

Zona Martin

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EDUCATION

Master of Science: Environment and Sustainability (2023) University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI)

- Concentration: **Environmental Policy & Planning (Planning Track)**

Bachelor of Arts: Government (2020) University of Texas at Austin (Austin, Texas)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Departmental Analyst: EGLE, Energy Services Unit (Lansing, MI - Remote) **(10/2023-Present)**

- Provides program support, grant administration, and project management to the Energy Services Unit. Assists in the development and refinement of community programs and resources to encourage local governments to proactively plan for utility-scale renewable energy. Engages community stakeholders to identify issues, barriers, and opportunities related to renewable energy planning and development. Develop and update educational materials, including best practices and deployment strategies for planning and zoning for renewable energy. Monitors grants, processes payments and amendment requests, and provides oversight and support to grantees to facilitate successful project implementation.
 - Designed and implemented a \$30 million dollar state grant called the Renewables Ready Communities Award (RRCA) that awards Michigan municipalities that host and/or permit utility-scale renewable energy projects.
 - Designed and implemented a community engagement and technical assistance program called the Renewable Energy Academy focused on providing Michigan local governments with the tools and resources to plan and zone for utility-scale renewable energy in a new permitting landscape. Incorporates participatory planning concepts with educational materials to reaffirm local government's role in energy planning.
- Research, collect, consolidate, analyze, and maintain these program data necessary to meet program reporting and evaluation requirements and the goals of the State Energy Program (SEP). Prepares related program reports and materials for dissemination on the EGLE website, in publications, and at relevant events.
 - Led presentations about the developed programs and funding opportunities at webinars, conferences, and local government meetings.

Student Consultant: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) **(01/2022 – 04/2023)**

- Collaborated with a team of 5 student consultants to design a state-led program to help rural Michigan townships to proactively zone for utility-scale renewable energy.
- Partnered with two Michigan townships for 5–6 months to guide them through the first iteration of the program. This involved designing community engagement materials such as mailers and presentations, organizing town halls, providing resource assessment for utility scale renewable energy, and providing zoning assistance via a draft ordinance tailored specifically to the townships' stated preferences.
- Interviewed township officials throughout the state to gather information around the barriers to proactive renewable energy zoning as well as general township needs and concerns in order to inform the recommendations regarding program incentives.
- Internally, kept the team focused on our stated goals and objectives to accomplish them on our planned timeline and to avoid drifting out of the project's scope.

Sustainability Intern: City of Ann Arbor, Office of Sustainability & Innovations (Ann Arbor, MI) **(10/2022 – 7/2023)**

- Collaborated with the Planning Department to develop an Electrification Communications sheet that provides information to address community questions regarding the city's potential electrification ordinance. This also prepared the OSI team members for stakeholder meetings with accurate information regarding electrification.
- Met with multiple city officials of California cities to learn about their experiences with required building electrification ordinances.
- Developed a comprehensive report of the current technological and economic landscape of geothermal heating districts and main considerations for the deployment of geothermal for a Sustainable Energy Utility. Provided details of case-studies of U.S. cities and/or campuses with geothermal heating districts and current pilots.

Research Associate: Graham Sustainability Institute (Ann Arbor, MI) (05/2022 - 10/2022), (05/2023-10/2023)

- Collaborated with the Ann Arbor Planning Department and Office of Sustainability and Innovations Office to design a Carbon Calculator to inform planners of the carbon impact of proposed residential developments and how it compares to surrounding jurisdictions.
- Gathered data greenhouse gas emissions data from various sources and compiled the data together in Microsoft Excel to calculate a most accurate estimate of emissions per proposed development for a respective jurisdiction.
- Performed spatial joins in ArcGIS Pro to combine datasets to then be analyzed in Excel.
- Performed data entry to continue updating the Energy Zoning Database.

Research Assistant: Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy (Ann Arbor, MI) (09/2021 - 06/2022)

- Conducted research on Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) policies passed in various U.S. states to find how the various actors involved impacted the evolution of the policy.
- Provided detailed analyses of each version of a bill related to renewable energy standards to note the changes.
- Created a spreadsheet of relevant actors in the renewable energy policy space in multiple states from the years 1998-2020 and provided relevant news articles, affiliated bills, and contact information for each actor.

Summer Intern: Public Citizen (Austin, TX) (05/2020 - 08/2020)

- Conducted research on energy and environmental topics relevant to Texas environmental and energy policy advocacy efforts.
- Organized virtual town halls in collaboration with the Healthy Port Communities Coalition (HPCC) to foster conversations around environmental justice and highlight the health impacts that communities around the Port of Houston have faced historically due to these injustices.

Legislative Intern: Texas House of Representatives, Rep. Jessica Farrar (Austin, TX) (02/2019 - 06/2019)

- Conducted bill analyses for various bills drafted by the Office of Rep. Farrar.

SKILLS

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| • Project Management | • ArcGIS Pro (Proficient) |
| • Local and State Plan Evaluation | • R (Beginner) |
| • Zoning Laws and Regulations | • Microsoft Excel (Proficient) |
| • Community/Participatory Planning | • Google Suite |
| • Policy Analysis | • Stata (Beginner) |

RELEVANT COURSEWORK AND CONFERENCES

Planning: Land Use Planning and Development Management; Environmental Planning; Climate Change Planning; Collaborative Planning; Economic Development Planning; Sustainable Development

Policy: Environmental Policy and Politics; Policy Formulation and Implementation

Technical: Principles of GIS; Environmental GIS; Natural Resource Statistics; Sustainable Transportation

Conferences: Michigan EIBC's 10th Annual Michigan Energy Innovators Conference (2022); American Clean Power's Siting and Environmental Compliance Conference (2023, *Poster Presenter*); CEDAM Rural Partners of Michigan's Small Town and Rural Development Conference (2022)(2023, *Presenter*)(2024, *Presenter*).

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Dr. Sarah Mills

- Senior Project Manager at Graham Sustainability Institute
- Capstone Project Advisor
- sbmills@umich.edu | (734) 763-0726

Julie Staveland, MPA

- Assistant Division Director of the Materials Management Division at EGLE
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