**Tyler Swanson**

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Website: <https://www.tylerjswanson.com/>

**EDUCATION**

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| **Michigan State University**  PhD in Community Sustainability | August 2025 - Present |
| *Dual Major in Environmental Science & Policy Program* | |
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| **University of Arizona** | August 2023 - May 2025 |
| Master of Arts in Geography | |

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| **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**

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| NVivo Core Skills (Windows) | July 2024 |
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| Certificate of Undergraduate Research | Fall 2022 |
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| Certificate of Completion: Environmental Leadership Program | Spring 2022 |

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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| **Energy Values Lab** | *Research Assistant* | *August 2025 – Present* |
| **Barron-Gafford Research Group** | *Graduate Assistant* | *August 2023 – May 0225* |
| **Institute for Sustainability, Energy, & Environment** | *Research Assistant* | *December 2022 – April 2023* |
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| **Health Promotion & Rehabilitation Laboratory** | *Research Assistant* | *June 2022 – August 2022* |
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| **Bock Agricultural Law & Policy Program** | *Research Assistant* | *May 2021 – August 2023* |

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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| **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. | | |

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

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| **Capital Area District Libraries** | *Library Assistant* | *May 2025 - Present* |
| * Create book displays highlighting different aspects of the library collection. * Managed outreach events connecting community members with library services. * Assisted library patrons with technical problems and reference questions. | | |
| **TRC Companies Inc.** | *Renewable Delivery Intern* | *June – August 2023* |
| * Developed company resources for understanding agrivoltaics. * Developed marketing materials advertising agrivoltaics. * Assisted with various office duties as needed. | | |
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| **Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment** | *iCAP Team Clerk* | *April 2021 – May 2023* |
| * Organized meetings of the Energy and Transportation iCAP Teams. * Assisted in the development of initiatives to advance the University of Illinois Climate Action Plan. * Reported on the progress of the Energy and Transportation iCAP Teams to the iCAP Working Group/ | | |
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| **Office of Senator Tammy Duckworth** | *Intern* | *June – August 2021* |
| * Recorded notes on constituent phone calls for legislative aides. * Assisted constituents in receiving VA benefits and passports. * Developed policy memos for legislative aides. | | |
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| **City of Rockford Government** | *Intern* | *June – August 2020* |
| * Input data on city code enforcement violations into an online database. * Interacted with city residents on a day-to-day basis while performing code enforcement duties. * Maintained city code compliance across three zip codes. | | |

**AWARDS AND HONORS**

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| Department of Agricultural & Consumer Economics Undergraduate Research Award – Second Prize | *April 2023* |
| Janelle Joseph Environmental Writing Competition – Best Feature Article | *October 2022* |
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| Interdisciplinary Health Sciences Institute – Community Academic Scholar | *May 2022* |
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| Department of Agricultural & Consumer Economics Undergraduate Research Award – First Prize | *April 2022* |
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| College of ACES Dean’s List | *Fall 2021* |
| Janelle Joseph Environmental Writing Competition – Grand Prize | *October 2021* |
| Leander J.H. Humanities Book Prize | *January 2021* |
| Department of Agricultural & Consumer Economics Undergraduate Research Award – First Prize | *April 2021* |
| College of Agricultural, Consumer, & Environmental Sciences – James Scholar Honors Student | *August 2020* |

**PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

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 &amp; Social Science*, *127*, 104273. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2025.104273

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. (2025). For what and for whom? A political ecology of Agrivoltaics in the Southwestern United States. *Sustainability Science*, *20*(4), 1467–1481. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11625-025-01653-3

Swanson, T., Seay-Fleming, C., Gerlak, A. K., & Barron-Gafford, G. A. (2025). “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*, 103572. 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**

Richmond-Mueller, A., Berntsen, C., & Swanson, T. (n.d.). Chapter 12: Agrisolar Policy Overview. In *Best Practices in Agrisolar* (pp. 94–103). essay, Agrisolar Clearinghouse. Retrieved from https://www.agrisolarclearinghouse.org/best-practices-in-agrisolar/?utm\_content=buffer3acf6&utm\_medium=social&utm\_source=linkedin.com&utm\_campaign=Linkedin+buffer.

Swanson, T. (2025). *Beyond solar farms: A case study of the motivations, challenges, and benefits associated with developing agrivoltaics at jack's solar garden*(Order No. 31844255). Available from Publicly Available Content Database. (3212420156). Retrieved from https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-theses/beyond-solar-farms-case-study-motivations/docview/3212420156/se-2

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. “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. “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**

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| 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. | |
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| AstroINSPIRE Agrivoltaics Seed Grant | *National Renewable Energy Laboratory* |
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| 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. | |