

# UIC Workshops on Beneficial Electrification of Transportation

## *June 15 UIC EV Workshop on Transportation Electrification Infrastructure*

1:00-3:00 PM on Monday, June 15, 2020

[Eventbrite Link](#) | [Detailed Program Link](#)

### SPEAKER BIOS

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**Christopher Schmidt**

Air Quality Manager

Illinois Department of Transportation

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[Christopher.Schmidt@illinois.gov](mailto:Christopher.Schmidt@illinois.gov)

Christopher Schmidt is currently the Air Quality Manager at the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) where he has worked for going on 9 years. Chris oversees several projects including the department's alternative fuel corridor program, solar in the right-of-way initiative, all-hazards vulnerability assessment, diesel retrofit program, Illinois's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality program, and acts as a liaison between the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and IDOT regarding the Volkswagen settlement money.

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**Edith Makra**

Director of Environmental Initiatives

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus

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<https://mayorscaucus.org>

Edith Makra directs sustainability initiatives for the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, a coalition of 275 mayors in the greater Chicago region. She leads programs to advance sustainability and environmental stewardship for municipalities. She also leads the Environment and Energy Committees to engage in important policy issues and fosters collaborations that advance clean energy, alternate fuels and environmental stewardship. Makra

For more information about the UIC EV Workshops, please contact the organizer, Dr. Elizabeth A. Kócs at [ekocs@uic.edu](mailto:ekocs@uic.edu) or 708.267.4097.

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developed the Greenest Region Compact, a consensus sustainability pledge now adopted by 131 Chicago-area communities, forming the largest regional municipal sustainability collaborative in the US. She leads Caucus initiatives on electrification.

She has a B.S. in Forestry from the University of Illinois; an Executive Sustainability Certificate from Harvard University; and is an International Society of Sustainability Professionals – Certified Sustainability Professional.

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**Megha Lakhchaura**

Director, Policy and Utility Programs, North America

EVBox

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Megha Lakhchaura is the Director of Policy and Utility Programs for EVBox, North America. EVBox is the global market leader in electric vehicle charging infrastructure and related cloud-based services, with an installed base of over 115,000 charging points in 57 countries. By bringing smart and scalable charging solutions to electric vehicles around the world, EVBox’s mission is to help build a future where everyday transport is technologically advanced, emission-free, and sustained by a green charging infrastructure.

Prior to joining EVBox, Megha was Policy Director at Sunrun Inc. and drove the market and regulatory policy in California. Megha was also with the California Public Utilities Commission for over seven years working on wholesale electricity market issues including power planning and procurement, Resource Adequacy and Renewable Portfolio Standards. She has an MPP from University of California Los Angeles.

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## Moderator



### **Elizabeth A. Kócs, PhD**

Director, Partnerships & Strategy, UIC Energy Initiative  
Co-Founder, Center for Urban Resilience and Environmental Sustainability  
NREL Energy Executive, National Renewable Energy Laboratory  
[ekocs@uic.edu](mailto:ekocs@uic.edu)  
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Dr. Elizabeth A. Kócs is an environment-behavior scientist and planning strategist at the intersection of social, economic, policy, and technological advances in energy, sustainability and urban resilience. At the UIC Energy Initiative, she has a strong focus on energy and technology for transportation, the electrical grid and smart cities. She brings years of expertise in relationship building and partnership engagement to grow the UIC energy and sustainability network, programs and impact, and to cultivate local, regional, national and international initiatives to support collaborative efforts fostering Chicago's growing energy, mobility, and urban sustainability ecosystems. Dr. Kócs is a founding leader of the Center for Urban Resilience and Environmental Sustainability (CURES), a University of Illinois collaborative focused on providing cities with knowledge and pathways for achieving climate resilience. As a National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) Energy Executive Leader, she works with academia, national laboratories, public sector and private industry to leverage expertise, tools and resources to develop benchmarking and strategic planning, analytic, and strategic pathways for addressing climate-related energy and transportation challenges. She continues to serve on the Materials Research Society *MRS Bulletin Energy Quarterly* Board and the MRS Focus on Sustainability Subcommittee, leveraging her knowledge and network to strengthen the energy and sustainability dialogue in the materials community, and connecting industry with materials research community. Dr. Kócs earned a Bachelor of Architecture from Pratt Institute, an Executive MBA from the University of Illinois, and a PhD from the City University of New York.

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