

## MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT



AMERICAN  
**SOLAR**  
ENERGY SOCIETY



## J. Whittles Johnston

### Johnston Sustainability

ASES Professional Member since 2018

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#### Why did you become a member of ASES?

Within a short time after Solar Energy Research Institute's (SERI) 1977 creation, I started the International Solar & Energy Conservation with a few friends and have been a member of the renewable energy community ever since. I consider the American Solar Energy Society (ASES) and the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) to be the purest of industry associations.

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#### In what ways are you involved in renewable energy and sustainability?

My grandmother's advocacy of a Secretary of Peace in the U.S. Cabinet made sense to me. My mother, a Diplomat and Judge, once asked "What would it do?" and cautioned me "It has to pencil." After a 1974 meeting with Sheik Hisham Nazer, President of the Saudi Arabian Central Planning Organization, I had answers to my mother's questions and the quest was underway. I was 21.

We concluded that this was the ideal opportunity for America to create self-reliant, self-sufficient communities. The following Sunday morning, we met with the Sheik. I said, "What you need is a modular, self-reliant, self-sufficient building system that is sufficiently design flexible to accommodate your culture." The Sheik said, "Bring me that, and I will buy it." I submit that the renewable energy and sustainability sectors are key to reinventing America and leading a global renaissance.

This becomes a compelling ideological Offense. We'll need a Department of Peace & Sustainability in the U.S. Cabinet to make it happen. One would hope that the 2024 Presidential winner will get the message.

In September, watch for "The Sustainability Channel," syndicated on AppleTV, AmazonFire, Roku, and at [SustainabilityChannelTV.com](https://SustainabilityChannelTV.com). My goal is to make The Sustainability Channel an industry resource. Sponsorships and support is invited.



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#### What personal or professional sustainability accomplishments are you most proud of?

**My Family:** My wife and family first and foremost -- we had seven children (now six), eighteen grandchildren and six greats. As I believe we are eternal beings engaged in a brief mortal experience, and that as a family we are "sealed together" for time and all eternity, they are my most cherished mortal prizes.

**War v. Peace:** At the age of twenty one, a thesis began to form in my mind. To achieve the "peace not war" sentiment of my sixties contemporaries, I must heed my mother's "It has to pencil" counsel. This was our shorthand, and it meant the Military Industrial Complex provides for the nation's Defense, and there are bad actors in the world. We need that. It employs millions of people and pays for mortgages and college and myriad other expenses. If your plan for peace doesn't meet those ends, it will be a hard sell.

**The HE-2-SHE NRG Transition:** As of this decade, the 2020s, we have made an Energy Era Transition from the purely Hydrocarbon Era to a Solar Hydrocarbon Era. According to the scientific journal, Nature (Oil & Culture, Nature, Vol. 426, 20 November 2003), Energy Era Transitions are known to be a good thing.

"The history of human culture can be viewed as the progressive development of new energy sources and their associated conversion technologies. These developments have increased the comfort, longevity and affluence of humans, as well as their numbers."

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#### Some Fun Questions:

What historical person would you like to have dinner with?

Edmund Becquerel so I can tell him about what his discovery hath wrought.

What is your favorite activity to do in August?

August is the time to start watching Major League Baseball and to start harvesting and putting up what we like -- this year, I think applesauce is going to be high on the list!

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#### Links

Email -- [thenrgblog@gmail.com](mailto:thenrgblog@gmail.com)

The Sustainability Channel (Fall 2022) -- [sustainabilitychanneltv.com](http://sustainabilitychanneltv.com)

Mister Sustainability -- [www.mistersustainability.com](http://www.mistersustainability.com)

The NRG Blog -- [www.thenrgblog.com](http://www.thenrgblog.com)

Hey Grandpa -- [www.heygrandpa.com](http://www.heygrandpa.com)