



Bio: Ron Larson

Dr. Larson is the first Past-Chair of the NECO Board, having also served as the Chair of NECO's predecessor group (Golden Earth Days). His renewable energy interests began as an AAAS Congressional Fellow (first class in 1973), working on the US' first solar energy legislation and then as one of the first employees of the Congress' Office of Technology Assessment (OTA). After returning for a few years to his position as a Professor of Electrical Engineering at Georgia Tech, he was at the Solar Energy Research Institute (SERI, now NREL) on its first day in July 1977. Later he became SERI's first Principal Scientist and was a principal organizer of the Colorado Renewable Energy Society (CRES) and later became Board Chair for CRES' parent group, the American Solar Energy Society (ASES). He is a life member of both CRES and ASES and is a Fellow of ASES. Biochar is now his main (always volunteer) activity, including helping form and still serving on the board of the United States Biochar Initiative. USBI is a daughter organization of the International Biochar Initiative, on whose technical advisory committee he also serves. These biochar activities follow, after leaving SERI in 1982, from leading a USAID RE project in Sudan. His firm, Larson Consulting, is a non-fee practice focused on NECO and other Colorado-based RE activities, developing countries, char-making stoves, and biochar. Dr. Larson holds four degrees from the University of Michigan, principally in Electrical engineering.