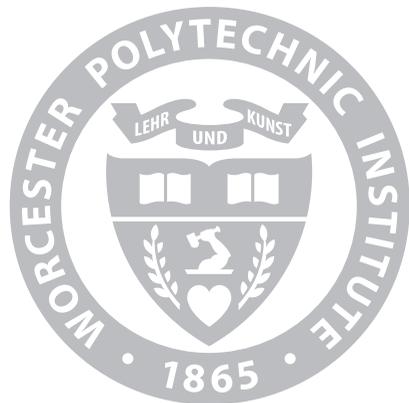


  
**I** WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
**INNOVATOR**  
**OF THE YEAR**

*Kathy Loftus '86*



Innovation starts with thinking outside the box—looking beyond the boundaries of conventional frameworks, patterns, beliefs and values—and ends with a new product, process, service or business model that changes the game.

With an impressive list of professional accomplishments, Kathy Loftus has changed the game in green building practices, sustainability, and renewable energy.

Her parents were education focused, and the combination of hard work, a natural aptitude for math and science, and an encouraging physics teacher landed Kathy on The Hill in WPI's Mechanical Engineering Program.

Now specializing in sustainability leadership and energy optimization, she is a great driver of innovation. Whether developing new technologies or using existing technologies in whole new ways, Kathy puts her education and experience to use to set industry standards. She says: "I wanted to do something that would help society, help the world." As a champion of optimizing energy productivity, both in and out of the office, her life's work has unequivocally resulted in reduced local and global energy consumption. By helping manage the earth's limited resources, she is in fact helping society and helping the world.

Currently, as global leader of sustainable facilities for Whole Foods Market, Inc., Kathy is ensuring her company's impacts from energy, refrigerant gas, waste, and water are continuously minimized. She is also tirelessly working to elevate the roles of facilities managers, by educating leaders about the impacts holistic and sustainable operations and maintenance practices have on businesses and industry as a whole. Her notable career has equipped her well for the task of breaking through the inertia around

sustainability engineering. Among her former positions are director of business development for EnerNOC; director of energy and environmental management for Shaw's Supermarkets, Inc.; senior resource planning engineer and key account executive for Eastern Utilities Associates, Inc.; and senior project engineer for Energy Investment, Inc.

She champions the environment in her personal life, as well. She is a member of the boards of Green Building Initiative, The Future of American Energy, and City Sprouts; she served as board chair of Clean Air-Cool Planet and was a board member of Waste Cap of Massachusetts. She is a member of WPI's Center for Sustainability in Business and Mechanical Engineering External Advisory Boards, Mass Maritime Academy's Energy Advisory Council, and Cradle to Cradle's Renewable Energy and Carbon Management Advisory Group. She also serves on the town of Scituate's Renewable Energy Commission.

She has been a keynote speaker at local, national and international sustainability, renewable energy, and green building conferences. She has shared her expertise with the nation's chief renewable energy boards, and has had an especially meaningful impact on the future of sustainability innovation as a guest lecturer at several colleges and universities.

Kathy is the ideal 2016 WPI Innovator of the Year award recipient. Beyond her impressive resumé, industry accomplishments, and deep-rooted desire to have a positive impact on the world, she uses her knowledge, experience, and courageous leadership to make the world a better, safer, and more humane place for all.

**November 3, 2016**