

CSD-14 Partnerships Fair Speaker Bio

William S. Becker

William Becker, 59, is senior advisor to the Global Energy Center for Community Sustainability and an adjunct faculty member in the Colorado Energy Research Institute at the Colorado School of Mines. He is on loan to both organizations from the U.S. Department of Energy, where he specialized in energy efficiency, renewable energy technologies and sustainable community development for 15 years.

Becker is regarded as one of DOE's principal experts on sustainable communities. After the Great Flood along the Mississippi River in 1993, he led a team of sustainable development experts that assisted two communities in relocating from the floodplain and rebuilding on higher ground with sustainable designs and technologies. In 1996, he founded and directed DOE's Center of Excellence for Sustainable Development and its Smart Communities Network web site, the "granddaddy" of sustainable community resources on the internet.

More recently, he co-led a team of US experts to Beijing to consult with Chinese officials on the "greening" of the Olympic Village for the 2008 Games; participated on an expert team that traveled to Thailand to provide advice on tsunami reconstruction; and served as an advisor for the "sustainable reconstruction" of a neighborhood in New Orleans damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

Becker is the former director of DOE's Central Regional Office, where he and his staff of 30 promoted the use of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies in a 12-state area. In his diverse career, he has served as a war correspondent in South Vietnam, where he won a Bronze Star medal; writer/photographer for the Associated Press; publisher of his own weekly newspaper in rural Wisconsin; editorial writer and columnist for the Wisconsin State Journal in Madison, WI.; associate director of the Wisconsin Energy Extension Service; research director for the Wisconsin State Senate; executive assistant to the Wisconsin Attorney General; Counselor to the Administrator of the U.S. Small Business Administration in Washington, DC; and communications director for the Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

Becker's specialization in sustainable development began in the 1970s when he proposed and helped implement a pioneering project in which a Wisconsin community relocated from a floodplain and built the nation's first "solar village". The project has been featured in the television documentary "River Town", as well as in several books, including two authored by Becker: [Come Rain, Come Shine](#), and [The Making of a Solar Village](#). He lives in Golden, Colorado, with his wife, Mary.