

# CARA CLASE

ENERGY POLICY RESEARCHER

South Jersey / Greater Philadelphia | [cara.clase@princeton.edu](mailto:cara.clase@princeton.edu)

[www.caramclase.com](http://www.caramclase.com)

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## PROFILE & RESEARCH SPECIALIZATION

I'm an Energy Insecurity and Material Hardship researcher bridging the gap between the pursuit of knowledge and impact. Interested in policy-driven work, my goal is to use my quantitative and econometric background to help energy and sustainability-centered organizations improve the energy and environmental outcomes of underserved communities. I have experience working in both academic and non-academic spaces: I have worked in fast-paced policy research labs, and I have also done grant, partnership development, and community outreach work for nonprofit and initiative-driven organizations. Areas of expertise include urban affairs, urban energy insecurity, utility assistance, and low-income housing.

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

English Native  
Spanish Classroom Study/Reading

## PROGRAMS / SOFTWARE

Advanced STATA, Excel, Qualtrics  
Proficient SAS, ArcGIS Pro

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## 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

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## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE (Last 5 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 lead and supervise MPA research projects, research communications, and community outreach.

*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.
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## 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.
- 2021-Present **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](#)).
- 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](#)).
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## 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.

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## 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.

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## 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**

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| 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**

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

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## **SERVICE**

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| 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>    |

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## **CERTIFICATIONS**

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

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## **AD HOC PEER REVIEWING**

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| Common Grounds Research Network, The Sustainability Journal Collection | <i>2020-Present</i> |
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## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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