

# Megan O'Keefe



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## Professional Summary

Results-driven **Sustainability Manager** at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden with expertise in resiliency planning, carbon sequestration, and community-based offset initiatives. Holds bachelor's and master's degrees in biology, with graduate research focused on climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation, ecological restoration, and sustainable development. Recognized for exceptional communication and cross-functional collaboration skills, with proven success in advancing organizational sustainability goals. Skilled in project management, program development, strategic planning, and resource optimization. Brings nearly a decade of experience in the zoo and aquarium industry, complemented by six years of international teaching experience that provide a strong global perspective.

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## Professional Experience

### Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden — Cincinnati, OH

**Sustainability Project Manager** | 2023–Present

- Lead the Zoo's **Community Solar Resiliency Program (CSRP)**, deploying solar arrays to mission-critical organizations in underserved neighborhoods.
  - Oversee all phases of solar projects, including grant writing, site assessment, installation, and public launch events.
  - Developed a multi-year strategy for solar asset deployment and secured funding for long-term program sustainability.
- Manage **greenspace enhancement projects** in collaboration with horticulture teams, developing budgets and implementation timelines.
- Advance sustainability initiatives on Zoo properties, including regenerative agriculture, local food production, agrivoltaics, and native plant restoration.
- Contribute to the Zoo's **Net-Zero and sustainability strategies**, focusing on prioritization, policy development, and data management.
- Partner with community leaders, city officials, and the Zoo's Global Conservation Team on local and international conservation projects.
  - Supported elephant conservation partners in Thailand (2024) through capacity-building and project coordination.
- Supervise and mentor junior sustainability staff; oversee sustainability communications in partnership with marketing.
- Represent the Zoo through presentations to internal teams, partners, and donors.

### Sustainability Co-op | 2022–2023

- Supported multiple sustainability initiatives from concept to completion, ensuring alignment with strategic goals.
- Engaged community stakeholders through events, workshops, and education programs to promote environmental stewardship.

- Tracked project milestones and delivered detailed progress reports to leadership and donors.

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**Prana Rise Yoga — Paris, Cincinnati, Shanghai, Sydney****Yoga Instructor & Studio Operations | 2017–2022**

- Delivered private and group yoga sessions tailored to diverse student needs across international locations.
- Managed studio operations including sales, client relations, retail management, scheduling, and event coordination.

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**Comptoir Des Langues & VIPKid — Paris, France****English Teacher | 2018–2022**

- Provided personalized English instruction for private students and small groups.
- Cultivated long-term relationships with recurring learners and adapted lessons to individual goals.
- Taught general studies classes in a private school in Shanghai (2018).

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**Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden — Cincinnati, OH****Animal Keeper | 2013–2016**

- Delivered daily animal care, behavioral training, and enrichment programs.
- Presented educational demonstrations and behind-the-scenes encounters to public audiences.
- Participated in the **Manatee Rehabilitation Program**, supporting animal transport, care, and release efforts.
- Promoted wildlife conservation through direct public engagement and education.

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**Education****Miami University — Oxford, OH***Master of Arts in Biology, Project Dragonfly, Global Field Program | 2021–2023***Northern Kentucky University — Highland Heights, KY***Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences (Ecology, Evolution, and Organismal Track) | 2009–2012*

- Member, **Tri-Beta National Biological Honor Society**
- Teaching Assistant and Biology Tutor

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