

Van Lee Sullivan

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Green Umbrella**—Senior Director of Programs, Cincinnati OH *Jun 2023 – Present*
Climate Action Director *Mar 2022 – May 2023*
Climate Policy Lead *Dec 2020 – Mar 2022*
- Current lead of the Greater Cincinnati Regional Climate Collaborative, Co-Director of Climate Safe Neighborhoods Partnership with GroundworkORV, Green Umbrella lead for Green Cincinnati Plan Equity Committee, and Co-Chair of the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments Network
 - Oversee elected official education/engagement, training 48 regional candidates on climate platforms as of 05/2023
 - Secured \$1,007,459 of personnel funds and \$1,243,882 of implementation funds for our region since 12/2020
 - Highlighted Green Umbrella's Climate Action through 12+ major media hits, hosted 22 events reaching 1,000+ attendees, and invited to speak at 33 engagements across the country that reached 2,100+ attendees as of 05/2023
 - Manage internal evaluation and engagement work with contract partners, Data Bloom and CitizenLab
 - Actively participate in internal Compensation and Organizational Strategy working groups in order to advance equitable HR practices and workflows, and align programmatic work for greatest impact
- City of Cincinnati**—Climate and Community Resilience Analyst, Cincinnati OH *May 2019 – Dec 2020*
- Co-led the development and launch of three low-income multifamily energy efficiency programs; established partnerships, perform technical analysis, manage implementation and metrics/budget dashboard, draft web/media copy
 - Author of \$10K National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Urban Heat Island Community Science grant; coordinated campaign to collect data that will support a regional urban heat island map
 - Author of \$10K National League of Cities 2020 Resilience Cohort grant; led Climate Safe Neighborhoods work
 - Led research, coordinated 40+ stakeholders, authored submission for Cincinnati's LEED for Cities Silver certification
 - Led Cincinnati's participation in the Climate Disclosure Project's 2020 Sustainable Finance Cohort
- Environmental Resilience Institute**—Resilience Toolkit Coordinator, Bloomington IN *Jan 2019 – Aug 2020*
- Worked as part of the Policy and Implementation Team to develop and launch climate change resilience resources relevant to local governments in Indiana and the Midwest.
 - Supported development and management of the Environmental Resilience Institute Toolkit, led the design of the Beat the Heat program, and supported the design of the Hoosier Resilience Index
 - Led pilot project with O'Neill School - coordinated 12 local governments to participate in case studies with graduate-level students; established ongoing partnership between ERI staff and O'Neill professors
- Indiana University**—Graduate Research Assistant, Bloomington IN *Aug 2018 – May 2019*
- Research Group: Just Energy Transition advised by Dr. Sanya Carley and Dr. David Konisky
 - Co-developed ICMA survey for city/county leadership on impacts from and preparedness for the energy transition
 - Conducted research and outreach to study the presence of and work by frontline sustainability and justice groups in the US, and future opportunities through the Green New Deal to strategically support these groups; published work
- City of Cincinnati**—Sustainability Fellow, Cincinnati OH *Jan 2018 – Aug 2018*
- A primary author for the following successful grants/awards: \$2.5M American Cities Climate Challenge Award, USGBC Sustainability and Energy Smart Award, Engaging Local Government Leaders 'Best Water Project'
 - A primary author for the 2018 Green Cincinnati Plan; created data and chapters with community-driven solutions; created metrics dashboard to foster accountability, track progress, and calculate greenhouse gas emissions savings
 - Service position via Public Allies Cincinnati; service projects completed for The Welcome Project and Co-op Cincy
- Rural Action**—Regional Economic Development & Strategy Associate, Athens OH *Nov 2016 – Nov 2017*
- Supported 10-county community wealth assessment using the Community Capitals Framework; literature review, evidence-based research, metrics development, report design, case study preparation

- Worked with local and state-based stakeholders to expand Americorps VISTA programs in Appalachia OH
- Service position via Ohio Community Development Corporation Association Americorps VISTA program

ACS Green Chemistry Institute—Research Associate, Washington DC *Sept 2013 – Sept 2015*

- Led research and developed metrics for GCI initiatives; disseminated content through articles, webinars, presentations
- Recruited key stakeholders, created content, led meetings and strategic planning, and fundraised for: NSF Student Workshop, \$10K Green Chemistry Business Plan Competition, Biochemical Technology Leadership Roundtable
- Convened collaborations between Industrial Roundtables and supported technical projects; managed Roundtable finances (>\$500K/year); assisted with marketing and events; completed Standard Operating Procedures
- Crafted content strategy for newsletter editorial calendar, social media, webinars, and other communications; directed daily social media, increasing Twitter followers by over 200% and Facebook by 250% during my tenure
- Served as a technical resource to the stakeholder community and ACS GCI staff; traveled domestically and internationally as spokesperson to present at and participate in meetings, symposia, and conferences

Abt Associates—Research Assistant, Bethesda MD *April 2012 – Sept 2013*

- Produced data, analysis, reports, proposals for EPA’s Climate Change and Pollution Prevention & Toxics departments
- Outreach coordinator for U.S. EPA Presidential Green Chemistry program: led national chemistry conference presence and evaluated impacts; managed budget; developed outreach materials; recruited program participants
- Managed database of technical, environmental, economic impacts for U.S EPA Presidential Green Chemistry awards

City of Oberlin—Sustainability Intern, Oberlin OH *Sept 2009 – May 2011*

- Co-author of ‘City of Oberlin Climate Action Plan’ draft, which revamped energy-portfolio to 85% renewable by 2015
- Conducted research for 50 municipal sustainability strategies and analysis of greenhouse gas reductions
- Received American Public Power Association DEED Award and Joyce Gorn Memorial Prize for my accomplishments

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- “2022 Climate Equity Benchmarking Analysis Report,” Green Umbrella, Pub. 2022
- Even, T. L., Trott, C. D., Gray, E. S., Roncker, J., Basaraba, A., Harrison, T., Petersen, S., **Sullivan, S.**, & Revis, S. (2021). Climate Equity Indicators Report - 2021, City of Cincinnati.
- “Supporting Frontline and Vulnerable Communities in a Green New Deal,” Public Administration Review, Pub. 2019
- “2018 Green Cincinnati Plan,” City of Cincinnati, Pub. 2018
- “Green Chemistry in Action,” Div. of Chem. Ed., 250th ACS Ntl. Meeting, Boston MA, 2015
- “City of Oberlin Climate Action Plan,” City of Oberlin, Pub. 2011

EDUCATION

- **Indiana University**—**O’Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs**, Bloomington IN *May 2020*
Degrees: Master of Public Affairs (MPA) & Master of Science in Environmental Science (MSES)
Concentration: Environmental Justice & Community Resilience (self-designed)
Selected Coursework: Urban Development and Racial Inequalities, Planning for Climate Change and Resilient Urban Communities, Environmental Justice Seminar, Energy Policy Seminar, Food Systems and Community Resilience, Conservation Planning, Climate Change Impacts on Natural Resources
Awards: MPA-MSES Scholar Award (‘18-’20), Bonser Fellow (‘18-’19), Scott Chilcote Fellow (‘19-’20)
- **Oberlin College**, Oberlin OH *May 2011*
Degree: B.A. Economics, Environmental Studies
Awards: Joyce Gorn Memorial Prize for outstanding off-campus environmental project (‘11), American Public Power Association DEED Scholar (‘09-’11), John F. Oberlin Merit Scholar (‘07-’11), Springman Merit Scholar (‘07-’11)

SKILLS

- Software: Python, R, STATA, SAS, ArcGIS, Office Suite, Photoshop, Social Media, Google Analytics
- Others: grant writing, strategic planning, public speaking, facilitation, data analysis/management, technical writing/editing, research design, content development, community/media outreach, social media, event planning