

GET TO KNOW DAVE SACHS

CONNECT WITH DAVE!

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What inspired you to become an engineer?

In college, I became deeply interested in sustainability and the built environment which led me to two major involvements that proved transformative. As president of the Maryland Public Interest and Research Group, I fundraised for, designed, and implemented the inception of the University of Maryland's outdoor recycling program. I also had the opportunity to represent the University of Maryland in the US Department of Energy Solar Decathlon, where I oversaw the design and construction of an 800 SF fully solar-powered house. These experiences cemented my interest in sustainability and energy engineering, which have been the focus of my career ever since.

What excites you about the work you're doing?

Today is the most exciting and rewarding time there has ever been to work in high performance buildings. A recent study found that approximately 73% of all direct greenhouse gas emissions in NYC can be attributed to energy consumption in buildings. Decarbonizing buildings and their associated electricity generation has thus taken center stage as a top priority for reducing manmade greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating climate change. I expect that this momentum will only continue to grow until the buildings we live, work, and spend our time in are no longer amongst the largest carbon emitters in our society.

If you won the lottery, what would be the first thing you'd buy and why?

What would I want to buy? An all-electric monster truck. What would I actually do? Pad my 401k and my kids' 529s.

What is your favorite part about working at AKF?

As an energy engineer, I have long admired AKF Group's leadership in both MEP/FP design and high-performance buildings, which uniquely position the firm to execute on even the most challenging decarbonization projects. AKF's drive for excellence, talent for innovation, and long track record of high-quality results make me proud to work here. I have loved getting to know the talented, thoughtful, and dedicated professionals in the AKF family and am thrilled to be part of the team.

What is a project you're most proud of?

I'm very proud to have worked on Whitney Young Manor, a 195-unit affordable housing property that is participating in the NYSERDA Empire Building Challenge and is undertaking a deep energy retrofit rehab, with high efficiency equipment including exterior re-cladding, uPVC windows, central heat pump heating and hot water, hydronic distribution conversion, ventilation upgrades, heat recovery, and more. This is a great demonstration of how older, occupied, existing buildings can upgrade their systems to some of the best, most efficient technologies available today on the road toward full decarbonization.

What did you want to be when you were a child?

A professional soccer player.