

Chet D. Kolodziej,

Sustain Rockford: Part

2

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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Haley: Hello, my name is Haley Dahl and I would like to welcome you to another episode of Green Exploration: Rockford. Today, we will be continuing our conversation with Chet Kolodziej about sustainability in the Rockford region. ***Intro Music*** Pretty much been answering this question, but based on your knowledge and engagement, what work is being done to address the environmental challenges in Rockford? What have they been doing well, and what are their areas for improvement? And, like, I've been jotting down, essentially how R1 Planning Council is doing a great job with their new staff members, and how I also put that they could do better with the environmental committee lacking the environmentalist perspective, and most of their stuff is already mandated.

Chet: There's a permanence to that organization. Leadership seems to be addressing more and more things. And if the motive is to bring in grant money, okay, so be it. I mean, it's making it, making a better, better community. I really like our, the mayor we have now. And I thought the mayor before was okay, too. But we had some really neat programs. Okay, going back in 2007, I'm not talking like an old guy, okay, 2007/2008, and if you do a little history, there used to be this cool cities thing that was started by the Sierra Club, and you had more than, I can't remember, 800 cities around the country signed the pledge. And what you'll find is, is like, the Dane County and the Eau Claire, Wisconsin and I think Oshkosh, Wisconsin, I prefer (what they do) in Wisconsin, that their sustainability groups have roots in the local cities. But if you do research, you find out there's less than 100 of those pledges are ever followed through on, including the one in Rockford. I mean, the mayor signed it. At the time, signed it, he was traveling all over the state with that 10% number that I talked about the 70, 20, 10 do it because you look like you're doing something.

Haley: Yes.

Chet: And this time, they never followed up on anything. I mean, they did a, they did a carbon study. You know, I don't know where they got the money for and it just died, they never followed up again. Etc, etc. So I guess there's a lot of little things, like believe it or not, Rockford is a SoSmart City. Okay, this the SolSmart program, so EPA, actually the Metropolitan Mayor's Caucus was the one that started it. They got Gold status on the first try.

Haley: Oh, wow.

Chet: It's like one out of 50. Like I said, one of the 50 gets it on the first try. Naperville, all the high end guys, they got Silver, or they got Bronze. We got Gold. Okay, we got Gold. They just put the sign up in City Hall last week. Okay, now, how did we get that? Okay, because it was there. Rockford's got a lot of solar. It really does, has a lot of solar. The City, one reason they got this whole SolSmart was that when you go to City Hall, in any other, most cities and you say, "I'm gonna put a solar system on the roof, what do I have to do?" Well, you need an electrical permit, so you got to see Joe. Okay, but Joe's on sick leave, but Mary does all the work anyway, but she's on maternity leave. And then you got to go to the, you know, to the building thing, you know, for the structure. So you get the runaround, it takes you like, a month, and it frustrates people. Well, they have a streamlined system. Okay, we go to one person made coordinated between all the departments. It's not a little thing.

Haley: Oh, that's like really good.

Chet: Yeah, it's really good. So they've had that, okay, but they don't advertise it. And they don't, you know, they don't connect it. And then of course, we had the big solar farm at Freedom field when I put that in. That was the largest solar system. Okay, 50 panels. Okay, within 100 miles.

Haley: Oh, wow.

Chet: So, you're way ahead of the thing. You got the landfill gas. City has about a hundred panels on one of its water pumping stations. They're all over the place, but nobody knows about them. They're not, you know, they're not connected. The City doesn't push it. So there are a lot of things.

Haley: It's just about the awareness.

Chet: Yeah, the awareness. I'm trying to remember, there is a huge garden club right there. I'm trying to remember what they're called. They're, it's not only the gardening, you know, and it has to do with gardening and with the serenity that comes with the garden. So there's a lot of that stuff, it's not all put together, you know. We've got climate change people, you know, we've got Climate 250 and all the other stuff, but they don't get together.

Haley: Need to integrate all these ideas.

Chet: Yeah, integrating all these ideas. So there's a lot of well meaning things. I mean, the Anderson Gardens downtown Rockford, you know, where they got that beautiful thing. There's two EV charging

stations there. Do you know why you can't find them, because they're at the end of the parking lot, hiding behind bushes. Okay, so, you know, if I sound like I'm complaining, I'm saying there's so much opportunity.

Haley: Just point out these issues, so that people know about them.

Chet: So, yeah, I think there's been an awakening. Yale has a wonderful website on public opinions of sustainability and all the other stuff, and they actually break it down into populations and subpopulations. And I thought one of the interesting things is that the surveys I do, that the Hispanic population is more into sustainability than the so-called White population.

Haley: Probably because they're more disproportionately affected.

Chet: Communication, yeah. It's like that cartoon I mentioned, you know, who's for change? Who wants to change?

Haley: I actually really liked that idea of the website on public opinions. Do you think a community like Rockford could benefit from that?

Chet: You know, it could design a really nice study.

Haley: Like a public forum where it's like, what are your environmental problems?

Chet: Yeah. And that's the thing, is that if you, if you look at, if you can get everything coordinated, you get all the people together with a common vision, okay, you can, you can make these things work, you know, as a system, as opposed to different projects. Something happened and I was reading about the post office is funding to buy new vehicles, they just ordered six and a half billion dollars worth of vehicles, 30,000 vehicles. It is the largest vehicle fleet of any, even Amazon. Okay, and what did they buy? Gasoline powered vehicles.

Haley: And that would have been a perfect time to switch.

Chet: What a time to do it. Okay, I mean, here, you got an administration, okay, that's "go green," and here is now, you know, this happened in the prior administration, but they just placed the order. Now, I am hoping somebody's got enough common sense to say, "Wait a minute."

Haley: "Let's try this again."

Chet: But then, you know, they also cheap. If you go back to, you know, Flex-fuel cars.

Haley: Yes.

Chet: Okay, and all that. Well, when they first did the Flex-fuel cars, okay, they can take 85% ethanol. You can't find ethanol anywhere. And so what happened is the federal government was supposed to, you know, it was required that all their cars had to be Flex-fuel. What happened, well the agency said that, "Well, that's fine, but there's no way to get the fuel." So they kept giving exemptions, saying that if there's not a gas station that's flexfield, okay, within five miles, you don't have to use it.

Haley: So instead of fixing it there was like, "Oh, it's fine."

Chet: Okay, they go, "Hey, we're buying Flex-fuel cars, and if only we're gonna use them."

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: You know, somebody is gonna have to pay for those EV charging stations.

Haley: And we're gonna have to put a fire on some people.

Chet: Because...

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: Automotive people aren't gonna pay for.

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: The dealers aren't gonna pay for it. You know, and unlike in Madison, they had a big stake, and I think this is true. Madison Gas and Electric is probably about the closest utility to being nearly communist, so to speak. You know, the People's Republic of Madison, a lot of pressure. In fact, the environmentalist's buy stock in Madison Gas and Electric and then, that allows him to go to the meetings and, the corporate meetings, and raise their hands. So Madison Gas and Electric, okay, wanted to get in their tariff. If, look at your electric bill, there's all these little things, three cents for this, four cents for that, we want to put a tariff to put more EV stations out. Well, the poor communities, okay, said wait a minute. You know, it's all the rich people that are driving the EVs and we're gonna pay for the charging station. You got to put all these things all together, you know.

Haley: Definitely. You can't look at just environmental issues, because it's also economic and social.

Chet: Well, it's for the public good, you know.

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: There won't be air pollution, and they say, wait a minute, I have to pay my electric bill, you know, month after month after month, so why am I getting charged for it? So, you know, we need to, we need to solve these.

Haley: Definitely, holistically.

Chet: I am going to let you do that, because I'm too old for that.

Haley: Gotta keep pushing the ideas forward.

Chet: Yeah, keep pushing them forward. And what's going on in the administration right now, Washington. I know this for a fact. If you look at different agencies, okay. The EPA, the Department of Transportation, the Department of Energy. You look at the people they're bringing in, okay. They're not bringing in people that ran people's campaigns, look at their backgrounds. The number two and number three people in the Department of Transportation are both climate change people from California. Okay, that wrote the rules, okay, for all electric cars in California. Now they're in Washington.

Haley: That's good, that's good.

Chet: Okay, but the nice part is you're seeing the same type of people in the EPA, in transportation, okay, and in an energy, so they're all working on the same problem. Now, they looking at that problem from, you know, maybe from a different direction.

Haley: I would like to know more about green infrastructure particularly, and we talked on the EV charging stations. We could also discuss accessible public transit, green spaces, etc. So what infrastructure improvements have you seen or been a part of that has provided solutions?

Chet: I think the Geenways, they're connecting everything. And I think that's a good thing for biking and for all the, all the other stuff. On the flip side, though, was two years ago, we were doing Lime bikes, you know.

Haley: Is it kind of like the Divvy in Chicago?

Chet: Yeah, yeah, kind of like Divvy, okay, we had those for, and they were relatively successful. One of the other things they were looking at was the data. Okay, and they could see where people were actually using them. Okay, which tells you things. It doesn't like you ask a survey. Okay, it was actually, what's the, I can't remember what's, my daughter uses the app, Strava, whenever she takes a walk or something.

Haley: Oh, okay.

Chet: And all of her friends do the same thing. Okay, they actually, you can turn around and take pictures and then send. It shows your path, I mean, miles you've walked.

Haley: Oh, okay. I know what you're talking about. Yeah.

Chet: Yeah. Yeah, yeah, and all that. Well, they actually, Strava aggregates that data, and the cities can get it. And they can see where people are actually biking. Well, we had the Lime bikes for a year and then disappeared. The company decided not to do regular bike, but they're doing electric bikes, so we haven't got electric bikes since. Okay, but we do have Greenways.

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: And I think they're doing a good job on the biking

Haley: Neighborhoods with not as good of bike infrastructure, such as not having bike lanes and stuff, not as likely to utilize that very sustainable form of public transit, so it's very important to make sure that that's implemented

Chet: You know, a couple of neighborhoods, the one where you talk to Brad Roos is, it's kind of one of the older neighborhoods in Rockford that's, you know, that he's personally responsible for renovating a lot of it. But they put in these intersections, they put in these walking friendly, kind of like bumpers, so you don't have to walk, instead of like the parking place going all the way in the curb going, you know, where it's actually just a cut cut, it's like a round part there. So when you walk across the street, instead of walking 40 feet, you only have to walk 30 feet, so they're doing a fair amount of that, that make that area more walkable, particularly for people that, you know, that are handicap, so there's starting to be more recognition of doing this.

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: You know, as far as city planning, you know, so rather than how fast can we move the cars, you know, how many parking spots can we get, but I wouldn't call Rockford a bikable city. In fact, I was, I was talking to Brad, the building he is in is an old renovated building and there's a coffee shop in there, and all that. And I told him what they're doing in Madison in regards to biking and rather than the first parking place being for an EV, okay, or for whoever gets it, okay, there's actually bike stands.

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: That's what the first parking place in front of the coffee shop is, and then they've got things, you know, like with stickers and stuff like that. We've had some bike clubs here, but you don't see people biking in the city. I think what happened was there was a guy at planning, okay, I'm trying to remember what his name was, he was there for about eight or 10 years. He was a big biker and he was really pushing it.

Haley: I actually am an avid biker when I live in Chicago, for sure. Love my bike.

Chet: Yeah, my daughter does. She lives about a mile north of the White House and they've got, they've done there is really nice because they've taken the streets and rather than just having the lanes

painted yellow, okay, I know that they've actually got those bumpers there. You know, where if you pull over too far, you wreck your car.

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: And she pays like so much a year, okay, and she can use the electric bikes all she wants, but the bike paths and the greenways, okay, are outstanding, and they're both regional. You know, they still get some connecting to do, you know, etc, but it's top of mind. There seems to be some push on that walkways. The park district is outstanding. Okay, but that's a long term thing. We've always had, you know, pretty good parks in Rockford. They're not really barriers. So just haven't gotten to them, so to speak.

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: We do a little bit and then drop it, you know, because like I said, I think that if they would have continued on doing the carbon study, we'd be in pretty good shape, you know, in Rockford. In fact, one of the things when you do those studies, you find out that people say, "Well, electric cars they're only good for 80 miles or something like that."

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: So, I mean, if you're, if I use parking control, you don't need to go 80 Miles.

Haley: Most people don't go over, what is it like, 30 miles in a day?

Chet: Yeah, and what they do a lot of times and cities do, I don't know if Rockford still does it, but they take their police interceptors, you know, with the 430 cubic inch engines and high miles and all that and they give them to the traffic people. Get rid of the damn things. I mean, they're getting like eight miles to a gallon. Okay, all they do is idle, but, you know, speaking of idling, we had a push for no idling here for about 8 or 10 years ago. I haven't, I haven't heard anything about it since because I remember they sponsored a hockey game. Okay, but now, you know, you go in front of a school and everybody's idling.

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: It's just a leadership thing, okay.

Haley: Definitely, definitely.

Chet: So I don't think there's one challenge. I guess if there's a challenge, it might be called apathy.

Haley: What are your thoughts on Rockford taking action towards implementing solutions to these neighborhood challenges which, we covered, but more specifically, how do you think that they

implement these solutions in low-income or(add?) BIPOC communities, compared to other neighborhoods, BIPOC being Black, Indigenous, People of Color.

Chet: I know that Sustain Rockford, we had a contract, actually, with the state for the Illinois Solar for All program, we had a guy, a fella off, and we had to go out to the community and explain these programs, what they had to do, what they did, and so on, so forth. And maybe because he wasn't in that community...

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: ...etc, etc, we did not have a very good, very good response. And they were very skeptical about the program itself. And they wanted to see how the program actually worked and, you know, some experience before they even allow us to come and talk to them about the program. You know, I just really don't know what goes on.

Haley: So I remember earlier, you mentioned energy efficiency data, block-to-block, what communities those were going to disproportionately affect.

Chet: Trying to find out something about data, okay, of how much electricity is used by commercial, how much is used by homeowners, okay.

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: In the Commonwealth Edison territory, okay.

Haley: Valuable data.

Chet: Since they have a monopoly. But I did kind of a backdoor, that I thought that about eight to 10% of the electrical usage, okay, is in our counties, and we don't have 8% of the trade allies. I'd like to know, what percentage of the energy efficiency money actually enters to our community. Okay, once it comes out, okay, out of our bills, how much of it comes back?

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: And then the second question is, is it going to those populations? And they have those numbers. And I don't know what they are, okay, but that's their big complaint, you know, are they getting, you know, the service in the community, because these trade allies won't go in those neighborhoods, either. So I'd like to get that data. Okay. And then if you hand it data, you could kind of answer your question there.

Haley: Yeah, definitely. That's what I was going with that.

Chet: I mean, there's a lot of data, because I know that the Department of Public Health knows by sub zip code, okay, asthma, so on and so forth. So, what are we doing to address all (this) stuff? So it's a longer term thing, but I think if you get the data, it starts to pop out, and then you'll find that people are willing to do it, okay, so I'm not saying Commonwealth Edison are bad guys, but you know, they're shoveling huge amounts of money out there. And...

Haley: And without data, things get kind of brushed under the rug.

Chet: Yeah.

Haley: Because people just don't know what's going on.

Chet: You know, as we've seen, getting these neighborhoods involved and kind of understanding what their issues are...

Haley: That's why I think, like, a forum would be great for, like, anybody to just put their input because then, you know, things are out there. It's important to get the perspectives of everybody, all of our neighbors. The sustainable solution is usually the more beautiful one anyways like there's...

Chet: Yeah, yeah.

Haley: So many other benefits to it. Is there anything else you would like to tell me about your work in Rockfords it relates to the infrastructure solutions to these environmental issues?

Chet: You might say I'm a highly informed person in regards to solar. And then I won't talk to you about solar until you talk to me about energy efficiency first. I get kind of annoyed because what will happen is, if you want to get solar on your roof, or whatever it is, first thing they do is ask you for your electric bill, okay, because they want to know how much it is.

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: And so the people who sell the solar, okay, are going to sell you as much as they can sell you. What my crowning joy is that there's a high school here in town, a high school, because they want to do that 20% and that 10%, but they said they wanted to save money.

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: Okay, because they wanted to push their STEM programs, they're going to put in a huge solar system.

Haley: Is it Rockford Christian, maybe? I know they have some solar, or not solar, like renewable energy on there.

Chet: Yeah. I drive by there all the time.

Haley: Definitely.

Chet: Yeah and they got...

Haley: The turbines?

Chet: That's the 10%.

Haley: Yeah, I know. They're so small. It's like they can't be doing that much of a difference. Like...

Chet: Yeah, those three wind turbines, I actually know the people. Those were made in Maine.

Haley: Oh, okay.

Chet: They had a long story, okay, on how I know these people, okay? But they actually sold their business to Generac in southern Wisconsin, okay, those guys cashed out and made a fortune, but the thing is, they stopped making the wind turbines, okay, and the reason why is the valuable intellectual property they had was what they call the inverter. The inverter is what takes the direct current and converts it efficiently to alternating current.

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: Okay, and they had to design and patents on those, on those. That's, that's kind of what I do, when I work with companies. But anyway, what happened was, they had all fluorescent lights in their place. So I got a guy in for lighting, and all that. We looked at it. And anyway, they relamped the entire school.

Haley: Oh, wow.

Chet: Okay, and the place looks beautiful, like a brand new school. They got the right tone of LED lights. I mean, the place is gorgeous. It looks like you're walking in the lobby of a hospital. It's exciting. It's good lighting. It doesn't flash like fluorescence, you know, and all the other stuff. Fun part about is, saves an enormous amount of electricity. You're getting your money back after what Commonwealth Edison gave them in about 16 months.

Haley: Oh, wow.

Chet: Bigger issue is that if they would have put in solar instead of the lighting, okay, just solar, they'd save \$140,000.

Haley: I have another question in regards to this Solar for All, once you wrap up on this thought? Is there anything else you want to say in regards to that project?

Chet: So I kind of run into these things and try to help people.

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: Like, we did one of the food pantry. One of the food pantries in Rockford. They didn't go ahead with it. But...

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: When I was looking at proposals, very, very careful about who can, who should I call.

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: I'll give them a list of like five. And I'll tell him why the five. I noticed that, I noticed they had, some of the panels are facing the wrong direction. So instead of putting out, you know, 100 kilowatts a day, okay, because of the way they were sited, they're only gonna put on 60, but they're paying for around 100 kilowatts, so I do a lot of that stuff, so...

Haley: So in regards to your Solar for All projects, because isn't that mainly focused on the lower income communities? Correct?

Chet: Yes it is, income eligible.

Haley: So do you notice differences in populations with who you work with? Would you say the communities you work with are predominantly BIPOC communities? Or is it pretty diverse?

Chet: Actually, I've been working more with the not-for-profits.

Haley: Oh, okay.

Chet: But then that falls into it. So like we had, we had church. Okay, and they had a daycare, and their daycare serves these types of populations' children.

Chet: So we were able to qualify them, not because they were necessarily a church, but because of the populations. What happened was that they were well intended, but as we got into the program, they made tighter and tighter and tighter, people trying to game the system. So like, originally, if you were in a lower census tract, and somebody knocks down four houses and builds a two and a half million dollar house...

Haley: Like gentrification.

Chet: Yeah, okay.

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: And what happens is that house would qualify for the Illinois Solar for All, because they're in that census tract. So I don't think anybody tried to game it that bad, but you know.

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: You'll get into this when you become a professional. We haven't had, I haven't had a lot of, a lot of direct contact. In that regard. It's been more with, the more the not-for-profits. Now the solar guys don't want, to be honest with you, don't want to screw around with a lot of those old houses.

Haley: Yeah. But the problem is, is when, you know, they essentially start gentrifying these neighborhoods, and then that starts becoming a social issue, not necessarily just a environmental issue and an economic issue, because now you're starting to displace people that aren't going to be able to afford their rents as it gets jacked up, but you're also trying to implement sustainable solutions. But you also don't want to displace the population that's already there.

Chet: It's almost like this is my world, okay.

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: With the decarbonization, okay, is that you don't necessarily have to tax carbon, but you need to put value on it.

Haley: Yes.

Chet: Okay.

Haley: Definitely.

Chet: And then what you have to do is, you put a value on it, and then you have to, then you have to put a social value on it. So the question comes to be is, like I mentioned before, somebody has a leaky roof, the house gets mold in it, the seven year old gets asthma. Is in and out of the hospital sucking up Medicaid money. Okay, misses school, and all of a sudden, okay, they should be in fourth grade and they're really in second grade.

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: Because they haven't been in school. And then that rolls all the way through when they're 18 or 19. Okay, and they dropped out of school because they're, they don't want to be an 18 year old freshman. That's poster child, but it happens a lot more than people realize.

Haley: And not usually to the higher economic people.

Chet: Same thing, you know, with the Solar for All program, you know. a lot of the...

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: ...houses, the roofs don't qualify, the way the rules are, is the. I am trying to remember if the roof has to be good, has to be certified to be good for 20 years. I mean, I just put a new roof on my house and my second house in Wisconsin, and that house was built in '85. When they tore the roof up, I couldn't believe how bad it was underneath.

Haley: So you mentioned that RENEW in Wisconsin and the Great Plains Institute's are good state policy examples for, you know, the Rockford community, and I just wonder if you could quick touch on that.

Chet: The thing is, is that we have some pretty good organizations in Illinois. We're the only Solar Energy Association, you know, so on and so forth, but we don't have one.

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: And there's, there's a famous episode of The West Wing, that people were in front of the president, and they're arguing about why solar is better than wind. And you don't want to put any money in wind because the wind is bad, and they're fighting each other. And in Illinois, we don't have one, like the Illinois Clean Energy Organization. We have them (and) they're called that, okay, but when you find out who's supporting it, usually find out it's some utility. And RENEW is, actually it's an organization that has been around for a long time, who has probably formed what we call nowadays, hippies.

Haley: *laughs*

Chet: And it almost went away about 10 years ago, and some of the people that started it back in the 70s, okay, still there, but it's one organization.

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: And they represent everything that's clean energy and energy efficient. And they were very effective at working with the legislature and showing up to, you know, hearings, and so on and so forth. The Great Plains is the same thing. They really are into everything. They're into carbon sequestration, they work with communities. But when we look at what we have in Illinois, we got CUB is a great

organization, (National Resources Defense Council)'s great organization, the Environmental Law (and Policy) group. But they're all separated, okay.

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: And they have their meetings, and so forth. But they have different fundraising, they have different goals. They kind of get together as a collaborative. I don't know, you just you just don't get the feeling they are all on the same page.

Haley: Yeah, definitely. So it seems like the common theme is cooperation and coordination, and a goal.

Chet: Yeah. And, you know, and sometimes if you're not directly involved, then you kind of wonder where their boundaries are.

Haley: Yeah.

Chet: And if you're at a meeting, you're trying to solve a broad question, get the sense that sometimes the people that are like full time staffers and all that, they know where those boundaries are. Difficult time crossing over. You know, it's like the same thing I started out about an hour ago, talking about in New England, that you can't apply for subsidies for your solar from the state, unless you've already had an energy audit, that wouldn't work here. The Illinois Solar Energy Association would throw a fit, okay. Plus, the legislation isn't set up that way. Because whoever monitors that money for the state agency, it's a different monitoring, even more of a monolithic, like Wisconsin, where they have focus on energy, they maintain the system and tell the utilities, you know what to do.

Haley: It's important to keep in mind local constraint.

Chet: I don't know if I'm expressing it properly, but it just seems to me that, I'm not saying that the organizations don't work together, but they don't work coordinated. The one committee I'm in, the organization that is managing the program for the state is in the organization. And what's uncomfortable is there's about 20 other organizations who are trying to get that organization off their butt to do it right. But you're sitting in a meeting and it's a lot of, it's kind of uncomfortable sometimes, you know, they're in the meeting and you start to, how do you criticize someone...

Haley: ...without hurting their feelings?

Chet: Yeah, and they're the same people.

Haley: Definitely understand that.

Chet: Kind of wide feelings about this stuff. And I don't, you know, I don't think there's any bad around here.

Haley: Thank you so much for your time. I really, really appreciate it.

Chet: Yeah.

Haley: I think now would be a good time to wrap up part two of this episode. ***Outro Music*** Again, I would love to thank Chet Kolodziej for sharing his valuable insight during part two of this discussion. I would also like to thank anyone listening in on this podcast. As always, I really appreciate your support of Green Exploration: Rockford. Just be sure to take whatever you learn from this series and consider how you, as an individual, can be a contributor to a sustainable future in your day-to-day life. And don't forget to not only show Mother Earth some love, but your fellow humans as well, each and every one of them, because all humans deserve to live in a quality environment. My name is Haley Dahl, and I'm signing off. Stay green and stay exploring, Rockford.