

# Keynote Speaker: Katherine Young

Geothermal Program Manager, National Renewable Energy Laboratory



Katherine Young is the Geothermal Program Manager at the NREL, and has been with NREL since 2008, focusing her research on improving geothermal drilling through innovative use of data and new tools as well as geothermal exploration, regulatory and permitting analyses, and geothermal resource reporting methodologies. Ms. Young has developed innovative tools, such as the Geothermal Reporting Protocol and Optimization Technique, GeoRePORT, the Geothermal exploration and area case histories on OpenEI, a wiki-based, crowd-sourced information sharing Website; and the Regulatory and Permitting Information Desktop (RAPID) Toolkit, a collection of publicly available information about permits and regulations affecting energy and bulk transmission project development. The resource is intended to facilitate communication between project developers and agency personnel, among agencies at all jurisdictional levels, and among all project stakeholders – including the public. Ms. Young has previously worked as a field engineer for Schlumberger Dowell, a geology instructor, and a database software designer, developer, and trainer.

## **“Innovating Geothermal Wells”**

Geothermal has historically been a niche industry with power installations typically limited to the ring of fire. But with an increased global interest in climate change mitigation, and growth of the renewable industry, interest in geothermal, too, has grown – as a resource for both heat and power. Ms. Young will discuss geothermal’s potential in the energy transition and what enabling technologies are on the horizon, particularly in reducing the cost of wells.