

## Biography

***Kathryn (Kate) Bartholomew*** is a life-long environmental activist who spent a vocational career undercover as a not-quite mild-mannered poet, artist, graphic designer and public secondary school biology and environmental science educator, after completing an undergraduate degree in South Asian Philosophy and Religion. Now retired, she is currently in her fourth year as Chair of the Atlantic Chapter, before which she served two terms as its Vice Chair and Conservation Co-Chair before that, along with 2 1/2 years as the chapter's Council of Club Leader's delegate. Additionally, Kate is active as Conservation Chair in her Sierra Club Group (the Finger Lakes Group). She is a member of the Nuclear Free CORE Team and the newly- minted Cryptocurrency Task Force. Recently, Kate also added the Sierra Club Grassroots Network PFAS team to her areas of concern. Two of the most momentous environmental milestones noted in NYS during Kate's time on the Atlantic Chapter ExCom were the banning of fracking and passage of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, both directly due to the collaborative action of diverse groups, individuals and coalitions of grassroots activists. "I believe the strength of any being resides in its center; and the center of the Sierra Club are its volunteers." Other issues of particular intense concern and engagement for Kate are Environmental Justice, Indigenous Rights and the Rights of Nature.



In addition to her work in the Sierra Club, Kate serves actively on her county's Environmental Management Council, currently entering her 12th year as its chairperson. She has served on the New York State Association of Environmental Management Councils until its demise due to lack of state and local support. She served six years on the Schuyler County Planning Commission; six years as a Board Member of a tri-county Community Dispute Resolution Center focused on transformative mediation and restorative justice; and three years as the environmental representative on the Southern Tier Central Regional Planning and Development Board. During New York State's epic battle against fracking, Kate was one of the founding members of the Coalition to Protect New York, a broad ranging and diverse group of grassroots community organizations devoted to preventing fracking for methane in the Empire State.