

Thomas C. Gifford

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in LinkedIn

Education

Colorado State University <i>Ph.D. in Economics</i>	<i>Aug 2021 – May 2026 (expected)</i>
University of Denver <i>M.A. in Economics</i>	<i>Aug 2019 – May 2021</i>
Colorado College <i>B.A. in Economics</i>	<i>Aug 2014 – May 2018</i>

Research Areas

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- Primary: Applied Microeconomics, Environmental Economics, Behavioral Economics
 - Secondary: Clean Energy Policy, Public Policy, Development

Submitted Manuscripts

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- *Range Anxiety, Charging Infrastructure, and Electric Vehicle Adoption in Washington State* (with Edward Barbier), R&R at *Sustainability*
 - *The Role of Charging Infrastructure and Income on Electric Vehicle Adoption* (with Edward Barbier)

Working Papers

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- *Long Term Effects of Large Wildfires on Tourism Spending in Colorado* (with Edward Barbier and Jude Bayham)
 - *Fire and Water: Long Term Economic Impacts of Wildfire on Local Drinking Water Quality*

Works in Progress

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- *Effectiveness of State Incentive Programs at Increasing Electric Vehicle Adoption: A Behavioral Perspective*
 - *Understanding the Effects of Legalized Mobile Sports Betting on Mental Health* (with Luke Maddock)

Invited Talks and Conference Presentations

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- 2025:** 72nd Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International (Denver), Western States Graduate Workshop (Ft. Collins), Brown Bag Seminar (Colorado State University) x2, University of Wyoming and Colorado State University Joint PhD Research Seminar (Ft. Collins), Front Range Energy Camp (Boulder)
- 2024:** 94th Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association (Washington D.C.), Western States Graduate Workshop (Salt Lake City), Center for New Energy Economy Research Team Presentation (Denver), Brown Bag Seminar (Colorado State University)
- 2023:** Western States Graduate Workshop (Colorado State University), Brown Bag Seminar (Colorado State University)
- 2022:** Western States Graduate Workshop (Salt Lake City)

Reports

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- **2025:** "Battle scars: trends in wildfire size and impact across Colorado" with Edward Barbier. Regional Economic Development Institute (REDI) Monthly Report, March 2025.

Teaching Experience

Primary Instructor

- **2024-2025:** ECON 202: Principles of Microeconomics (x6); Colorado State University
 - Designed and delivered lectures, created assignments, and evaluated student performance.
 - Led multiple large sections of Principles courses, overseeing 200–350+ students while ensuring efficient, accessible, and equitable instruction.

Teaching Assistant

- **2021-2024:** Principles of Microeconomics (x6), Behavioral Economics (x2); Colorado State University
 - Led recitation sessions, provided grading support, and assisted students during office hours.

Guest Lectures

- **ECON 316: Behavioral Economics** (Fall 2023), Colorado State University Delivered two lectures covering hyperbolic discounting, the role of salience in decision making, and the endowment effect.
- **ECON 101: Economics of Social Issues** (Fall 2024), Colorado State University Gave a guest lecture on the legalization of sports gambling and its potential effects on young people.

Professional Memberships and Skills

North American Regional Science Council, American Economic Association, Southern Economic Association, American Clean Power Association, Solar Energy Industries Association

- **Coding:** R, Stata, L^AT_EX

Honors, Grants, and Awards

2025: Finalist for the Stephan Weiler Award for Research Excellence in Regional/Rural Development

2025: Diana Wall Sustainability Leadership Fellowship, School of Global Environmental Sustainability, Colorado State University.

2024: Ozawa Graduate Scholarship - Department of Economics, Colorado State University

2021-2024: Graduate Teaching Assistant - Department of Economics, Colorado State University

2024-2026: Graduate Teaching Instructor - Department of Economics, Colorado State University






2019-2021: College of Liberal Arts Graduate Scholarship, University of Denver

Professional Experience

2022-Present: Center for New Energy Economy: Graduate Research Intern

- Assist in preparing, organizing, and running the Clean Energy Legislators Academy, an annual bipartisan forum for state legislators to share best practices and insights on promoting clean energy.
- Research energy legislation nationwide and help write policy briefs on a variety of energy-related policies.
- Help maintain the SPOT and Tracker databases, public tools to track energy legislation across states.

Media

- *Why wildfires are getting larger, more unpredictable in Colorado*, **CBS4 Denver**, feature interview, September 2025. [Link](#) 
- *Report finds Colorado wildfires are larger, more frequent and increasingly unpredictable*, **Denver7**, TV segment, August 2025. [Link](#) 
- *Colorado wildfires are bigger, burning faster*, **Colorado Public Radio (CPR News)**, featured as expert, August 29, 2025. [Link](#) 
- *Report: Colorado wildfires bigger, more frequent*, **Kiowa County Press**, interview, August 2025. [Link](#) 
- *Colorado wildfires have become larger, more unpredictable*, **The Source at CSU**, feature interview, August 2025. [Link](#) 

References


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