

Kathy Ayers Biography



Dr. Kathy Ayers is Vice President of R&D for Nel Hydrogen US, with responsibility for developing and executing Nel's technology strategy in proton exchange membrane electrolysis. She received her Ph.D. in Chemistry at Caltech, and spent several years in the battery industry before joining Nel in 2007. Dr. Ayers manages a broad portfolio of internally and externally funded research projects, across a range of collaborators in academia, industry, and National Labs. She is also the lead principal investigator for low temperature water splitting on the U.S. Department of Energy benchmarking program, with the goal of providing protocols and standards for consistency in water splitting research.

Dr. Ayers has served on multiple scientific advisory boards for Energy Frontier Research Centers and similar consortia, as well as two Federal level advisory committees for DOE: HTAC (Hydrogen and Fuel Cells Technical Advisory Committee), and BESAC (Basic Energy Sciences Advisory Committee). She received R&D Awards at the 2012 and 2021 DOE Merit Reviews from the HFTO Production Team, and an American Chemical Society Rising Stars Award in 2014 from the Women Chemists Committee. She became a Fellow of the Electrochemical Society in 2020 and received the inaugural Walter van Schalkwijk award in 2022.