



Social, Economic, Energy & Resource Renewal, LLC

Tessa McLean

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Tessa McLean
Community Planner
SEE Renewal, LLC



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EMPLOYEE SNAPSHOT

SEE Renewal is thrilled to welcome Tessa McLean to our team! Tessa joined SEE Renewal as a Community Planner in December of 2020. She offers a multidisciplinary background, valuable insight and a unique perspective to the work we do at SEE Renewal.

In the several months that she has been with SEE Renewal, Tessa has proved to be a shining star. She brings indigenous knowledge, subject-matter expertise, technical skills, industry experience and enthusiasm to the meetings, collaborative sessions, and projects that she is involved in at SEE Renewal.

Tessa earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science degree from the University of Colorado – Denver. Since completing her degree, she has continued to take courses of interest and looks forward to continuing her education in formal and informal settings in the years to come.

Her professional background includes over ten years of experience working in Indian Country. Tessa got her start in marketing and planning at the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development. Further, Tessa completed a Solar Installation and OSHA-10 Training with GRID Tribal Program (you can read about her solar install experience here: [Minobimaadziwin: 'The Good Life' meets solar | GRID Alternatives News](#)).

Tessa also served Honor the Earth as an intern campaigning for environmental justice and promoting indigenous food systems. Tessa might have served you as well at the infamous Tocabe, an American Indian Eatery where she learned about the strength it takes to run a small business.

In her role at SEE Renewal, Tessa assists with project-based work where she co-facilitates public meetings, organizational forums and working group sessions. Tessa also conducts subject-matter research on topics relating to community development, economic development, energy, land-use, and policy and contributes to plan-making in a variety of ways.

We welcome Tessa's passion and commitment to strengthening Indigenous communities through community planning!

Q&A WITH TESSA

- **Where are you from?**

I come from Pinaymootang First Nation in Manitoba, Canada, I am Anishinaabe (Ojibwe). I have spent much of my life In Denver, Colorado, where I reside.

- **What are you passionate about?**

I am passionate about increasing and sharing minobimaadiziwin, an Ojibwe philosophy which translates to the 'good life' in English. The good life is so simple and so complex at the same time; I translate it to having gratitude, generosity and humility. If we appreciate a cup of coffee to drink this means we have a cup, coffee, water, senses to enjoy it, and a belly to fill... this is the good life. Through a different lens, if we have energy in our homes to heat our bones and cook our food, well that is the good life too. If we don't have access to simple things like energy, let's work on sharing the good life. As a political scientist, I also believe in increasing self-determination of Indigenous peoples and communities. I think much of my work experience has enabled me to work in increasing self-determination of our communities in different aspects such as through planning, supporting local indigenous food systems, and by advocating for Indigenous Rights. I am also passionate about sharing my voice for issues such as the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples crisis through advocacy and teaching.

- **What attracted you to SEE Renewal?**

Many things! First, I have been fortunate to know Amy Wilson for several years now, thanks to our previous work together under the Office of Indian

Energy and Economic Development. Amy has been a role model for me, she works hard, she is committed to giving her best, she enjoys working in Indian Country, she thinks outside of the box; I am glad to work with Amy again at SEE Renewal. Second, for me, it is important to work for a company that is rooted in values such as Respect, Honesty, and Expertise, which are foundational values for SEE Renewal. It was an easy decision to hop on board!

- **What makes you excited about your work at SEE Renewal and what types of projects you look forward to working on in the future?**

Each of our projects are complex, they're like solving a puzzle; I enjoy working on hands-on puzzles and I appreciate the challenging work we do, plus when a project is complete, it feels very rewarding. Completing projects that are rewarding is important; let's do work that makes us happy! In the future I definitely look forward to working on projects related to energy. I have seen many communities with inadequate access to energy for their homes and closing this gap is so important. Our communities deserve to be resilient and strong; I think energy has an important role in reaching resiliency, it will take some planning, some budgeting, some writing, some 'doing', but we will get there.

- **What do you like to do when you are not working?**

I enjoy spending time with my dog, Ronnie, whom I adopted before the pandemic hit and we've been inseparable ever since. I also like hiking with my friends, family, and Ronnie, of course.

NOTE FROM OUR FOUNDER

Tessa is a wonderful addition to SEE Renewal, and I am so excited to be working with her!

Tessa demonstrates professional pride and is committed to the work that she does at SEE Renewal. She is true advocate of indigenous rights, people, and communities. Her knowledge, experience, dedication, integrity, and commitment to lifelong learning is exactly what we are looking for at SEE Renewal.

Aside from her role as a Community Planner, Tessa has been extremely valuable in the business development aspects of SEE Renewal. As a young company, we are working every day to build a strong foundation around a set of company principles that represent personal and professional values and beliefs.

I am truly excited for Tessa to be part of this process and could not be happier to have her a part of SEE Renewal's team!



Amy J. Wilson
Founder and Principal Consultant
SEE Renewal, LLC

