

# Anitra Conover



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[anitraconover.github.io](https://anitraconover.github.io)



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## EXPERIENCE

### Evaluation Assistant for Climate Programs, Hennepin University Partnership

January 2026 - Present

- Refine grant application processes to improve accessibility and application completion rates.
- Revise program design and reporting procedures to better meet community needs.

### Leadership and Civic Engagement Assistant

September 2025 - Present

- Co-develop constructive conflict curriculum that leverages Journey Mapping and Community Capitals Framework to support rural communities facing uncertainty and transition.

### Ruckelshaus Fellow, Meridian Institute

August 2023 - July 2025

#### The AGree Coalition: a bipartisan alliance transforming food & ag policy

- Supported the design and coordination of in-person Coalition meetings, which propose bipartisan, science-based policy to bolster conservation outcomes and farm profitability in the US. Topics included agricultural data, crop insurance, and diversified farming systems.
- Drafted key strategy frameworks including the first 100 days of action following a presidential transition and policy priorities for advancing accurate, equitable climate reporting.
- Monitored bills relevant to the Coalition's key focus areas, including legislation that received Coalition endorsement.
- Managed key communications with USDA leadership, including the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture and the Federal Crop Insurance Board.
- Led the revision of the membership engagement strategy and facilitated a collaborative process for selecting new Coalition members.

#### Convenings

- Managed a full-day convening between financial institutions, researchers, and funders to collaboratively develop a multi-year research agenda advancing finance and insurance solutions for risk-resilient conservation agriculture. The research agenda from this convening *led to an RFP that The Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability and the Environmental Defense Fund collectively pledged \$200,000 to support. The research from this RFP will allow industry leaders to empirically justify the development of conservation-focused financial products and programs.*
- Coordinated a full-day closed meeting for representatives at USDA and White House Climate Policy Office to discuss climate disclosure with representatives from food and beverage companies. Attendees engaged in the discussion through open Q&A sessions and curated roundtable dialogues. Insights from this convening *established the project's Climate Policy Priorities for the next 15 months and inspired investors to launch a new project focused on quality standards for GHG models.*
- Supported a full-day strategy meeting with 13+ funders representing family foundations, NGOs, and government agencies. The meeting resulted in an itinerary for a field visit, *an adjusted approach to engaging coalition members, and new priorities for the next grant cycle.*
- Organized a full-day meeting for agricultural conservation leaders to track the shifting landscape of U.S. agricultural data initiatives. Attendees identified key use cases for agricultural data and are pursuing funding to establish an alliance that further advocates for improved conservation ag data management across agencies.
- Managed a full-day convening to develop financial solutions that better support risk-reducing conservation practices. Producers, conservationists, crop insurance providers, and data scientists identified opportunities for key reforms within agricultural data systems, private crop insurance, and the USDA Federal Crop Insurance Program. The insights from this convening *established the project's crop insurance strategy for the next 4 years.*

## Project Management

- Drafted concept notes for additional governing bodies and new coalitions to share with funders.
- Tracked grant deliverables and collected documentation for grant reporting.
- Supported the fundraising process by editing the narrative section of the grant proposal, revising proposed deliverables, and drafting a concept note requesting supplemental grants from additional funders. The two-year \$2.6 million grant proposal, which requested \$500,000 more than the previous grant, was approved in full by a team of family foundations.
- Created a comprehensive, streamline 2-year strategy of interconnected activities to efficiently achieve deliverables.
- Developed an agenda and managed a \$10,000 budget for a 10-person strategy retreat in Washington DC. Led finance and expense reporting for airfare, accommodations, venue, guest speakers, and meals.

## Full-time Service Member, AmeriCorps

September 2022 - August 2023

- Supported the City of Winooski's community gardening program, which included 160+ plots cultivated by 50+ gardeners, including many New Americans, across 5 separate gardening sites and one greenhouse. Duties included registering new gardeners, tagging assigned plots, digitizing garden maps, and regularly repairing garden beds.
- Organized online registration portals and secure eight speakers for the Great Decisions program, where diplomats, authors, and academics are invited to discuss articles published by the Foreign Policy Association with local community members.
- Supported International Visitor Programs in collaboration with the U.S Department of State.

## Laboratory Technician, UVM Agricultural and Environmental Testing Lab

June 2022 – August 2022

- Prepared plant matter samples for total carbon and total nitrogen analysis.
- Tested water samples for total suspended solids as well as total nitrogen.
- Tested soil samples for both organic matter and nitrate.

## Research Assistant, UVM Nutrient Cycling and Ecological Design Lab

January 2022 – May 2022

- Used R and Excel to analyze county-by-county NuGIS data on phosphorus use across the U.S.
- Identified key phosphorus runoff hotspots, breakpoints, and linear correlations both above and below break points.

## Research Assistant, UVM Global Studies Department

January 2021 – August 2021

- Evaluated Vermont Foodbank's Food Box Delivery Program for migrant farmworkers (available upon request).
- Analyzed 200 completed surveys to draft a [report on food insecurity](#) amongst New Americans in the Greater Burlington Area during COVID-19.
- Wrote a \$20,000 grant proposal on behalf of AALV Refugee Resettlement Services (which was approved in full).

## New Farms for New Americans Intern, AALV Refugee Resettlement Services

June 2020 – December 2020

- Conducted an internal program evaluation of the interpreting services department.
- Compiled a meta-analysis of food security surveys conducted amongst New Americans in the Greater Burlington Area during COVID-19.

## Research Assistant, Tulane University

(June 2020 – August 2020)

- Compiled a literature review on disaster management in Asia so the university could develop a new graduate curriculum for Global Disaster Management.

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## EDUCATION AND AWARDS

University of Minnesota Twin Cities | M.S. Geographic Information Science | 2025 - Present

University of Vermont Honors College | B.A. Global Studies | 2018 – 2022

Research focus on International Food Politics, Agrarian Policy, and Sustainable Food Security

- Finalist for the Bill Emerson National Hunger Fellowship 2023
- Benedict Prize for Top Student Essay in International Affairs 2022
- Global Studies Top Scholar Award 2022
- Presenter at the Universities Fighting World Hunger Conference 2022 discussing my [thesis](#) on improving food programming for resettled refugees
- Effective Thesis Exceptional Research Award Commendation Prize 2022 recognizing [theses](#) around the globe that can make the world a better place