

CARA CLASE

ENERGY & HOUSING POLICY RESEARCHER

South Jersey / Greater Philadelphia | cmclase93@gmail.com

www.caramclase.com

PROFILE & RESEARCH SPECIALIZATION

I am an energy and housing insecurity researcher committed to advancing equitable outcomes for underserved communities through impactful, socially grounded research. With a strong foundation in urban policy and economics, I have training in both quantitative and qualitative research methods. My professional experience spans academic and non-academic settings, including policy research labs, nonprofits, and mission-driven organizations. My areas of expertise encompass energy insecurity (fuel poverty), low-income housing, and unsheltered homelessness.

- **Dissertation:** *"A Tale of Energy-Burdened Cities: Connecting the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit to Energy Insecurity"*
-

LANGUAGES

English Native
Spanish Classroom Study/Reading

PROGRAMS / SOFTWARE

Advanced STATA, Excel, Qualtrics
Proficient SAS, ArcGIS Pro

EDUCATION

Urban Affairs and Public Policy, Ph.D. *Jun. 2023*
University of Delaware, Newark, DE

Economics, M.A. *Dec. 2017*
University of Delaware, Newark, DE

Economics, B.A. - Mathematics Minor *Dec. 2015*
Millersville University of Pennsylvania, Lancaster, PA

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE (Last 6 Years)

2023-Present Professional Specialist - C-PREE, Princeton's School of Public and International Affairs
Professional Specialist at Princeton University's Center for Policy Research on Energy and the Environment (C-PREE). I supervise student research projects and lead research communications for the center.

2018-2023 Policy Research Assistant - Biden School of Public Policy, University of Delaware
Research Assistant for the Center of Community Research and Service at the Biden School of Public Policy. I worked on projects concerning unsheltered homelessness, the opioid epidemic, and post-COVID financial hardship. I conducted literature reviews, policy brief writing, survey design and dissemination, data cleaning, and econometric/regression analysis.

- 2020-2022 Sustainability Council Graduate Fellow - University of Delaware**
Graduate fellow working for the Chair of the University of Delaware's Sustainability Council. I collected campus-wide sustainability data/metrics and drafted white papers on relevant sustainability topics for consumption by upper University administration. Was one of the leading authors of the University of Delaware's Sustainability Plan (report can be seen [here](#)).
- 2019 Yale University Environmental Fellow - Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis**
2019 Fellow working under Yale University's Environmental Fellowship Program (EFP). The program assigned each fellow a nonprofit/organization to work for during the summer. My placement was with the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis in Cleveland, Ohio, where I conducted research on the Puerto Rican energy crisis and coal-powered electricity in the Midwest.
-

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

- 2023-Present Energy Insecurity Research Consultant (Freelance)**
Independent consultant offering professional research services to nonprofits and initiative-driven organizations centered around energy insecurity and/or housing affordability. I utilize my background in quantitative analysis and policy research methodologies to help organizations bridge the gap between complex data/information and the practical application of this information to improve charitable impact.
- 2020-Present Outreach and Communications Assistant - Foundation for a Healthier Senegal (*pro bono*)**
Communications and outreach assistant for FOHSEN: a health-centered, Senegalese nonprofit. I am currently leading FOHSEN'S solar power initiative for the construction of their maternal ward in Nganda. I am also the designer and author of the annual impact brief (2022 brief can be seen [here](#)).
- 2021-2024 Director of Grants and Partnerships - South Jersey Regional Animal Shelter**
Principal grant writer and leader of strategic partnership development. I created P.A.L.S., i.e. "Pets and Assisted Living Services." It's a program that brings shelter animals to senior living facilities for mutual enrichment and stimulation for pets and senior residents. I work with the Community Outreach Director to help with local advocacy and assistance programs for low-income pet owners. Authored shelter's first Impact Brief (2021 brief can be seen [here](#)).
-

PUBLICATIONS & MANUSCRIPTS

MANUSCRIPTS

Clase, C. (IP). Wealth or Weatherization?: Analyzing the Effectiveness of Cash Assistance Versus Home Weatherization when Alleviating Energy Burden in the United States.

Clase, C. (IP). A Tale of Energy Burdened Cities: Connecting the Low Income Housing Tax Credit to Energy Insecurity.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

DeLorme, L., Clase, C. (2016). Can Dynamic Withdrawals Influence the Decision to Delay Social Security Benefits? The Retirement Management Journal, 6(1), Practitioner Issue.

REVIEWED BY ABSTRACT

Clase, C. (2019). Making a Difference in Energy Equity and Investment. Environmental Grant Makers Association Journal, 30th Anniversary Issue.

PROFESSIONAL REPORTS & ARTICLES

Metraux, S., Poppe, B., Clase, C. & Rayl, M. (2020). Local Responses to Unsheltered Homelessness: A Landscape Scan and Review of the Literature. Washington DC: Arnold Ventures, LLC.

Pressman, S., Clase, C. (2015). Social Security No Ponzi Scheme. Albany Times-Union.

PRESENTATIONS

Clase, C., A Tale of Energy-Burdened Cities: Connecting the Low Income Housing Tax Credit to Energy Insecurity. New Horizons in Conservation Conference, Yale University, May 2023.

Clase, C., A Tale of Energy-Burdened Cities: Connecting the Low Income Housing Tax Credit to Energy Insecurity. DENIN Environmental Research Symposium, University of Delaware, April 2023.

Clase, C., A Fork in the Road: The Diverging Policy Pathways to Rural vs. Urban Energy Security in the U.S. Freddie Mac Rural Research Symposium, Virtual, November 2022.

Clase, C., A State of Darkness: Analyzing Contributing Factors to the 2021 Power Outage of Texas. Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Austin, TX, November 2021.

Clase, C., A State of Darkness: Analyzing Contributing Factors to the 2021 Power Outage of Texas. New Horizons in Conservation Conference, Virtual, April 2021.

Clase, C., et al. Opioid Overdoses and Medicaid: Mapping the Data. Geographic Information Systems Conference, University of Delaware, Newark, DE, November 2019.

Clase, C., Red Fish, Blue Fish?: Working on Energy Issues in a Swing State. Environmental Grantmakers Association's Fall Retreat Conference, Napa Valley, CA, September 2019.

GRANTS & AWARDS

GRANTS

Innovation Grant, The Graduate College, Univ. of Delaware, Rocking the Vote Policy Conference (\$9,000, Canceled due to COVID) 2020

Community Engagement Grant, Univ. of Delaware, Rocking the Vote Policy Conference (\$1,500, Canceled due to COVID) 2020

Environmental Fellows Alumni Travel Grant, Environmental Fellows Program, Environmental Grantmakers Association Winter Briefing, San Juan, PR (\$3,000) 2020

FELLOWSHIPS

Dissertation Fellowship - Univ. of Delaware	<i>2022-2023</i>
Equity and Inclusion Fellowship - Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management)	<i>2022</i>
Environmental Fellowship Program - Yale University	<i>2019</i>
Research Fellowship - American Institute for Economic Research	<i>2015</i>

AWARDS

Ford Dissertation Fellowship Alternate & Honorable Mention (Ford Foundation)	<i>2021</i>
Raffel Endowment for Excellence and Opportunity Award (Univ. of Delaware)	<i>2019</i>

SERVICE

Communications & Outreach Asst., Foundation for a Healthier Senegal, Remote	<i>2020-Present</i>
Sustainability Council Graduate Representative, University of Delaware	<i>2022-2023</i>
Biden School DEI Working Group Member, University of Delaware	<i>2020-2021</i>

CERTIFICATIONS

Human Subjects Protections Certification, CITI	<i>2020-2024</i>
Community-Engaged Research Certification, CITI	<i>No Expiration</i>

AD HOC PEER REVIEWING

Nature Energy	<i>2024-Present</i>
---------------	---------------------

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management	<i>2020-Present</i>
United States Association for Energy Economics	<i>2023-Present</i>