

Tyler Swanson

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EDUCATION

Michigan State University

August 2025 – Present

Doctor of Philosophy in Community Sustainability (In Progress)

Dual Major in Environmental Science & Policy (In Progress)

University of Arizona

August 2023 - May 2025

Master of Arts in Geography

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

August 2019 - May 2023

Bachelor of Science in Agricultural & Consumer Economics

Concentration in Environmental Economics & Policy

Minor in Sustainability, Energy, and Environment Fellowship Program

Minor in Urban & Regional Planning

CERTIFICATIONS

Graduate Certificate in Community Engagement

In Progress

NVivo Core Skills (Windows)

July 2024

Certificate of Undergraduate Research

Fall 2022

Certificate of Completion: Environmental Leadership Program

Spring 2022

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Energy Values Lab

Research Assistant

May 2025 - Present

Semi-Arid Lab for Scalable Agrivoltaics

Research Assistant

August 2023 – May 2025

Institute for Sustainability, Energy, & Environment

Research Assistant

December 2022 – April 2023

Health Promotion & Rehabilitation Laboratory

Research Assistant

June 2022 – August 2022

**Bock Agricultural Law & Policy
Program**

Research Assistant

May 2021 – August 2023

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Department of Recreation, Sport, &
Tourism**

Course Assistant

Spring 2022, Spring 2023

- Course: Finance in Recreation, Sport, & Tourism
- Created homework assignments focused on applying Microsoft Excel functions to financial problems.
- Led in-class demonstrations teaching students how to use Microsoft Excel.

**Department of Agricultural & Consumer
Economics**

Course Assistant

Fall 2022

- Course: Tax Policy & Financial Planning
- Graded homework assignments related to taxation policy.

AWARDS, HONORS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Catalyst Leadership Circle Fellowship (2026 Cohort)

February 2026

Ambrose Pattullo Fund for Environmental Issues Graduate Fellowship in
Literary Works

January 2026

Mary Louise Gephart Donnell Fellowship

January 2026

Department of Agricultural & Consumer Economics Undergraduate
Research Award – Second Prize

April 2023

Janelle Joseph Environmental Writing Competition – Best Feature Article

October 2022

Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute – Community Academic Scholar

May 2022

Department of Agricultural & Consumer Economics Undergraduate
Research Award – First Prize

April 2022

College of ACES Dean's List

Fall 2021

Janelle Joseph Environmental Writing Competition – Grand Prize
Leander J.H. Humanities Book Prize

October 2021

January 2021

Department of Agricultural & Consumer Economics Undergraduate
Research Award – First Prize

April 2021

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Seay-Fleming, C., Swanson, T., & Gerlak, A. K. (2026). From scale-neutral to scale-specific: Rethinking agrivoltaics through small farmers' rationalities. *Agriculture and Human Values*, 43(3), 118. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-026-10925-2>

Horowitz, Daniel A., Paul Borgess, Tyler Swanson, and Douglas L. Bessette. 2026. "Dataset of Renewable Energy Opposition Groups in the United States." *Data* 11(7):159. doi:[10.3390/data11070159](https://doi.org/10.3390/data11070159).

Pascaris, A. S., Swanson, T., Seay-Fleming, C., Gerlak, A. K., McCall, J., Barron-Gafford, G. A., & Macknick, J. (2026). Exploring the effects of policy on stakeholder adoption and deployment of agrivoltaics: A case study of Massachusetts. *Energy Policy*, 208, 114921. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2025.114921>

Swanson, T., Gerlak, A., Barron-Gafford, G., & Bellante, L. (2025). Developing crop-based agrivoltaic systems: A case study of Jack's Solar Garden. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2025.151.010>

Macy, A., Swanson, T., Seay-Fleming, C., Gerlak, A. K., & Barron-Gafford, G. A. (2025). Designing for dual-use solar: An examination of the agrivoltaic policy landscape in the United States. *Energy Policy*, 205, 114682. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2025.114682>

Seay-Fleming, C., Swanson, T., Gerlak, A. K., Pavao-Zuckerman, M. A., Andrews, H., Moore, K., & Barron-Gafford, G. A. (2025). Cultivating engagement: Public participation in agrivoltaics planning and design. *Energy Research & Social Science*, 127, 104273. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2025.104273>

Seay-Fleming, C., Swanson, T., & Gerlak, A. (2025). For what and for whom? A political ecology of agrivoltaics in the Southwestern United States. *Sustainability Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11625-025-01653-3>

Swanson, Tyler, Seay-Fleming, Carrie, Gerlak, Andrea K., Barron-Gafford, Greg A. "Enough is enough, we like our farms": The role of landscape ideology in shaping perceptions of solar energy and agrivoltaics in the rural American Southwest. *Journal of Rural Studies*, 114. February, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2025.103572>

Karhoff, Quin E., Endres, A. Bryan, Guarino, Jessica L. & Swanson, Tyler J. Renewable Energy in Illinois: The Agrivoltaics Contribution. *Southern Illinois University Law Review*, 48. Summer 2024.

Endres, R., Endres, A. B., Guarino, J., Swanson, T., & Zou, S. (Sharon). (2024). Agritourism liability: why definition matters from a legal and risk management perspective. *Current Issues in Tourism*, 1–7. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13683500.2024.2378971>

Haemmerli, Hannah L, Gerlak, Andrea K, & Swanson, Tyler. Reimagining hydropower in the United States. *WIREs Water*, May 29, 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wat2.1735>

Guarino, J., & Swanson, T. Emerging Agrivoltaic Regulatory Systems, A Review of Solar Grazing. *Chicago-Kent Journal of Environmental and Energy Law*, 12. November 2022.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Swanson, T. & Gerlak, A. “As A New Farm Bill Nears, Congress Should Consider Agrivoltaics.” <https://energycentral.com/c/ec/new-farm-bill-nears-congress-should-consider-agrivoltaics>. January 4, 2024

Swanson, T., Q. Karhoff, J. Guarino, & B. Endres. “Fact Sheet: The Economics of Solar Grazing.” *AgriSolar Clearinghouse*. <https://www.agrisolarclearinghouse.org/fact-sheet-the-economics-of-solar-grazing/>. July 24, 2023

Swanson, T. “The Rise of Agrivoltaics.” *Q Magazine*, (5):2. <https://q.sustainability.illinois.edu/the-rise-of-agrivoltaics/>. February 23, 2023.

Guarino, J. & Swanson, T. “Agrivoltaics in Illinois: A Regulatory and Policy Guide.” *AgriSolar Clearinghouse*. <https://www.agrisolarclearinghouse.org/the-illinois-agrivoltaics-regulatory-and-policy-guide-analyzes-state-and-local-laws/>. February 1, 2023.

Swanson, T. “Crypto's Dark Secret.” *Q Magazine*, (4):2. <https://q.sustainability.illinois.edu/cryptos-dark-secret/>. February 23, 2022.

Guarino, J., R. Endres, T. Swanson and B. Endres. “Defining the Bounds of Booming Agritourism.” *farmdoc daily* (12):19, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, February 14, 2022.

Guarino, J., R. Endres, T. Swanson and B. Endres. “It’s Pumpkin Patch Season and Agritourism is Booming—But What Exactly is Agritourism?.” *farmdoc daily* (11):152, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, November 4, 2021.

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Swanson, Tyler. 2026. “Electrocentrism: Re-Thinking The Rural Landscape in An Era of Large-Scale Solar And Data Center Development.” Presented at the International Association for Society and Natural Resources Annual Conference, June 22, Corvallis, OR.

Swanson, Tyler, and Doug Bessette. 2025. "Your Dollar, My Community: Regulatory Risk and Procedural Justice in Large-Scale Solar Energy Development." Presented at the Society for Risk Analysis 2025 Annual Meeting, December 8, Washington, D.C.

Swanson, Tyler. "Beyond Solar Farms: A Case Study of The Development of Jack's Solar Garden." American Association of Geographers 2025 Annual Meeting, 24 Mar. 2025. Conference Presentation.

Swanson, Tyler. "Harnessing the Solar Boom: Governance Strategies for Balancing Rural Solar Development." Agrivoltaics World Conference, 6 Jun. 2024, Denver, CO. Conference Presentation.

Swanson, Tyler and Quin Karhoff. "The Economics of Solar Grazing." Teatime Webinar, American Solar Grazing Association, 24 Oct. 2023. Virtual Presentation.

Guarino, Jessica, and Tyler Swanson. "Emerging Agrivoltaic Regulatory Systems: An Analysis of Solar Grazing." Solar Farm Summit, 14 Mar. 2023, Hilton Rosemont/Chicago O'Hare, Rosemont. Conference Presentation.

Guarino, Jessica, and Tyler Swanson. "Emerging Agrivoltaic Regulatory Systems: An Analysis of Solar Grazing." Teatime Webinar, American Solar Grazing Association, 27 Nov. 2023. Virtual Presentation.

SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATIONS

Tyler Swanson & Quin Karhoff, *Emerging Agrivoltaic Regulatory Systems: An Analysis of Solar Grazing*, Solar Farm Summit, Rosemont IL, March 2023.

Tyler Swanson, *Emerging Agrivoltaic Regulatory Systems: An Analysis of Solar Grazing*, Sustainability Research Symposium, Champaign IL, October 2022.

Tyler Swanson, *Optimal Mechanisms of Service Delivery and Utilization for Service Suppliers and Rural-Veteran Consumers*, Community Academic Scholars Poster Session, Champaign, IL, August 2022.

Tyler Swanson, *Sustainability in Agritourism*, Undergraduate Research Symposium, Champaign, IL, April 2022.

Tyler Swanson, *Observations on the Success of Utility Green Pricing Programs in Influencing Renewable Energy Generation*, Sustainability Research Symposium, Champaign, IL, October 2021.

Tyler Swanson, *Should the government subsidize the development of renewable energy or mandate the supply of renewable energy?*, Undergraduate Research Symposium, Champaign, IL, April 2021.

Tyler Swanson, *Policy insights on electric vehicle subsidies*, Undergraduate Research Symposium, Champaign, IL, April 2021.

GUEST LECTURES

Swanson, Tyler "The 5 W's of Agrivoltaics." University of Arizona, 30 Sep. 2024, Tucson, Arizona. Guest Lecture

Swanson, Tyler. “Agrivoltaics and Public Policy.” University of North Carolina Wilmington, 27 Oct. 2023. Guest Lecture.

Swanson, Tyler “The 5 W’s of Agrivoltaics.” University of Arizona, 24 Oct. 2023, Tucson, Arizona. Guest Lecture.

OTHER PRESENTATIONS

Swanson, Tyler. “Food, Energy, and Water Resilience Solutions: Agrivoltaics As A Tool for Rural Communities.” Rural Renaissance Roadshow, 26 Oct. 2023, Bentonville, Arkansas. Conference Presentation

GRANT FUNDING

Competitive Research Grant *Michigan State University Environmental Science & Policy Program*

March 2026

\$4,000.00

- Grant awarded to support research on Michigan residents’ perceptions of data center development through the addition of questions to the *State of The State Survey* administered through the Institute for Public Policy and Social Science Research at Michigan State University.

Research Support Grant

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Office of Undergraduate Research

December 2022 – January 2023

\$725.00

- Grant awarded to support research on the effects of renewable energy development on employment in state energy sectors. The research will culminate in the publication of Swanson’s bachelor’s thesis for completion of the James Scholar Honors Program.

AstroINSPIRE Agrivoltaics
Seed Grant

National Renewable Energy Laboratory

November 2022 – July 2023

\$1,750.00

- The research investigates economic challenges and benefits associated with farmers diversifying into a solar grazing business. Swanson and Karhoff aim to develop a customizable budgeting tool that prospective solar graziers can use to calculate their projected costs and revenues when considering entering the solar grazing industry, and to develop a peer reviewed journal article.