

Application Related Information

Application:	Application Verified	Iteration Name:	202610_GR_G
Grad Program Applying To:	MES	Program Name:	MES

Recommendation Information

Recommended By:	Joshua Porter	Recommenders Title:	Sustainability Pathways Director
Recommenders Institution:	Western Washington University	Contact Name:	Lily Storbeck
Waive Access to Recommendation Ltrs:	I choose to waive my right to review this recommendation.	Recommendation Waiver Choice:	
Recommendation Form Submitted:	✓	Recommendation Status:	Received
Received Date:	03/08/2025 04:48 PM	Recommender Assessment:	I recommend this applicant.
Recommendation Type:	General	Recommender Form:	Letter of Recommendation
Recommendation Entity ID:	1024000121857158	Recommendation Owner:	Josephine Bernier

Recommender Form Questions

How long have you known applicant:	Applicant ability as self-directed learner:
Time since last contact with applicant:	Applicant as productive member of group:
Relationship with Applicant:	Applicant most significant strengths:
Ability to complete rigorous grad program:	Responsibility/reliability:
Communication Skills - Oral:	Communication skills - written:
Service Orientation-sensitivity/empathy:	Ability to work independently:
Ability to handle stress:	Ability to think critically:
Ability to analyze/problem solve:	Ability to think creatively:
Openness to feedback:	Potential for leadership:
Ability to work in a team:	Personal/professional reflection:

Description Information

Description:	Form URL:	https://evergreenstatecollege.radius
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Other Information

Created Time:	02/24/2025 12:06 PM	Created By:	Josephine Bernier
Modified Time:	03/08/2025 04:48 PM	Modified By:	Josephine Bernier



516 High Street
Bellingham, Washington 98225

Graduate Admissions Committee
Master of Environmental Studies Program
Evergreen State College

March 7, 2025

Dear Committee Members,

It is my pleasure to be writing this letter in support of Lily Storbeck's application for the Master of Environmental Studies (MES) program at the Evergreen State College (TESC). As a Greener myself ('96) I am well aware of the interdisciplinary and experiential potential that Evergreen programs offer. As the Sustainability Pathways Director in the College of the Environment at Western, I have had the benefit of working with Lily while she completed an intensive 11-week fellowship in the Methow Valley during the Summer of 2023. Based on Lily's accomplishments in her combined professional practicum with the City of Okanogan Planning Department and the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation, and her performance in the Sustainability Planning Studio course, I offer my strongest recommendation for Lily in your MES program.

Lily is highly motivated, capable of managing complex projects, and holds herself and her work to very high standards. During her Sustainability Pathways fellowship, she applied her GIS skills to produce a tree plan for the City of Okanogan, and simultaneously applied her urban planning skills to help advance a project proposal for the Methow Salmon Recovery Foundation. Both projects required navigating multiple partners, extensive independent work, and assessing how to produce proposals to meet dynamic project goals and needs. This also required time and project management skills, which she further developed in her collaborative group project for the Sustainability Planning Studio course. This course essentially offers students the opportunity to develop project management skills on needed community projects sponsored by local organizations. As part of an interdisciplinary team, Lily's group researched models of seed libraries from around the United States to make recommendations to a local library for a seed library model that could meet their criteria for the local context and community needs. Essentially performing like sustainability project consultants, Lily's team delivered a well refined report and presentation that has resulted in the manifestation of a seed library available to Methow Valley residents in the Twisp Public Library today.

At the core of our learning goals in the Sustainability Pathways program is supporting students in developing and applying systems thinking skills to address complex sustainability challenges. I found Lily to not only excel in critical analysis, and professional communication and writing, but she has a drive for collaborative work that I am confident she will leverage in her intended research in environmental and agricultural policy. Altogether, I give Lily my highest recommendation for participation in the MES program. Lily has the academic talent and demonstrated experience to not only succeed in a graduate program, but to also contribute positively to a broader cohort of graduate students. Thank you in advance for your careful consideration of Lily's application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JP", is placed above the typed name.

Joshua Porter, Sustainability Pathways Director
College of the Environment
Western Washington University