

Growing up at the Sharon Audubon Center and immersed in folk music about environmental protection, I developed an interest in environmental issues. But, it wasn't until I joined Envirothon at Housatonic Valley Regional High School in 2005 that I found my passion for ecology, soils in particular. And while I am still fascinated by the history contained in each and every soil, it was in the current Issues, climate change, which we studied in depth for the 2006 nationals in Manitoba, Canada, and clean renewable energy, for which my team took first place at nationals in 2007 in Geneva, NY, that I found a sense of purpose that has driven the rest of my career.

I received a full-scholarship to attend Worcester Polytechnic Institute where I wanted to focus my studies on transitioning communities to renewable energy through efficiency, renewable energy, and smart, transit-oriented development that wouldn't gobble up more prime farmland and valuable soils. I dual-majored in civil engineering with a focus on urban planning and environmental policy and development with a focus on system dynamics and heterodox economics. After college, I went on to complete an architecture and engineering-based Master's in Sustainability in the Urban Environment at the City College of New York.

Having a strong foundation in ecology and an understanding of systems, has given me an exceptional ability to analyze processes and see the bigger ecosystem that results in things we experience today. I have used these skills in my professional career in building energy management to look critically at energy data and understand the systems and processes that result. Knowing why a soil crumbles the way it does, or why certain trees are growing where they are, isn't so different from noticing the sound of a building's air handler running more strongly than it should or noticing and getting to the bottom of why some areas of a building are hot while others are chronically cold.

Currently, I am a strategy manager at Con Edison, New York City's largest utility, supporting the design and development of building energy efficiency and heating electrification programs. I am also pursuing an MBA part-time at Johns Hopkins University. I'm proud that I can tell my three young daughters that I go to work each day working to fix climate change and that one day, when they're ready, they can help too