

Erin Boyd, Ph.D., is a ground-breaking, cutting-edge economist working at the intersection of energy and sustainability in developing countries. With 20 years of experience in more than 30 countries over four continents, her passion is alleviating poverty and making sustainable energy affordable and universally available.

Part quant, part strategist, Dr. Boyd applies her substantial research skills and rigorous market analysis expertise to inform business decisions and arrive at actionable solutions that range from project design to energy policy for both public and private sectors in the developing world. Her work involves multiple entities committed to local renewable energy such as national governments, academia and tech companies. With advanced economics degrees from Carnegie Mellon University and the University of London, Dr. Boyd is a hands-on change agent who enjoys being out in the field talking to people, exploring their cultures and learning their problems so she can set about solving them.

Her flexible, data-driven approach has led her to provide advice spanning small-scale work such as incentivizing household solar systems in the Philippines to cross-national projects such as optimal power and gas grid expansion plans for the African continent. This work typically has been executed on behalf of multilateral and bilateral donors including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the U.K. Department for International Development, with whom she has extensive experience. As an expert economist and data scientist, she has also advised large utilities in the United Kingdom, United States, European Union and Latin, Central and South America.

After being based in London for eight years following postings in Japan and Ethiopia, Dr. Boyd returned to the United States for family reasons. Since then, she has worked with energy providers ranging from Pacific Gas and Electric, the largest utility company in the United States, to a technology startup in San Francisco. As the founder and CEO of Verbitas Consulting and Yabi Energy, she uses her considerable creative talents to drive positive outcomes. She is currently head of commercial and customer experience data sciences at The AES Corp, a global Fortune 500 energy company. She is also an engaging TedX speaker on a wide range of economic topics.

Now that the United Nations has issued its Sustainable Development Goals with a target of eliminating poverty and ensuring universal access to clean energy by 2030, Dr. Boyd feels an additional sense of urgency to return to the work she loves and to using her expertise to help reach these goals. She believes sustainable energy is critical to the elimination of poverty.

“My personal goal is to identify and nurture a corporate narrative that is befitting of a 21st century world class organization,” Boyd says. “Fuelling universal access to sustainable energy is an audacious goal inspired by the ideals of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Everyone should have access to sustainable energy that is both affordable and abundant, especially in Africa, where 1.4 billion people live and almost half of that population is without modern energy. I believe convening the energy ecosystem with innovative partnerships from around the globe can unleash what was once thought an unachievable ideal into a reality, and I believe I am the economist who can make it happen.”