

Founding Members

3Degrees
Aciem Consulting
Andioma
Barlow Strategies
Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies
Columbia HyFuel
Douglas County PUD
Eugene Water & Electric Board
Flink Energy Consulting
Forth
Hydrogenics
Hydrogenics/Cummins
ITM Power
Klickitat PUD
NW Green Hydrogen
NW Innovation Works
NW Natural
Obsidian Renewables
PERA
Puget Sound Energy
Red Rocket Creative Design
Renewable Hydrogen Canada
Renewable Northwest
Tacoma Public Utilities
The Warren Group
Toyota Motor North America
TriMet
Vashon Climate Action Group
Warner Hydrogen

Renewable Hydrogen Alliance Statement on Black Lives Matter

RHA's founding document states as a first value "*equity and respect for the community and the environment.*" We are proud to have adopted this value, less clear is how we live up to it.

As each day has passed since George Floyd's merciless murder, the oppression and killing of black people in American communities has not abated and it is increasingly clear that to say nothing sends its own message—the wrong message. We therefore take this moment, Juneteenth 2020 to declare our support for the Black Lives Matter movement.

We see a direct line between RHA's work and the well-being of people of color. Climate change and air pollution [disproportionately affect poor and largely minority communities](#). Even so, RHA's responsibility to the Black Lives Matter movement must go beyond merely fulfilling our mission statement.

Accepting that the country's racism is systemic is to accept our own complicity as part of that system, compelling us to take responsibility for doing something about it.

In all of RHA's work, our organization's effectiveness derives from the power and diversity of our membership. I urge members and all readers of this note to reflect on their own complicity, privilege, and capacity to contribute to positive change. It is our hope that our friends will take inspiration from our statement of support for the movement.

RHA commits to doing a better job of reaching out to organizations representing communities of color, and those promoting equity and social justice. We pledge to make our platform, our most influential asset, available to diverse communities. We will work with these organizations to leverage our newsletter, website and blog posts to boost voices and perspectives historically sidelined in our society.

RHA is in the business of re-imagining the future for both people and environment. We offer an illustrative story: A young black man is caught up with friends who hatch a plan to print cash on a home printer. They urge the boldest and most personable among them to go into a store to pass the bill. But rather than being murdered or incarcerated by police, he enters a [trades program](#) instead, and ends up on the front lines fighting climate change instead of breaking his mother's heart and all of those who know him.

That story, so similar to George Floyd's, but with a fairy tale ending, is not fiction. The young man has become a master electrician and licensed contractor. While the story comes to mind because of the eerie similarity, it highlights how much our society has to gain by crawling out from under the

RHA Mission:

Promote using renewable electricity to produce climate-neutral hydrogen and other energy-intensive products that reduce dependence on fossil fuels.

boot of racism. We can do better, and by doing better we will be better- all of us. I look forward to that day.

What can each of us do? We can educate ourselves. There is a tremendous 2019 film available for free on many streaming platforms called [Just Mercy](#) that is both moving and educational—don't skip the epilogue notes. Consider [donating to organizations fighting racial injustice](#). Then this is a good time to be reading up on all we didn't learn in school; a [good reading list can be found here](#). The books that have most moved me, as a clueless white person, have been:

Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl: An Autobiographical Account of an Escaped Slave and Abolitionist, by Harriet Ann Jacobs, published in 1861. Harriet Jacobs hid alone for seven years in an uninsulated attic too small to stand up in.

Uncle Tom's Cabin, written in 1850 by Harriet Beecher Stowe. A book by a white woman, written for other white people. "Uncle Tom" became reviled, mostly due to racist stage adaptations (see "[Why African-Americans Loathe 'Uncle Tom'](#)"), but there was a reason that this book outsold the bible when it was published, and went on to change history.

Worse than Slavery: Parchman Farm and the Ordeal of Jim Crow Justice, by David Oshinsky, 1997. This book gives needed insight into the history of policing and imprisoning black people after the Reconstruction period following the Civil War up to recent times.

The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration, by Isabel Wilkerson, 2011. This book follows the lives of four black refugees fleeing the South, chronicling the motivation for their migration, the difficulties of both living in and leaving the South, and the troubles they faced in the Northern and Western cities they escaped to.

Minority businesses interested in accessing our website, newsletter or other resources can reach us directly at info@RenewableH2.org. Everyone is encouraged to reach out to RHA with questions or suggestions about how we can do better using that same email address.

Sincerely,



Ken Dragoon
Executive Director
Renewable Hydrogen Alliance

Board of Directors

Shanna Brownstein,
Portland General Electric

Jason Busch, Pacific Ocean
Energy Trust

Ken Dragoon, Flink Energy
Consulting

Nicole Hughes, Renewable
Northwest

Dr. John Lynch,
Washington State
University

Don Ruff, Ruff Consulting