

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School for Environment and Sustainability

Tony G. Reames, assistant professor of environment and sustainability, School for Environment and Sustainability, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of environment and sustainability, with tenure, School for Environment and Sustainability

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2014	University of Kansas, Public Administration
M.E.M.	2007	Kansas State University, Engineering Management
B.S.	2002	North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, Civil Engineering

Professional Record:

2016– present	Assistant Professor, School for Environment and Sustainability, University of Michigan
2014–2016	Presidential Post-doctoral Fellow, School for Environment and Sustainability, University of Michigan
2006–2010	Instructor, College of Arts and Sciences, Military Science Program, University of Missouri-Kansas City

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Reames has an excellent teaching and mentoring record. His teaching approach fosters critical thinking, collaborative learning and service learning. He teaches students about sustainability in the built environment with a strong focus on social and environmental justice and equity, and is constantly adjusting his courses based on students' feedback and CRLT recommendations. Professor Reames' teaching portfolio consists of two graduate level courses that have received generally good evaluations from students. Green Development is an interdisciplinary survey course that is cross listed with the Taubman College and the Ross School. After the course's first offering, Professor Reames' adjustments based on student input moved evaluations from good to excellent. As this course involves field trips and a multidisciplinary team capstone project, the shift to online instruction due to COVID caused evaluations to dip.

Professor Reames' energy justice course was developed based on his own research program and covers equity and justice issues regarding energy access, affordability, and sovereignty. The latter has also stimulated several master's projects, five energy-justice-related master's theses and dissertation research for several PhD students. Testament to Professor Reames' excellence in teaching is his three nominations by students for the SEAS Outstanding Teaching Award. Professor Reames also has an excellent mentoring record both in terms of quality and quantity. He has graduated one PhD student, who won a Fulbright scholarship to conduct research in Chile and is currently a Presidential Post-doctoral Fellow at Arizona State University. Professor Reames has also advised nine MSc. thesis students (three as co-advisor). Currently he is advising two PhD students and four MSc. thesis students (one as co-advisor). In addition, he has supervised three undergraduate honor theses. The mentoring of master and undergraduate students has resulted in four peer-reviewed publications, two submissions and two papers currently in preparation for publication. Professor Reames also served on one master's thesis committee and four PhD committees, two of them as an external member in universities abroad (University of Manchester and University of British Columbia), suggesting that his expertise in energy justice is being recognized internationally. Finally, Professor Reames also has contributed significantly to the SEAS professional master's program by advising five master's projects (two as co-advisor). Other mentoring

roles include two Graham Dow Sustainability Fellowship Projects and two Michigan Sustainability Cases, with one project receiving the “Inclusivity” Galaxy Case Award for 2020, and the other resulting in a peer-reviewed publication.

Research: Professor Reames works is interdisciplinary, tackles real world problems and engages communities in efforts to solve these problems. His research spans theoretical and applied work, draws from a variety of traditional academic disciplines, and engages constructively with both local communities and state and national policymakers. In light of the SEAS culture, his work is an excellent example of a portfolio that aligns with and advances SEAS’ mission. Professor Reames’ primary field is energy justice, which is an emerging interdisciplinary field that applies justice principles to the energy sector, broadly conceived. Professor Reames’ work evaluates and seeks to resolve disparities and inequitable access within the energy sector. Professor Reames’ research goes beyond simple identification and description of existing disparities to provide insights and concrete suggestions on how to resolve them. Recent publications have begun to bridge the fields of energy justice and public health to better understand the underlying complexities and co-factors that can impact marginalized communities. Professor Reames’ work contributes to defining and shaping the field of energy justice. The reception of recent publications, evidenced by numerous invited talks and high-profile service engagements, indicate that he is emerging as a thought leader in the field.

Professor Reames has published 24 articles in well-respected journals across a variety of fields. Two thirds of these articles were published within the last three years, showing an accelerated rate of productivity. He has also co-edited two forthcoming volumes that synthesize and contribute to setting the research agenda for the energy justice field. In addition, he has authored a number of reports and editorial contributions. Professor Reames has published in high impact journals for energy policy and justice. According to Google Scholar as of January 14, 2022, Professor Reames’ work has been cited 645 times, with an h-index of 12 and an i10-index of 14. Nine of the journal articles that have been published in the last five years have garnered at least 30 citations, indicating that his work is being recognized by the scholarly community.

Professor Reames’ research program is supported by a diversity of funding sources, with total funding of over \$3M. This level of funding is exceptional for an individual at this stage in his career. Professor Reames has received grant support from large federal agencies (NSF, DOE, NIH) including as the PI of a recent \$2.1M grant from the NSF Smart and Connected Communities program. He has also received funding from the State of Michigan, prominent philanthropic foundations (e.g., Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Joyce Foundation, The Energy Foundation), and private firms (Walker-Miller Energy Services). He also has several internal University of Michigan grants. He has been able to support three Ph.D. students and over 30 research assistants. His funding portfolio has a good mixture of projects in which he has taken the lead as the PI and collaborations in a co-PI capacity, indicating both intellectual leadership on large projects and the capacity to be a strong and sought-after collaborator.

Professor Reames has received a variety of awards and recognition from both academic and public sectors. He was selected as a fellow for the prestigious Harvard JPB Environmental Health Fellows program, has been designated as visiting scholar by the University of Pennsylvania, and has been recognized by several 40-under-40 lists in popular press outlets. He is a sought-after speaker for both academic and public policy organizations, and has given 36 invited talks, five keynote addresses, and 16 guest lectures.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Reames, T.G., Daley, D.M. and Pierce, J.C., 2021. Exploring the Nexus of Energy Burden, Social Capital, and Environmental Quality in Shaping Health in US Counties. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 18(2), p.620.

- Bednar, D.J. and Reames, T.G., 2020. Recognition of and response to energy poverty in the United States. *Nature Energy*, 5(6), pp.432-439.
- Reames, T.G., 2016. Targeting energy justice: Exploring spatial, racial/ethnic and socioeconomic disparities in urban residential heating energy efficiency. *Energy Policy*, 97, pp.549-558.
- Reames, T. G., Reiner, M. A., & Stacey, M. B. (2018). An incandescent truth: Disparities in energy-efficient lighting availability and prices in an urban US county. *Applied energy*, 218, 95-103.
- Forrester, S. & Reames, T.G. (2020). "Understanding the residential energy efficiency coverage gap and market potential for alternative financing." *Applied Energy*. 260, 114307.
- Raissi, S., & Reames, T. G. (2020). "If we had a little more flexibility." perceptions of programmatic challenges and opportunities implementing government-funded low-income energy efficiency programs. *Energy Policy*, 147, 111880.

Service: Professor Reames' service has been extensive for someone at his rank. Within SEAS, Professor Reames has served on various standing and faculty search committees, as well as the Anti-Racism Initiative Faculty Search Committee. University-wide, he served on the Advisory Committee for the University Library Council, served as a grant reviewer for the Graham Sustainability Institute and the Poverty Solutions Initiative, in addition to serving as mentor, advisor and facilitator for a number of student organizations and faculty initiatives.

Professor Reames' service extends outside of the school to participation in numerous committees, an editorial board and other professional activities; an engaged scholar with an exemplary record of outreach and engagement. Engagement with local communities is an intrinsic part of Professor Reames' research program. In addition to using research methods that rely heavily on engagement with local communities, Professor Reames has frequently accepted invitations to speak at local libraries and community events. Professor Reames' work has received substantial media coverage in national, regional, and local outlets, including NPR, *Ebony Magazine*, *Vogue*, *US News*, *Grist*, *Earther*, *Yale Environment 360*, *Planet Detroit*, *Bridge Magazine*, and *Energy News Network*.

Professor Reames' societal impact and reputation is evidenced by a number of appointments to government positions and advisory boards to promote energy equity and inclusion. He has also been invited to provide Congressional testimony on "Generating Equity: Improving Clean Energy Access and Affordability." He has also served in a variety of capacities for state and local governments, including Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, the governor's Climate Justice Braintrust, and several other relevant State of Michigan and Detroit advisory boards. The impact of his research and engagement has been recently recognized by the federal government through his appointment as a senior advisor for energy justice at the Department of Energy. High-profile appointments by national and state governments are a clear indication of Professor Reames' growing national profile and commitment to public engagement.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "In terms of the quality of his research and writing, it is exceptional and highly impactful. With degrees in engineering, management and public administration, Dr[.] Reames shines a new, intersectional light on the relationship(s) between environmental justice and social vulnerability; energy justice and energy security, and smart and connected communities. But it is his leading role, internationally, in the development of a new social science research agenda around energy justice that is most impressive as a junior scholar."

Reviewer B: "In a nutshell, Dr. Reames's [sic] work is ground breaking. In a nascent interdisciplinary field that often seems filled with scholarly 'noise,' Dr. Reames has, in a very short time, established himself as a masterful and dominant voice that is advancing the field... Dr. Reames's [sic] work is of an

extraordinary value to the academy—both in the United States and abroad—and his work will prove critical to the shaping of the nation’s future energy system.”

Reviewer C: “In terms of professional standing, Professor Reames is at the top or very near the top. Within academic circles, he has received several prestigious awards and fellowships, particularly Harvard University’s JPB Environmental Health Fellows program, an NSF grant for US\$2.1 million to advance his research (as lead PI), and grants from the Sloan and Energy Foundations. In the last year alone he has been invited to be co- PI on four external grants with different scholars; I can only interpret this as evidence that he is well regarded among his colleagues who are eager to collaborate with him.”

Reviewer D: “Professor Reames’s [sic] program of research has served as a foundational pillar in the emergence, consolidation, and recent rapid growth of the field of energy justice research and in the application of that research to federal energy policy... The quality and breadth of Professor Reames’s [sic] research and professional work are outstanding, and they are making crucial contributions to the theory and practice of just energy transitions.”

Reviewer F: “Tony Reames is a star in every way: he has achieved a great deal already and shows evidence of much more down the road. It is always a pleasure when you review the work of a scholar you had not been following closely and realize what you have been missing... Indeed, you are lucky to have him – and I can imagine that others have recognized that and are interested in him as well.”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Reames has built an extremely strong portfolio of engagement activities that help translate his scholarly work into real world impact. In addition to increasing the awareness of policy makers and the general public about household energy disparities, Professor Reames is actively working to improve energy equity, access, and inclusion at a variety of levels from local communities to the national government. Considering his scholarly work in its entirety, Professor Reames has developed an outstanding record, and I expect that he will continue to serve as a valued colleague and make important contributions to the mission of SEAS and the University of Michigan. I strongly recommend Tony G. Reames for promotion to associate professor of environment and sustainability, with tenure, School for Environment and Sustainability.



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