

Green Chemistry and Engineering – the Key to Our Sustainable Future

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Abstract

China is bringing one new coal fired power plant online each week. It takes 70,000 trees to produce the Sunday edition of The New York Times. A car produces one pound of CO₂ for every mile driven. As the population of our planet continues to surge, as demand for raw materials continues to escalate, and as the need for transportation explodes how will we meet the needs. The simple answer is a sustainable infrastructure. As you might expect, this is easier said than accomplished. However, we are making progress. Come hear a global perspective on the challenges of sustainability and how green chemistry and engineering are pioneering a path toward a more sustainably world and great career opportunities.

Biography

Dr. Robert Peoples, Ph.D. is the Director of the American Chemical Society Green Chemistry Institute® (ACS GCI). In this capacity Dr. Peoples drives the implementation of the principles of green chemistry across the global chemical enterprise.



Dr. Peoples has been a member of American Chemical Society (ACS) for 35 years, giving him valuable experience and insight into the chemical industry. Immediately prior to joining ACS GCI, Dr. Peoples served as the Sustainability Director for the Carpet & Rug Institute, Executive Director of The Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE) and President of the Environmental Impact Group.

Preceding this position, he was the Director of Carpet Sustainability and Market Development at Solutia, Inc., where he was actively involved in carpet recycling and the negotiations leading to the formation of CARE and carpet related health and indoor air quality issues. While there, he helped to found the Board of CARE.

Dr. Peoples was a member of the team that developed Monsanto's patented, revolutionary stain blocker and fluorochemistry for the carpet industry. Following this development, he led the technical team for the commercialization of Flectron®, a new business for Monsanto in St. Louis where he spent three years in Advanced Performance Materials. He returned to Pensacola in 1992 as head of Carpet New Products and held several positions of increasing responsibility including Director of Nylon Technology.

In these various roles, Dr. Peoples served to integrate a wide variety of initiatives that deal with sustainability on a national level. His efforts spanned new business development, new product and technology development, technology licensing and the creation and implementation of a unified national sustainable carpet standard. In 2003, Dr. Peoples was the first recipient of the Carpet America Recovery Effort "Person of the Year" award. He is an internationally recognized speaker in the areas of sustainability, standards, innovation and carpet reclamation.

Dr. Peoples holds a bachelor's degree in mathematics and chemistry and a Ph.D. in physical organic chemistry from Purdue University. He serves on several local and national boards including the Carpet America Recovery Effort (CARE), Georgia Pollution Prevention Advisory Board (P2AD) and the Green Standard.org. He is a member of several organizations including the National Recycling Coalition (NRC), Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE), and the American Chemical Society.