

Profile

Gregory

First Name

R

Middle Initial

Quetin

Last Name


 Email Address


 Home Address

Suite or Apt

Olympia

City

WA

State

98506

Postal Code


 Primary Phone


 Alternate Phone

Question applies to multiple boards

Advisory committees are a structured way for individual community members to share their opinions and perspectives, study issues, and develop recommendations in a focused small group. Their primary purpose is to provide judicious advice, from a community member's perspective, to the Olympia City Council.

Committee activities may include study of critical issues, hearing public testimony, independent research, and reviewing staff reports and recommendations - all of which is intended so that the committee is prepared to discuss, formulate, and forward well-developed, thoughtful recommendations to the City Council in a timely manner.

The City of Olympia values participation from all perspectives and life experiences and looks for equity and inclusion in advisory board appointments.

To reduce barriers to community member participation, beginning April 1, 2021, the City will offer stipends of \$25 per meeting attended to Advisory Committee members. Those members who certify as low income are eligible to receive stipends of \$50 per meeting attended. Advisory Committee members may waive the stipend upon request.

Applications are accepted for the calendar year only. The Olympia City Council's General Government Committee recommends appointments to the full Council. Recommendations are made following review of applications and interviews of qualified candidates.

The City of Olympia is committed to the non-discriminatory treatment of all persons in employment and the delivery of services and resources.

Questions? Contact Susan Grisham, Executive Assistant, 360.753.8244, sgrisham@ci.olympia.wa.us

If you saved or submitted an application and did not receive a confirmation, please check your spam folder.

When filed with the City, your application and attachment documents are public records and may be subject to public release.

 Post Doctoral Climate
 Researcher

Occupation

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Planning Commission: Submitted

Question applies to multiple boards

If you applied for multiple boards or commissions, please rank them in order of interest below.

N/A

Select Your Neighborhood (you must live within Olympia City limits to serve on a board or commission) *

Bigelow Highlands

If you choose "other" please write in your neighborhood here:

Interests & Experiences

Question applies to multiple boards

Please keep answers concise and informative. You are introducing yourself to the Olympia City Council and sharing with them why you are interested in being considered for appointment. Olympia residency is not required; however, it is a primary consideration. You may attach a resume.

Question applies to multiple boards

1. Briefly describe why you wish to serve on this advisory committee.

I wish to serve on the planning commission to help shape Olympia's path in confronting the age of climate change. From parking to the comprehensive plan, Olympia needs to make decisions that are designed to carry us forward for decades, but we can get to work on today. We are facing radical change due to COVID, a changing economy, and a changing climate. With clear eyed planning we can harness that change to build a happier more human focused community and leave no one behind. I am excited to use my technical experience in climate and engineering to serve the city, while always staying humble and keeping in mind that the City of Olympia is foremost a human endeavor in building and maintaining a community.

Question applies to multiple boards

2. Describe your experience, qualifications, and/or skills which would benefit this advisory committee.

I currently work as a researcher in climate science, particularly the interaction of the biosphere and the climate. In addition, before leaving to pursue my PhD I spent five years working as a mechanical engineer. Through my climate research and education, I have deep knowledge of one of the major challenges that will shape Olympia's planning for the coming decades, and which demands massive change in so many aspects of how the city is organized and operates. Though I am not a city planner, at this point in my career I am a professional learner, and I am comfortable digging into the technical details of planning and the data that will help guide our decisions about the future. In addition, I am well versed in communicating detailed information to different audiences in ways that are digestible and engaging.

Question applies to multiple boards

3. Describe your involvement in the Olympia community.

After moving to Olympia two and a half years ago I have been active with Olympians for People Oriented Places and the Thurston Climate Action Team. In particular celebrating the launch of The One bus line across town and advocating for the adoption of financing ordinances at the County level that will allow for deep retrofits of commercial buildings. I am also an avid walker and biker in the community.

Question applies to multiple boards

4. List your educational and professional background and area of study.

For the last three plus years I have been a remote postdoctoral researcher at Stanford University (3 years) and the University of California Santa Barbara. Masters and PhD in Atmospheric Sciences from the University of Washington Five years as a mechanical engineer at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory Bachelors of Science in Aeronautics and Astronautics Engineering from the University of Washington

Question applies to multiple boards

5. Appointment to this committee will require your attendance at evening meetings. How many hours per month are you willing to commit as a volunteer?

30

Question applies to multiple boards

6. If you are not appointed to this committee at this time:

Question applies to multiple boards

6a. Do you wish to be considered for appointment to another advisory committee?

Yes No

Question applies to multiple boards

6b. Do you wish to be considered for future appointment to this committee?

Yes No

Question applies to multiple boards

6c. Would you be willing to volunteer for other City activities?

Yes No

Question applies to multiple boards

If you answered yes to 6a, please identify what other Advisory Committees you would be interested in being considered for in order of interest.

N/A

Question applies to multiple boards

7. Some appointments require that applicants reside within Olympia city limits. Even though your mailing address may be Olympia, you may reside in the County or another jurisdiction. Are you a resident of the City of Olympia?

Yes No

Question applies to multiple boards

8. Appointees to advisory committees are assigned and required to use a City email address for all advisory committee business.

Do you agree to comply with this expectation?

I Agree *

Question applies to multiple boards

9. How did you learn about this advisory committee recruitment?

City of Olympia Email

[Queting_AcademicCV_OnePage_v3.0.pdf](#)

Upload a Resume

Question applies to Planning Commission

10. In your own words, what is the role of an Olympia Planning Commissioner?

The role of an Olympia Planning Commissioner is to review city plans and make sure that they best serve the community of Olympia, the future of Olympia, and the comprehensive plan for Olympia. As an Olympia Planning Commissioner, I would look for ways to support the work of the city staff as well as advise them – and the City Council – to be bold in addressing issues related to climate change, people oriented places and transportation, and affordable housing.

Question applies to Planning Commission

11. What interests you most about community planning?

I am interested in the delight and serendipity of human interactions and community. Community planning is the technical scaffolding that supports a family being able to bike downtown for a picnic on the waterfront, a business being able to receive deliveries efficiently, and every resident feeling confident that they have a safe place to call home. I enjoy and am predisposed to think about the technical details, how wide a street needs to be, about how to prepare for climate change with limited resources, or how to harness public and private resources to make sure everyone is housed. However, I am most interested in how those technical details support making a happier and more welcoming city for all.

Question applies to Planning Commission

12. What skills would you bring to the work of the Planning Commission and what do you hope to learn?

I bring a deep knowledge of climate change and skills in the interpretation and analysis of complex data. In addition, I have had experience advocating for safe streets in both Seattle and Olympia. I hope to learn more about the many layered process of planning and the internal challenges and opportunities in the City of Olympia itself. More broadly I am excited to learn more about my broader community and its people while serving.

Question applies to Planning Commission

13. Have you ever taken a Short Course in Local Planning, read an OPC packet or attended a meeting?

I have attended multiple Olympia City Planning Commission meetings.

14. What is your knowledge of the City's Comprehensive Plan and how it relates to planning?

I have studied both the housing and transportation plans of the City of Olympia along with references therein of population growth targets and transportation (primarily vehicle miles traveled) goals. I realize that the Comprehensive Plan broadly defines by how much and where Olympia plans on adding housing and jobs which provides broad goals when planning the city.

Gregory R. Quetin



EDUCATION

PhD, Atmospheric Sciences

University of Washington – 2017

Masters, Atmospheric Sciences

University of Washington – 2015

Bachelors of Science in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering

University of Washington – 2007
Minor in Physics

ACTIVITIES

Co-Founder

Science by Design (Present)

Ignited collaboration across science and design departments through on-going workshops to highlight the need for compelling scientific communication that pivots on storytelling.

Climate Expert

School of Art + Design: Information Design Class – 2014 & 2016

Consulted on the development of curriculum, as well as subject critic for students as they learned to visualize data with accuracy.

Research Assistant - Marine Biology U.S. Antarctic Program – 2004

Three-month deployment to Palmer Station, Antarctic Peninsula.

CONFERENCES*

Oral Presentation, Invited

*American Geophysical Union
Fall Meeting – 2017*

Oral Presentations, Selected

*European Geophysical Union
Annual Meeting – 2019*

*American Geophysical Union
Fall Meeting – 2019*

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of California Santa Barbara *Postdoctoral Researcher*

January 2021 – Present

Stanford University *Postdoctoral Researcher*

February 2018 – December 2020

Investigation into the carbon cycle and climate change with data assimilation and satellite observations in the Remote Sensing Ecohydrology Lab.

Key Accomplishments

- Advanced the assessment of the global terrestrial carbon cycle by contrasting a new data assimilation approach - systematically constraining simple models with observations - to more complex, but unconstrained, Earth system models
- Attributed changes in the carbon cycle to human CO₂ emissions using a new century long estimate of the past carbon cycle with an observationally constrained carbon cycle model.

University of Washington *Graduate Research Assistant*

September 2012 – December 2017

Quantified the sensitivity of vegetation to climate variation across the globe using satellite observations and climate reconstruction in the EcoClimate Lab.

Key Accomplishments

- Supported the creation of a unique, interdisciplinary lab that led to new research on the coupling of atmospheric sciences and ecology on the global climate system.
- As the first graduate student in this lab, helped establish enduring lab principles and authored two peer-reviewed papers.

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, CalTech *Mechanical Engineer Lead*

August 2007 – July 2012

As a mechanical team member - and subsequently, trusted team lead to 6 reports - designed, fabricated, and managed the delivery and integration of calibration mechanisms and optical assemblies for ground breaking, multi-spectral imaging spectrometers.

Key Accomplishments

- Grew an existing team through empowering members as individuals, while increasing quality of product and delivering multiple, deployable instruments still in use today.
- Designed instrumentation for CalTech Submillimeter Telescope in Mauna Kea, Hawaii and installed it onsite.

SELECTED PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS*

Quetin, G. R., Bloom, A. A., Bowman, K. W., & Konings, A. G. (2020). Carbon Flux Variability from a Relatively Simple Ecosystem Model with Assimilated Data is Consistent with Terrestrial Biosphere Model Estimates. *Journal of Advances in Modeling Earth Systems*.

Quetin, G. R. and Swann, A. L. S. Sensitivity of Leaf Area to Interannual Climate Variation as a Diagnostic of Ecosystem Function in CMIP5 Carbon Cycle Models. *Journal of Climate* 31, 8607–8625 (2018).

Quetin, G. R. and Swann, A. L. S. Empirically Derived Sensitivity of Vegetation to Climate across Global Gradients of Temperature and Precipitation. *Journal of Climate* 30, 5835–5849 (2017).

* For full list of peer reviewed publications and conference presentations, please visit www.gregoryrossquetin.com