability  
Cotter Consulting



**Tony Beyer**

Founder and CEO  
Tek Pak



**Meena Beyers**

Vice president of business and  
community development  
Nicor Gas



**Jill Brosig**

Chief impact officer  
Harrison Street



**Mit Buchanan**

Managing director of energy  
investments  
JPMorgan Chase



**Sara Chamberlain**

Co-founder and managing director  
Energy Foundry



**Jonathan Charak**

Vice president — emerging solutions  
director  
Zurich North America



**Nicole Chavas**

President and COO  
Greenprint Partners



**Sara Christen**

Associate vice president  
Landrum & Brown



**Elizabeth Cisar**

Environment program co-director  
Joyce Foundation



**James Coates**

Training director and fund administrator/adjunct professor IUOE, Local 399 ETF/Illinois Tech



**Elena Daniel**

Senior vice president and head of ESG Logistics Property Co.



**Naomi Davis**

Founder and CEO Blacks in Green



**Lauren Densham**

Head of ESG and impact Energize Ventures



**Kelly Dittmann**

President and CEO Sustene Global



**Annalise Dum**

Vice president, sustainability JLL



**Sarah Edwards**

Environment and sustainability program manager Cook County Government



**Jamie Ezeffi**

Chief sustainability officer Northern Trust



**Doug Farr**

Founder and president Farr Associates Architecture & Urban Design



**Stephen Filyo**

President BlueEarth Deconstruction



**Jessica Garascia**

Vice president, general counsel, chief administrative officer and secretary AAR



**Juanita Garcia**

Senior project manager, higher performance and sustainable construction Pepper Construction



**Christopher Gersch**

Founder and CEO  
Verde Solutions



**Kelly Gilroy**

Vice president, sustainable and natural  
products  
Univar Solutions



**Nate Greenspan**

Senior product manager – SaaS products  
Redwood Logistics



**Robert Hattier**

Business representative  
IBEW Local 134



**Amina Helstern**

Senior regenerative design advisor  
Perkins & Will



**Neena Hemmady**

Vice president, support services  
ComEd



**David Hovey Sr.**

CEO  
Optima



**Paul Hunter**

Global sustainability manager  
Kin + Carta



**Bhini Jain**

Senior operational excellence manager  
Gilbane Building



**Alex Ty Kovach**

Executive director  
Lake County Forest Preserve District



**Sanjeev Krishnan**

Chief investment officer and senior  
managing director; member of the  
builders vision leadership team  
S2G Ventures



**Lindsey Landwehr-Fasules**

Director, sustainability  
Turner Construction



**Howard Learner**

President and executive director  
Environmental Law & Policy Center,  
Chicago



**Patty Lloyd**

Director of sustainability  
Leopardo Cos.



**Jenny Lynch**

Partner, sustainability and ESG services  
Deloitte & Touche LLP



**Rhianne Menzies**

Director, ESG  
Brookfield Properties



**Sean Moran**

Senior project manager  
Clayco



**Mike Nicholas**

Global environment operations director  
Accenture



**Francesca Olivier**

Vice president, global ESG  
Medline



**John Oxtoby**

Senior vice president, director of ESG  
investing  
Ariel Investments



**John Pady**

Chief expansion officer  
Community & Economic Development  
Association of Cook County



**Katie Pittman**

Sustainability coordinator  
Rush University Medical Center



**Alicia Ponce**

Founder and principal  
APMonarch Architecture



**Linda Roman**

Associate director, packaging R&D  
Kraft Heinz



**Jimmy Samartzis**

CEO  
LanzaJet



**Charlie Saville**

Principal and director of sustainability  
FitzGerald



**Julia Stamberger**

CEO  
The Planting Hope Co.



**Lauren Stone**

Director, ESG  
Walgreens



**Tim Swanson**

Founder, president and CEO  
Inherent Homes



**Eric Tritch**

Vice president of supply chain and  
support services  
University of Chicago Medicine



**Megan Zack**

Chief sustainability officer  
Wight & Co.



**Grant Zimmerman**

CEO  
Amp Americas



**Joseph Zurad**

COO of production and delivery  
Milhouse Engineering & Construction



**Bryan Wagner**

Environmental policy and program  
manager  
Illinois Tollway



**Mark Weber**

Chief operating officer  
Federal Signal



**Jane Wilberding**

Senior mobility manager  
HNTB



**Gabriel Wilcox**

Director of sustainable design  
Krueck Sexton Partners



**Jessica Wollmuth**

EY Americas climate change and  
sustainability services deputy leader  
Ernst & Young LLP, Chicago



**Liz (Lewis) Wrona**

Director of impact & engagement  
Climate Vault



**Megan Zack**

Chief sustainability officer  
Wight & Co.



**Grant Zimmerman**

CEO  
Amp Americas



**Joseph Zurad**

COO of production and delivery  
Milhouse Engineering & Construction