

James Salmon

APPLIED ECONOMIST • ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL ECONOMICS

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SUMMARY

PhD candidate in Applied Economics at the University of Wisconsin–Madison (expected May 2027), specializing in energy, environmental, and natural resource economics. My work spans academic research, energy markets, and public policy. Skilled in applied econometrics, large-scale spatial data analysis, primary data collection, and communicating economic findings to government, industry, and nontechnical audiences.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Applied Econometrics • Policy & Program Evaluation • Energy Market Analysis • Environmental & Natural Resource Economics • Spatial Data Analysis • Primary Data Collection • Stakeholder Communication • R • Excel/VBA

EXPERIENCE

Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District | Madison, WI

Sep 2023 – Dec 2025

Lead Research Assistant — lead economic analyst, USDA-funded study

- Served as lead economic analyst on a multi-year, USDA-funded regional conservation study evaluating the financial viability of sustainable agricultural practices across Wisconsin farms.
- Led field-based data collection capturing cost, labor, operations, and soil-health data; built and managed the full data pipeline and ran all analysis in R.
- Redesigned the analytical framework to account for yield, cost, and management variation across diverse farm systems, increasing the study's relevance to conservation-incentive policy.
- Delivered findings through written reports and presentations to USDA and NRCS officials, local agencies, and academic stakeholders, informing the design of conservation incentives.

University of Wisconsin–Madison | Madison, WI

May 2021 – Aug 2023

Research Assistant

- Supported research and editorial work across natural-resource economics and Indigenous land governance, contributing to peer-reviewed publications and competitive grant proposals.
- Managed data cleaning, descriptive statistics, and exploratory econometric analysis in R.

ENGIE | Leeds, UK

Jun 2018 – Apr 2019

Energy Intelligence Analyst

- Analyzed energy-market operations data across UK demand-side response programs using Python, Excel, and internal databases to support client reporting and grid-compliance obligations.
- Served as liaison between internal market teams and commercial energy clients, translating analysis into performance insights that supported client participation in National Grid balancing services.
- Automated manual data-compilation workflows with Python and Excel VBA, cutting multi-hour processes to minutes and significantly reducing the team's recurring operational workload.

Solo Energy Ltd. | Kirkwall, UK

May 2017 – Jun 2018

Project Analyst

- Continued MSc research into an applied energy-systems role with Solo Energy, supporting the planning and rollout of distributed battery storage in Orkney.
- Modeled energy flows and storage impacts in Excel-based simulations, analyzing wind generation and demand profiles to test the feasibility of local energy self-sufficiency.

- Selected to prepare the MP’s briefing for a constituency debate on renewable energy, drafting a data-informed brief outlining key arguments and anticipated rebuttals.

RESEARCH

- **Job market paper:** The Effect of Land Fragmentation on Green Infrastructure Development in Rural America (with Sarah Johnston and Dominic Parker).
- Understanding the Relationship Between Voter Behavior and Green Investment.
- Evaluating the Impact of the Net Zero Energy Transition on Property Values.

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin–Madison Madison, WI Ph.D. in Applied Economics	May 2027
University of London, Birkbeck College London, UK Graduate Diploma in Economics	Jun 2020
University of Edinburgh Edinburgh, UK M.Sc. in Carbon Management, School of Geosciences	Aug 2017
University of Edinburgh Edinburgh, UK B.Sc. with Honors in Theoretical Physics	May 2016

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Statistical & Data Analysis:** R, Python, Excel (including VBA)
- **Geospatial Analysis:** QGIS, ArcGIS
- **Productivity:** Microsoft Office (Word, PowerPoint, Outlook)

AWARDS

Graduate Fellowship, University of Wisconsin–Madison