



David E. Blockstein, Ph.D.

David E. Blockstein, Ph.D. is an ecologist and conservation biologist with more than 30 years of national leadership at the interface of science and environmental policy. Dr. Blockstein has worked on a wide range of science and policy issues including climate change and energy education, biodiversity policy, sustainability, increasing the representation of minorities in science, mechanisms to improve the linkages between science and decision making on environmental issues, and digital communication of scientific information on the environment. He has formed and led six non-profit organizations in environmental education, science and policy. He has written federal legislation, organized congressional hearings and has been active in many political campaigns.

Dr. Blockstein helped to create the National Council for Science and the Environment (NCSE), with a mission to improve the scientific basis of environmental decisionmaking, and served as its first Executive Director in 1990, when it was known as the Committee for the National Institute for the Environment. He held a variety of leadership positions at NCSE until leaving as Chief Scientist in 2018. He was the principal organizer of 15 NCSE national conferences and global forums on science, policy and the environment. These annual events brought together 800 – 1500 scientists, educators, students, and federal, state, local and international policy makers along with managers, organizers, and advocates from business and non-governmental organizations. Topics spanned the range of environmental and sustainability issues including climate change and energy, water, biodiversity, security, health, education, sustainable communities and infrastructure. He created and led three National Energy Education Summits, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF).

Dr. Blockstein helped to shape interdisciplinary environmental, sustainability and energy education at US colleges and universities by founding and helping to lead the Council of Environmental Deans and Directors (CEDD), the Council of Energy Research and Education Leaders (CEREL), the US Partnership for Education for Sustainable Development and the Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences (AESS), where he currently serves as senior adviser, as principal investigator of the Climate Adaptation and Mitigation e-Learning project and as part of the leadership team of Project InTeGrate, both funded by NSF. In 2008, he received the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Blockstein is the author with Leo A.W. Weigman of [The Climate Solutions Consensus: What We Know and What to Do About It](#) published by Island Press, 2010, 388 pp. He has presented

over 100 scientific and public talks, organized more than 50 meetings and workshops, and written popular and scientific articles. His publications include *How to Lose Your Political Virginitly while Keeping Your Scientific Credibility*, BioScience. January 2002: 91-96.

Dr. Blockstein was a member of the National Science Foundation's (NSF) Advisory Committee on Environmental Research and Education (2013-2018), the National Academy of Sciences' Roundtable on Climate Change Education (2010-2013) and on advisory committees for more than a dozen scientific, education and environmental organizations.

Dr. Blockstein worked for more than 40 years to support individuals from under-represented populations in science, including teaching in Martin Luther King Program at the University of Minnesota, as program assistant for women and minorities at the American Institute for Biological Sciences (AIBS), assisting NCSE's EnvironMentors program and the NSF-funded EcologyPlus project of the Ecological Society of America (ESA).

Dr. Blockstein was the 1987-88 Congressional Science Fellow of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) and the American Society of Zoologists (ASZ), working on the staff of the Natural Resources, Agricultural Research and Environment subcommittee of the Committee on Science, Space and Technology of the US House of Representatives. He prepared and organized hearings on the National Biological Diversity Conservation and Environmental Research Act, which had more than 100 bipartisan co-sponsors and was approved by the Committee on Science, Space and Technology in 1988. He also wrote the Global Forest Emergency Act.

Dr. Blockstein earned his MS and PhD in Ecology and Behavioral Biology from the University of Minnesota and a BS in Wildlife Ecology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has conducted research on reproductive ecology of Mourning Doves in Minnesota and North Dakota, the endangered Tooth-billed Pigeon in Western Samoa, the endangered Grenada Dove and Grenada Hook-billed Kite in Grenada, West Indies and on the extinct Passenger Pigeon. He co-lead Project Passenger Pigeon, to educate the public about the Passenger Pigeon on the centenary of its extinction in 1914. His dissertation research, *Crop milk and clutch size in Mourning Doves*, received the Ernest Edwards award for best paper in the Wilson Bulletin in 1989. He is the founding Chair of the Ornithological Council, which provides scientific information about birds and advances policies, regulations and practices that support ornithological research. He is an elected Fellow of the American Ornithological Society (AOS).

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