ANNE DOUGHERTY
Co-Founder and Co-Owner, ILLUME

Anne Dougherty is the Co-Founder and Co-Owner of ILLUME, a research consultancy serving the clean energy industry. In her executive role, Anne leads ILLUME’s brand vision, business development, and market strategy, and charts the course for ILLUME’s technical service areas.

Anne launched ILLUME, with business partner Sara Conzemius, with a two-fold vision: to bring humans dreams and aspirations to the center of clean energy development and create a company that gives priority to the dreams and aspirations of ILLUME’s employees. This vision clearly struck a chord. ILLUME grew from a team of two founders to a multi-million-dollar consultancy of over 30 professionals serving 50+ clients comprised of states, nonprofits, and utilities just since 2013. In 2019, ILLUME was ranked the #1 consultancy in three separate categories (Leadership, Culture, and Money) by IvyExec, edging-out larger firms like McKinsey & Co., Bain, and Deloitte.

Anne views research as a tool to elevate the voices of underrepresented communities. While earning her Master’s in Social Sciences at the University of Chicago, Anne discovered the power of research by exploring the relationship between disinvestment in industrial economies and the impact of these macro-economic changes on the health of communities along industrial corridors in the Midwest.

Anne brought her love of exploring complex social problems to applied research. Drawing on the University of Chicago’s attention to rigorous social science and behavioral research, Anne expanded her work to identify, deliver, and evaluate the impacts of socially beneficial solutions in the private and public sector.

She began her career as an applied social scientist focused on bringing human-focused research techniques to solution development for Fortune 100 companies. Seeking to leverage her expertise for social good, Anne entered the energy industry and quickly built a reputation as a subject matter expert in the human dimensions of technology, program, and service development, overseeing multi-million-dollar research studies before launching ILLUME.

Anne is a sought-after thought-leader, speaker and stakeholder facilitator. She has delivered multiple keynote addresses, including a lecture at the prestigious American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and opening keynotes at visionary events such as Shades of Green. Anne has also presented on multiple expert panels for governing bodies including the U.S. Department of Energy, the California Public Utilities Commission, NYSERDA, and the Minnesota Department of Commerce, and provided testimony for the Maryland Public Utilities Commission. Anne’s work can be found in numerous peer-reviewed industry proceedings. She serves on the planning committee for the International Energy Program Evaluation Conference and has given over 10 years of service to the Behavior, Energy and Climate Change (BECC) Conferences.