

ABOUT ME

I am an award-winning storyteller, sustainability practitioner, engineer and researcher guided by an overarching philosophy of 'Belonging Somewhere'. I help communities thrive by using energy and climate action as tools to achieve local priorities, including equity. To do this, I use data-driven storytelling and communities of practice as a model for building capacity among municipalities, businesses and community organizations. And to this end, I turn to my ongoing PhD research that examines municipal energy planning initiatives as governance innovations. Through my storytelling, civic engagement, practice, and research, I continue to deepen my sense of belonging with the (many) places I call home.

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

PhD Geography <i>Local energy planning in Canada</i> Univ. of Guelph	2021
M.S. Computer Science <i>Solar & smart-microgrids</i> Michigan Tech	2016
M.S. Physics <i>Citizen-science in astrophysics</i> Michigan Tech	2013
B.Eng. Electrical <i>Power systems operation</i> Anna University	2008

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Program Manager Smart Green Communities, reThink Green	2019-2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrated energy poverty programs and municipal asset management into community energy planning.• Supported municipal and First Nation staff with energy planning through peer-to-peer and group mentorship.	
Executive Producer Royal City Stories, Guelph	2019-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Storytelling for good: syndicated online video series inspiring belonging, optimism and pride in our hometown(s) showcasing compelling stories of everyday people doing extra-ordinary things.	
Research Analyst and Data Scientist <i>as an Independent Consultant</i>	2015-present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed public-facing narrative dashboards for non-profits in US and Canada, with +70,000 combined views and features in Scientific American, CleanTechnica, Midwest Energy News and others.	
Research Analyst Community Energy Knowledge-Action Partnership	2017-2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Led project in partnership with housing providers in Northern Ontario investigating local energy planning as a lever to improve energy performance of social housing.	
Research Analyst Ontario Climate Consortium	2016-2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Researched best practices on energy poverty programming, in the context of affordable housing, to provide insights to Ontario policy makers.	
Graduate Research Engineer Keweenaw Research Center	Summers -2014,2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed and led project developing decision-support tools for municipalities, identifying pathways for supporting local economic development through energy upgrades.	
Managing Director Houghton Energy Efficiency Team	2013-2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Founded collective impact organization, recruited resources, and secured stakeholder + community support for duration of the project : Led Houghton County, MI to become the poorest, most rural and smallest community to reach the finals of a national energy competition - Georgetown University Energy Prize.	

SELECT LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Working Group Independent Electricity Systems Operator	2019-present
Support successful delivery of IESO's low-income energy assistance programs	
Founding Gnome GNOMEs	2019-present
Professional community of practice for municipal sustainability managers in Northern Ontario	
Board of Directors Victor Davis Memorial Court Homes	2016-present

Non-profit providing housing for families in need

Board of Directors Rural Renewable Energy Alliance Non-profit dedicated to making solar energy accessible to families of all income levels	2016-present
Board of Directors Engineers for a Sustainable World Non-profit at the intersection of engineering, sustainability and equity	2018-2019
Founding Director Guelph Energy Managers Group Professional community of practice for energy managers in Guelph	2017-2019
Community Engagement Our Energy Guelph Community task-force responsible for Guelph's community energy plan	2016-2018
Technical Advisor Keweenaw Bay Indian Community CARE Committee responsible for solar PV development at Keweenaw Bay Indian Community	2015-2016

SELECT INVITED TALKS & WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED

ICLEI <i>Developing clean energy programs for low-income households</i>	2018
Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association <i>Integrated energy & asset management</i>	2017,2018
Ontario Network for Sustainable Energy Policy <i>Energy transitions</i>	2018
Ontario Climate Symposium <i>Energy management in ON social housing</i>	2018
North Ont Housing Roundtable <i>Improving energy retrofit practices</i>	2017
Midwest Energy Fair Community planning for solar	2016
Great Lakes Energy Fair Community planning for efficiency	2015
MI Public Planners Network <i>Community energy management</i>	2015
Keweenaw Bay Indian Community <i>Solar training workshop</i>	2015
MI Home Builder's Association <i>Designing solar-ready homes</i>	2015
MI Teacher Training Institute <i>Designing sustainable student workshops</i>	2015
MI Econ. Dev. Agency <i>Energy resources for MI businesses</i>	2014
Michigan Interfaith Power and Light <i>Solar, sustainability and stewardship</i>	2014
Grow Solar Conference <i>Developing commercial solar for MI installers</i>	2014

SELECT AWARDS & HONORS

BGS Fellowship University of Guelph	2019,2018,2017
National Storyteller Award Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada	2017
'Doing Good in Communities' Fellowship University of Guelph	2017
Kiyoko Miyanishi Graduate Scholarship University of Guelph	2016
3MT Thesis Award Michigan Tech	2015, 2016
40 Under 40 Energy Leader Award Midwest Energy News	2015
Hearts & Hands Award Floyd Society	2015
Byron Fellowship Byron Educational Foundation	2015
University Innovation Fellowship MichiganTech	2015
Exceptional Leader Michigan Tech	2015
Exceptional Community Service Michigan Tech	2014
Clean Technology Finalist Michigan Clean Energy Venture Challenge	2013
Elevator Pitch Award Bob Mark Business Competition	2012, 2013