Biographies (in alphabetical order)

R.J. Adler ‘11. studied Psychology, Education, Theater, and was on the 2011 Solar Decathlon Team- Self Reliance - while at Middlebury. He was also on staff at Camp Keewaydin on Lake Dunmore in Salisbury. An interest in education, swing dancing, and skiing took him out to Jackson, WY, where he taught middle and high school, and played outside for a year. Soon enough an interest in renewable energy and sustainability got the better of him, and he has spent the last three years working in marketing at SunCommon. He just bought a house in East Middlebury, and word around town is that he digs living on the river! (Thursday and Friday)

Kira Ventura Ashby ‘05 is the Senior Program Manager for Behavior at the Consortium for Energy Efficiency (CEE), where she has worked for the past 7 years. Kira graduated from Middlebury as a Spanish major with minors in Environmental Studies and Psychology. She holds a Master’s degree from the Harvard School of Public Health, where she studied behavior change programs that target nutrition and physical activity behaviors. In her current role, Kira helps energy efficiency program administrators apply the same social science-based techniques used successfully in disciplines such as public health to promote more efficient energy usage behaviors. Prior to joining CEE, Kira worked at the Harvard Prevention Research Center and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. (Thursday only)

Isaac Baker '14.5 is the Co-President and Founder of Resonant Energy. Isaac has two years’ experience performing project management for community-scale renewable energy projects. In the past year, he has worked with a world-class team of lawyers and accountants to found Co-op Power’s Community Shared Solar Division. He also helped found Co-op Power, where he has worked for the last four years in a variety of roles, ranging from community outreach and business planning to project development and financial planning. As an Environmental Studies student at Middlebury College, he taught a class on institutional microgrid development. (Thursday and Friday)

Chris Cadwell ‘06.5 graduated from Middlebury College with a bachelor’s degree in International Politics and Economics. After graduating, Chris was a ski bum in Steamboat Springs for two years where he was a ski instructor and worked at Millennium Private Bank as a commercial loan officer. He moved to San Francisco to work for a boutique wind and solar
development company called Foresight Renewables. Foresight focused on the South-western United States where Chris developed solar projects. In 2012 Chris founded Green Peak Solar with his Middlebury classmate Nathaniel Vandal. At Green Peak, Chris has helped to develop over 18 MWs of solar in Vermont. In addition, Green Peak assisted Florida-based WRB Energy to develop the 20 MW Content Solar project in Jamaica, the largest solar project in the English speaking Caribbean. Recently, Chris has been focused on developing energy storage projects in Vermont and the Caribbean. (Thursday and Friday)

Phoebe Howe ’15 works at Efficiency Vermont’s Mobile Home Replacement Program. She conducts outreach to promote zero-energy modular homes as an affordable, durable, and healthy housing option and provides support to low-income homebuyers, including current mobile home owners, as they navigate the home buying process. While at Middlebury, Phoebe was a joint Environmental Studies/Architecture major and took time off to participate in Yestermorrow’s semester program in Sustainable Design/Build. After graduating Middlebury, she enjoyed several months of “fun-ployment” before first joining the Mobile Home Replacement Program through a VHCB AmeriCorps position. Phoebe has since transitioned into a full-time job with Efficiency Vermont, and is happy to be putting her interests in design, construction, renewable energy, and social justice to good use. (Thursday and Friday)

Kelly Lucci ’04 is Director of External and Government Affairs at the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation, where she focuses on policy, communications, and outreach for Efficiency Vermont. Prior to joining VEIC, she served on the staff of U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders for six years, focusing on energy and environmental issues. A lifelong Vermonter, Kelly holds a degree in Political Science from Middlebury College and currently resides in her hometown, Fletcher, with her husband and son. (Thursday only)

Chéri Faso Olf is Head of Training Development for SolarCity Corporation. She is an industry- and government-recognized expert in renewable energy and advanced energy technology markets, policy, education, training, and workforce development. She leads the company's learning and development efforts, partnering with colleges and universities to identify, train and develop a highly-skilled solar workforce, as well as coordinating community, academic, and government stakeholders in the massive effort to train and staff SolarCity's Buffalo 1 GW manufacturing plant - the largest solar panel plant in the western hemisphere. Chéri is founder and Executive Director (Emeritus) of the nonprofit organization, Solar Campus Initiative, a project of Earth Island Institute, as well as a Climate Leader, trained personally by Climate Reality Project Chairman and former Vice President Al Gore. She serves as an Advisory Board member for the Masters in Renewable Energy & Sustainability Systems degree program at the Pennsylvania State University. (Thursday and Friday)

Andy Rossmeissl ’05 leads the Faraday team in its quest to revolutionize customer outreach for companies selling things that matter, including residential solar. Andy is a designer by training, a programmer by choice, and an adviser to a handful of Vermont startups that grudgingly tolerate him. He founded Brighter Planet, the celebrated sustainability tech company, while a senior at Middlebury. (Thursday only)
Peter Schneider ’97 works as a Senior Consultant at the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation in Burlington, Vermont. He provides technical support to builders, architects, engineers, affordable housing agencies and homeowners participating in a number of different programs such as Efficiency Vermont Certified: High Performance Homes, LEED for Homes and Midrise & Passive House. Peter’s goal is to help his clients design and construct more energy-efficient, healthy, durable and sustainable buildings. Peter is a certified Energy Rater, Passive House Consultant and LEED for Homes Quality Assurance Designee. His current focus is running the State’s Mobile Home Replacement program. (Thursday and Friday)

Val Stori ’98 serves as a Project Director for CESA and CEG. Val leads CESA’s Renewable Thermal and Biomass Thermal projects and the Interstate Turbine Advisory Council. Additionally, she co-leads several offshore wind initiatives including the Northeast Wind Resource Center, with a focus on stakeholder outreach. She has a Master of Studies in Environmental Law from Vermont Law School and a B.A. from Middlebury College in Environmental Studies/Conservation Biology. (Thursday and Friday)

Edward Vine ’72 received a BS in Environmental Studies, and continued his education at the University of California, Davis, where he received a MS and Ph.D. in Ecology. After Davis, Ed started working at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) where he was involved in the evaluation of energy efficiency programs and policies and technology performance measurement for over 36 years. He retired from LBNL in 2016, and is currently an Affiliate at LBNL. Ed is currently working with IEPEC and IEPPEC on developing an evaluation community and network in Asia. Ed was a founding member of an organization devoted to promoting sustainability in colleges and universities: Education for Sustainability (EFS), West Network. This organization then led to the founding of a national organization, the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). In 2007, as a member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), he received the Nobel Peace Prize. (Thursday only)

Nathaniel Vandal ’07 graduated from Middlebury College as an Independent Scholar focused on environmental studies and physics. After graduating, Nathaniel worked as the Director of Resource and Project Assessment at a renewable energy startup called Ridgeline Energy. At Ridgeline, Nathaniel led all technical efforts and helped contribute to the installation and operation of over 320 MW of wind generation. In 2012 Nathaniel founded Green Peak Solar with his Middlebury classmate Chris Cadwell. At Green Peak, Nathaniel has helped to develop more than 18 MWs of solar in Vermont. In addition, Green Peak assisted Florida based WRB Energy to develop the 20 MW Content Solar project in Jamaica, the largest solar project in the English speaking Caribbean. Recently, Nathaniel has been focused on developing energy storage projects in Vermont and the Caribbean. (Thursday and Friday)