Speaker Profiles

Session C: Water Conservation

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Vandana Rao is the Director of Water Policy for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) and is the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Water Resources Commission. She has been with EOEEA since 2003. Before that, she served as the Watershed Policy Coordinator for the Massachusetts Watershed Initiative. Dr. Rao has extensive experience in policy development and analysis on water resources as well as climate change adaptation and resilience. She holds an MS in Environmental Science from the University of Maryland and a PhD in Environmental Science and Policy from UMass Boston. Dr. Rao is also the Founding Director of the Center for Arts and Wellness in Westborough, MA.



Jim Cain is a Senior Engineer at the Massachusetts Office of Technical Assistance and Technology. Mr. Cain provides pollution prevention and compliance assistance to manufacturers of metal products, electrical products, and chemicals. He also has organized OTA's industrial water management workshop series and worked on water conservation projects. More recently, Mr. Cain has been providing assistance and training for energy efficiency project planning. Previously, he held positions in process development, production supervision, and project engineering for a chemical manufacturer. For a membrane filtration company, he developed new markets and new products for industrial applications. Mr. Cain has a BS in chemical engineering from the University of Kansas and an MBA from the Rochester Institute of Technology.



Tara O'Hare currently serves as the Implementation and Commercial Outreach Lead for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) WaterSense® Program in Washington, DC. Ms. O'Hare has worked on WaterSense for the past thirteen years and is responsible for program operations, partner support, and outreach to commercial and institutional facilities. Ms. O'Hare led the development of "WaterSense at Work: Best Management Practices for Commercial and Institutional Facilities" and has delivered trainings and webinars to a wide variety of stakeholders from all parts of the commercial building sector. Ms. O'Hare has a bachelor's degree in Business and Environmental Management from the George Washington University and a master's degree in Environmental Science and Policy from the Johns Hopkins University.