

LeAnne V. Hazard
Technology Development Manager
Sustainable Emerging Technologies



LeAnne began her time with Western Research Institute as an engineering intern during the summer of 2014 while pursuing a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering with a focus in petroleum engineering. She worked closely with the staff in the Heavy Oil Technology Center to conduct research related to heavy oil partial upgrading of oil sands bitumen. Upon graduation in 2015, the oil and gas sector experienced a downturn, and the industry suffered layoffs and hiring freezes. Interim, LeAnne worked in a completely unrelated field, accounting, which helped reinforce that the daily problem solving challenges of research and engineering was what she wanted to do for a living. Luckily, WRI had an opening in the spring of 2016, and LeAnne has now been working for WRI for five years.

Since becoming a member of the professional Sustainable Emerging Technologies (SET) staff, LeAnne has continued working on heavy oil partial upgrading projects, and especially enjoys working with current interns to foster professional development in a hands-on learning environment. Much of LeAnne's time is spent working on bench scale technology development, and she is known for asking questions to enhance her understanding at every opportunity. Recently, LeAnne has co-authored two patent-pending technologies relating to co-processing municipal solid waste, including waste plastics, in an oil medium.

In her spare time, LeAnne enjoys spending time with her family which includes her husband and two thirteen year old Labrador retrievers. Together, they enjoy kayaking, hiking, and enjoying everything the Laramie valley has to offer.