



Federal Aviation Administration

Sarah N. Sowell

Senior Technical Advisor for Aircraft Certification

As a Senior Technical Advisor in FAA's Aircraft Certification Service, Sarah provides program strategy, policy guidance, and public, media and corporate relations expertise to AIR's executive leadership team and other agency senior leaders. She helped lead the team of AIR experts who supported the FAA's intensive, highly prioritized, and heavily scrutinized response to two tragic Boeing 737 MAX accidents through the aircraft's 20-month worldwide grounding. She drove messaging for public and congressional audiences and designed and implemented outreach and engagement strategies to coalesce civil aviation authorities from across the globe. Prior to joining AIR, she served as a trusted advisor to executive leadership in FAA's Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration Office, where she spearheaded efforts to enrich thinking, strengthen employee, industry and civic organization collaboration, and facilitate connections with new audiences to advance the safe integration of drones into society.



Sarah spent two decades at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, serving most recently as the Director of the Office of Internal Communications, where she created and managed corporate content policy, strategy, and engagement efforts that reached a nationwide audience of 15,000 employees. As part of EPA's public affairs management team, she conceptualized, developed, and executed multimedia communications campaigns (press, digital, social, and speaking) for a variety of audiences.

Sarah previously served as the Deputy Director and Acting Director of EPA's Office of Environmental Education, where she oversaw programs to promote the use of EE in schools and communities, provide training to educators, and recognize innovative teaching approaches and student achievement. She brought to this role a wealth of experience in education, outreach, and capacity building for environmental management gained from more than a decade of working to advance international cooperation with countries key to U.S. environmental and broader foreign policy interests. In addition to providing policy expertise, she marshalled technical projects in several countries in Latin America and Asia to address pollution from the transportation and energy sectors, including a bilateral cooperative effort to assess air pollution control strategies in China in preparation for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. She also supported international climate change accords as well as negotiations to ensure trade agreements to which the United States is a party did not adversely impact the environment.

A graduate of the Federal Executive Institute, Sarah is trained in a number of organizational development disciplines and is also a trained facilitator. She completed doctoral studies in Technology Education, with a focus on communication and information systems, and holds a Master's Degree in Linguistics.