

## **Statement of Purpose**

Many motivations frame my reasoning for seeking a graduate degree in Environmental Studies. Climate change and sustainability place high on my list. One may travel back many years and could easily discern the level of neglect in these areas, which has placed us in the position we presently find our planet. Climate change is real; sustainability is necessary. I earnestly believe that through an elevation of my knowledge and expertise in this field, I may intentionally engage in meaningful activities to affect change, and to collaborate with others to ensure that change. I believe my journey on this path began when I became a Master Gardener 12 years ago, and came to the realization of the importance of soil as it is the foundation from which much begins. My understanding and altered behavior were further advanced by continued viewings of the documentary, "Kiss the Ground".

As more attention is being visited upon climate change and environmental issues, more opportunities are becoming available in this area of study. And, it is my sense that a graduate degree would certainly make markedly greater one's opportunity to achieve and hopefully be adequately compensated for employment in which they enjoy a high level of passion. Simply put, getting paid for something you love doing. And, on another note, following this career path could indeed benefit our individual sustainability.

Another major object of interest for me with respect to an advanced pursuit of environmental studies is the interconnectedness of working with others. In my job as Manager of the Sustainability Garden, I have the good fortune of working with a lot of students. Their areas of study include botany, engineering, social psychology, statistics, nursing and a host of others. I often aspire to utilize this opportunity to make them aware of their chosen path and the interconnectedness with what we are attempting to achieve through our gardening activities and practices.

Under the umbrella of environmental studies, many viable career paths exist with respect to research, renewable energy, biodiversity, conservation, climate change, sustainability, and policy issues, statistics and more. And, I would welcome the challenge and the opportunity to achieve a graduate degree in environmental studies to cement my place in making change.