

John H. Armstrong
Environmental Studies
Seattle University
910 12th Ave, Seattle WA

Professional Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor, Environmental Studies, Seattle University 2020 – Present

Education

Ph.D., Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz 2020

Local Government Adoption of Effective Climate Change Policies

Committee: Sheldon Kamieniecki (Chair), Adam Millard-Ball, Stacy M. Philpott, Elizabeth Beaumont

M.A., Environmental Studies, University of California, Santa Cruz 2017

Local Control and Public Involvement in Energy Decision-Making and Climate Policy

B.A., Double major in Biology and History, Cornell University 2010

Sugar Maple Trees, Climate Change Impacts & Syrup Production (advised by Brian Chabot)

Research Interests

Energy and climate policymaking and politics, governance, sustainability, local control, environmental justice, urbanization, and biodiversity.

Peer-reviewed Publications

- 2025. **Armstrong, J. H.** “City low-carbon transitions: Varied pathways and drivers behind the adoption of increasingly ambitious climate policies.” *Energy Research & Social Science*, 131, 104483.
- 2024. **Armstrong, J. H.** “Public Participation and Social Movements in Environmental Policy and Justice.” In: *The Palgrave Handbook of Environmental Policy and Law*, Palgrave Studies in Sustainable Futures. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-30231-2_19-1
- 2023. **Armstrong, J. H.** “Climate change, costs, or jobs: How policymakers frame state clean energy laws.” *The Electricity Journal*, 36(9-10), 107350.
- 2023. **Armstrong, J. H.** “Formal local government coordination to mitigate climate change.” *Urban Climate*, 51, 101636.
- 2022. **Armstrong, J. H.**, Nisi, A. C., & Millard-Ball, A. “A disciplinary divide in the framing of urbanization’s environmental impacts.” *Conservation Science and Practice*, 4(3), e624.
- 2022. **Armstrong, J. H.** “Taking control to do more: how local governments and communities can enact ambitious climate mitigation policies.” *Journal of Environmental Policy & Planning*, 1-15.
- 2021. **Armstrong, J. H.** “People and Power: Expanding the role and scale of public engagement in energy transitions.” *Energy Research & Social Science*, 78, 102136.

- 2021. **Armstrong, J. H.**, Kulikowski, A. J. II, Philpott, S. M. “Urban renewable energy and ecosystems: integrating vegetation with ground-mounted solar arrays increases arthropod abundance of key functional groups.” *Urban Ecosystems*, 24(3), 621-631.
- 2019. **Armstrong, J. H.** “Modeling effective local government climate policies that exceed state targets.” *Energy Policy*, 132, 15-26.
- 2019. **Armstrong, J. H.**, & Kamieniecki, S. “Sustainability Policy Research: A Review and Synthesis.” *Policy Studies Journal*, 47, S45-S65.
- 2017. **Armstrong, J. H.**, & Kamieniecki, S. “Strategic Adaptive Governance and Climate Change: Policymaking during Extreme Political Upheaval.” *Sustainability*, 9(7), 1244.

Current Research Projects

1. Study investigating when and why cities integrate equity into their climate plans and the extent to which cities are using their climate policies to advance environmental justice actions.
2. Project assessing social science courses focusing on climate change and whether advocacy and activism get neglected among the climate solutions covered, and how to foster student civic agency. In part, the project examines the 94 courses included in the Climate Solutions Lab’s international Syllabus Bank.

Selected Public Media

- 2025 [Article](#) in the *Seattle Times* about the implications of President Trump's climate policies for Washington State.
- 2024 [Letter](#) in the *New York Times* relating key points from my *Palgrave Studies in Sustainable Futures* publication about the role of public participation and social movements in advancing environmental policy.
- 2023 [Letter](#) in the *Los Angeles Times* relating my study about the ecosystem implications of urban renewable energy development to state legislation under consideration in California.
- 2020 *Solar Magazine* [article](#) "How Solar Power and City Ecosystems Can More Effectively Co-Exist" focusing on the implications of my research for solar power development in cities.

Teaching

Seattle University

- Economics and the Environment (EVST 3050)
- Environmental Politics (EVST/PLSC 3000)
- Environmental Justice (EVST 4840)
- Environmental Careers (EVST 3750)
- Sustainability, People, & the Environment (EVST 1600)
- Honors Capstone: Crafting Social Policy (HONR 2580)
- Social Justice and the Environment (UCOR 1600)
- Directed Study in Climate Policy Research (EVST 3910)
- Faculty Supervisor for 32 undergraduate interns

University of California, Santa Cruz

- Graduate Student Instructor, Energy Policy & Politics

- Teaching Assistant, Ecology & Society (Science Literacy lab)
- Teaching Assistant, Climate Change Science & Policy
- Teaching Assistant, Environmental Law & Policy
- Teaching Assistant, Environmental Economics & Policy
- Teaching Assistant, Environmental Justice & Inequality

Seattle University Student Research Collaborators

- Aurora Dunn, EVST 2028, on city low-carbon transitions policy research
- Daniel Truog, EVST 2025, on city low-carbon transitions policy research
- Gabby Batinich, EVST 2023, on climate policy transitions research
- Dani Kutulas, EVST 2022, on climate policy transitions research
- Kennedy Finnes, Economics 2022, on city climate policymaking research
- Faculty mentor for *Seattle University Undergraduate Research Journal* publication (2025) "A Tale of Two Cities: The Racial Disparities of Air Pollution and Asthma in South Fresno, California" by students Alonso Lee, Caleb Stipkovits, and Eve Wiseman.

Grants, Fellowships, & Awards

- Seattle University Institute for Catholic Thought and Culture Faculty Research Fellowship for the project: "Integrating Advocacy and Activism in Teaching Climate Change and Fostering Student Civic Engagement" 2026
- Seattle University Student Assistantship Award for the research project "Cities as Climate Leaders: Adapting the Multi-Level Perspective Framework to Assess Adoption of Low-Carbon Transition Policies" 2025
- American Political Science Association Summer Centennial Center Research Grant for the research project "Cities as Climate Leaders: Adapting the Multi-Level Perspective Framework to Assess Adoption of Low-Carbon Transition Policies." 2024 – 2025
- Seattle University Center for Environmental Justice and Sustainability Laudato Si' Faculty Fellow, 2024-2025 2024 – 2025
- Mellon Project "Race, Racialization & Resistance in the US" new course development grant to design an environmental justice-focused Honors course, "Promoting the Common Good: Crafting Social Policy" 2023
- Seattle University Provost Fellowship for Curriculum Redesign 2022 – 2024
- Seattle University Student Assistantship Award for the research project "Local government climate policy transitions: building from modest to ambitious actions" 2022
- Seattle University Summer Faculty Fellowship for the research project "City Adoption of Ambitious Climate Change Policies and the Role of Modest Actions as Steppingstones" 2021
- UC Santa Cruz David Gains Award in Environmental Studies 2019
- UC Santa Cruz Hammett Fellowship 2018
- UC Santa Cruz Environmental Studies Outstanding Teaching Assistant 2018
- SEAL Award for Environmental Achievement and Leadership 2017
- UC Santa Cruz Travel Grant 2017
- UC Santa Cruz Environmental Studies Department Research Grant 2016 – 2019
- UC Santa Cruz Regent's Fellowship 2015 & 2016

Seattle University Service

- Center for Environmental Justice Faculty Research Fellowship Selection Committee 2025
- Mellon Project "Race, Racialization & Resistance in the US" curricular revision advisory committee member 2024 & 2025
- Faculty leader for the College of Arts & Sciences "Urban Sustainability" pre-college summer program. 2022 – Present
- Academic Advisor for 20 College of Arts & Sciences Students 2021 – Present
- Environmental Studies Internship Coordinator 2021 – Present
- Community Partnerships development and engagement work with several organizations 2020 – Present
- Miller Scholarship in Environmental Studies Selection Committee 2020 – Present
- Co-coordinator for the Environmental Studies program's Reigniting and Revising the Curriculum work 2023 – 2024
- Provost Fellow for the Reigniting Our Strategic Directions Goal 1 "Sustainability and Climate Change" group working on university-wide efforts to reimagine and revise the curriculum 2022 – 2024
- College of Arts & Sciences Professional Formation Advisory Board member 2021 – 2024
- Environmental Studies faculty representative to the Seattle University Faculty-Staff Senate (FSS) quarterly plenaries 2021 – 2024
- New Honors Course Development: Crafting Social Policy 2024
- Center for Environmental Justice Student Fellowship Selection Committee 2022 & 2023
- College of Arts & Sciences Student Assistantships Award Selection Committee 2022 & 2025
- New CORE Course Development: Social Justice and the Environment 2021
- New EVST Course Development: Environmental Justice 2021
- New EVST Course Development: Environmental Careers and Internships 2021
- Organized and co-led an educational program for a Bellingham Explorations Academy high school class 2021
- Co-organized and co-led a Reading Redhawks event with the Seattle University Alumni Association, "Climate Justice in the Biden Administration" 2021

University of California, Santa Cruz Service

- Environmental Studies Curriculum Committee 2018 – 2020
- Environmental Studies undergraduate Ecology and Society class development as part of the Disciplinary Communication Grant: Innovations in Numeracy and Co-Authoring Writing 2018
- Dean of Social Sciences Selection Committee 2017
- Conference Organizing Committee. Changing Climate: Acting Now to Secure a Sustainable Future 2017
- Conference Organizing Committee. Earth's Climate Future: Uncharted Territory 2016

Reviewer for journals including: *Climate*; *Discover Energy*; *Energy Nexus*; *Energy Policy*; *Environmental Politics*; *Energy Research & Social Science*; *Energy and Environment*; *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*; *Laws*; *State and Local Government Review*; *Sustainability*; *Urban Climate*

Reviewer for NSF: Panel review member for the Strengthening American Infrastructure program (2024)

Selected Academic & Professional Presentations

- 2025 CEJS Student & Faculty Research Fellowship Showcase presentation, "Cities as Climate Leaders: Achieving Low-Carbon and Just Transitions."
- 2025 Race, Racialization, and Resistance Conference (Seattle University) presentation: Engaging with Political Agency and Activism in Teaching Environmental Science, Studies, and Justice
- 2025 Western Political Science Association conference presentation, "City low-carbon transitions: what drives the development and adoption of increasingly ambitious climate policies."
- Seattle University 2025 Faculty Sustainability Learning Community, "The Role of Faculty and Academic Institutions in Teaching and Engaging with Advocacy and Activism"
- Rainier Beach 2024 Youth Conference workshop, "City Walkability and Sustainability"
- Seattle University Earth Talks 2024: Public Participation and Social Movements in Advancing Environmental Policy and Justice
- Seattle University Reimagine and Revise Our Curriculum 2024 workshop for faculty "Sustainability Outcomes and Assignment Design"
- Seattle University Reimagine and Revise Our Curriculum 2024 workshop for faculty "Partnering with Community Based Organizations on Sustainability"
- Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences 2023 Conference Presentation: Clean Energy Policymaking, Politics, and Framing of Ambitious State Climate Actions
- Association for Environmental Studies and Sciences 2023 Conference Panel Chair: Representing and Responding to Climate Change
- Seattle University Reimagine and Revise Our Curriculum 2023 workshop for faculty "Connecting the Big 3 in Your Curricular Revision"
- Seattle University Reimagine and Revise Our Curriculum 2022 workshop for faculty "Sustainability and Climate Change"
- Southern Political Science Association 2022 Conference Research Talk: Formal multilevel governance coordination to address climate change
- Seattle University Earth Talks 2022: City Climate Mitigation Strategies and Policy Transitions
- Seattle University research Lightning Talks 2021: Local government climate policy transitions: building from modest to ambitious actions
- Seattle University 2021 Panel Event: Climate Justice in the Biden Administration
- American Association of Geographers 2021 Conference Presentation: A case study of formal multilevel governance coordination to address climate change
- Sophia University Political Science Department seminar 2021: Climate Justice & Activism
- UC Santa Cruz Graduate Research Symposium, 2018: Climate Change Policymaking: Local Control and Transformation of the Electricity System
- Discussions at the 2018 elected officials and stakeholders climate policy conference "The Business of Local Energy"
- State University of New York at New Paltz, 2015: Climate Change Implications of Natural Gas
- State University of New York at Binghamton, 2014: Hydraulic Fracturing and Public Health
- State University of New York at Albany, 2014: Advocacy, Science, and Policy Creation
- Cornell University, 2014: Science and Policy of Hydraulic Fracturing
- Ithaca College, 2014: Political Influence of the Environmental Movement

- European Parliament (Brussels) Greens Conference, 2013: Hydraulic Fracturing Science and Policy in the United States
 - New Roots High School Commencement Speaker (Ithaca, NY), 2013: Youth Environmental Leadership and Our Future
 - Skidmore College, 2013: Intersection of Science and Public Engagement around Hydraulic Fracturing in New York
 - State University of New York at Albany, 2012: Government Policy and Hydraulic Fracturing
 - State University of New York at Purchase, 2012: Emerging Science and Hydraulic Fracturing
 - Cornell University, 2009, Undergraduate Research: Maple Trees, Climate Change Impacts, and Sugar Maple Production
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Other Professional Experience

Frack Action, Environmental organization founded to successfully prohibit fracking in NY 2011 – 2016

- Communications Director and Legislative Strategist for a long-term public education and political campaign that won a ban on hydraulic fracturing in New York State.
- Registered lobbyist in New York State; led dozens of meetings with state legislators and agencies.
- Organized many educational forums, rallies, and other political events of up to 3,500 attendees.
- Worked extensively and served as an issue spokesperson in the media, including the Associated Press, Bloomberg, The Guardian, New York Times, NPR, Politico, Reuters, USA Today, Washington Post, and state-based news.
- Collaborated with scientists and health professionals on scientific education and writing materials that translated findings to be accessible for elected officials and the public.
- Lobbied and organized on fracking and clean energy issues in Washington D.C., Maryland, Ireland, England, and with other national and international partners.

Energy Action Coalition, Washington, D.C.

Jan. 2011 – April 2011

- Northeast Organizing Director for the Power Shift 2011 National Youth Summit on clean energy.
- Engaged with the Environmental Protection Agency, including EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, on clean air standards.

Natural Resources Defense Council, Portland, ME

Nov. 2010 – Dec. 2010

- Coalition Leader for a campaign during the lame-duck session of Congress to organize medical professionals to successfully engage Maine U.S. Senators Snowe and Collins to pledge to protect the Clean Air Act in Congress.

CREDO Action, Palo Alto, CA

Aug. 2010 – Nov. 2010

- Field Office Director for a successful voter-education campaign about Proposition 23, winning on a ballot initiative to protect California's landmark 2006 climate legislation.
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