

## Contact

[www.linkedin.com/in/aimee-wittelman-000](https://www.linkedin.com/in/aimee-wittelman-000) (LinkedIn)  
[www.energy.gov/congressional-office-congressional-and-intergovernmental-affairs](https://www.energy.gov/congressional-office-congressional-and-intergovernmental-affairs) (Company)

## Top Skills

Grantmaking  
Strategy  
Program Development

## Languages

English (Native or Bilingual)  
Spanish (Limited Working)

# Aimee Wittelman

(Incoming) Head of Investment  
Washington, District of Columbia, United States

## Summary

I am a mission-driven policy analyst and organizer with expertise in climate, clean energy, and sustainable agriculture. For over two decades I have worked as a strategist, coalition builder, trusted advisor, and manager for philanthropies, governments, and nonprofits. I bring skills in systems analysis, communications, and place-based campaigns to energize, persuade, and connect people and ideas — to make the pursuit of progressive change irresistible.

I have extensive experience in regional and national climate philanthropy and have designed and led programs at the McKnight Foundation, the Climate Imperative Foundation, the Energy Foundation, and Invest in Our Future.

I served as a political appointee in the first year of the Biden Administration at the Department of Energy to support design and passage of historic clean energy legislation. During the campaign to reform and implement the 2008 Farm Bill from 2005-2010, I served as executive director for the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition.

My early years included leading backcountry wilderness trips and swinging a post hole digger in the Pacific Northwest to protect Columbia River ecosystems.

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## Experience

Rewiring America  
Head of Investment  
July 2023 - Present (2 months)  
Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Energy Foundation  
1 year 1 month

## Senior Fellow

January 2023 - May 2023 (5 months)

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Seconded from the Energy Foundation to lead the start-up of Invest in Our Future, a new philanthropic initiative aimed at successfully implementing federal climate investments (IRA, IIJA, CHIPS Act) to accelerate decarbonization.

## Vice President, States and Regions

May 2022 - January 2023 (9 months)

Washington, District of Columbia, United States

Led the States & Regions Program composed of policy, public engagement, and communications experts supporting place-based clean energy campaigns and grantmaking in two dozen states across the country's four major regions.

Led strategy development for implementation of IIJA and IRA.

## U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs

April 2021 - May 2022 (1 year 2 months)

Washington, DC

Political appointee serving in the Biden-Harris Administration. Established and led a new Regional Specialist program at the DOE to increase connectivity between the agency and state, local, Tribal governments and external stakeholders.

## Climate Imperative Foundation

Director, U.S. States Policy, the Climate Imperative Foundation

October 2020 - April 2021 (7 months)

San Francisco, CA

Designed and launched the US States Policy program for the Climate Imperative, a philanthropic initiative focused on securing just and ambitious climate wins at the scale and pace needed to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

## McKnight Foundation

10 years 3 months

Program Director, Midwest Climate and Energy

May 2013 - August 2020 (7 years 4 months)

Minneapolis, MN

Designed, founded, and led McKnight's flagship \$32 million grantmaking program focused on decarbonizing Midwest power, transportation, buildings, and agricultural sectors.

Provided expertise in state climate and energy policy campaign and coalition-building efforts, leveraging philanthropic, public, and private investment (\$200 million in impact investing).

#### Program Officer, Environment

June 2010 - May 2013 (3 years)

Minneapolis, MN

Managed \$9 million in annual grantmaking to improve water quality of the Mississippi River, focused on accelerating adoption of perennials, cover crops, and resource-conserving crop rotations in upper basin.

#### National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition

5 years

##### Executive Director

January 2008 - June 2010 (2 years 6 months)

Washington, DC

Oversaw federal policy campaign management, strategic planning, fundraising, grant writing and reporting.

Led the design and dissemination of the first Grassroots Guide to the 2008 Farm Bill.

Regular conference speaker and presenter on federal farm policy, sustainable agriculture, rural development.

##### Grassroots Organizing and Outreach Director

July 2005 - April 2008 (2 years 10 months)

Washington, DC

Directed national grassroots campaigns with 100 member organizations to advance federal policy goals in the 2008 Farm Bill and annual federal appropriations bills.

Organized farmer fly-ins, federal testimony, and public comments.

#### W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Food and Society Policy Fellow

January 2007 - December 2008 (2 years)

Washington, DC

Recipient of national fellowship award to produce communications on federal farm policy. Published in national, state, and regional news media outlets and trade magazines.

### Oxfam America

Agriculture and Trade Specialist

May 2006 - December 2006 (8 months)

Boston, MA

Managed \$3 million in grants focused on facilitating low-income farmer access to Farm Bill programs.

Produced Oxfam America report, "Shut Out: How US Farm Programs Fail Minority Farmers."

### AmeriCorps

Program Director

June 2000 - October 2002 (2 years 5 months)

Trout Lake, WA

Led field teams to restore riparian function in mid-Columbia River watershed. Developed and managed relationships with project co-sponsors at the Natural Resource Conservation Service, The Nature Conservancy, US Fish and Wildlife, and Yakama Indian Nation.

### Camp Manito-wish YMCA

Wilderness Trip Leader

1994 - 2000 (6 years)

Boulder Junction, Wisconsin, United States

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## Education

### Tufts University

Master of Science, Agriculture and Environmental Science and Policy;

Specialization: International Trade Policy · (2004 - 2006)

### University of Wisconsin-Madison

Bachelor of Arts, History and Women's Studies. American Indian Studies (minor) · (1996 - 1999)

### NOLS

