



Joel Howrani Heeres

Director, Community Resilience

Position with Firm

2022–present **Director, Community Resilience.** Cultivates relationships with clients and partners to develop strong, climate-resilient communities. Works with local, state, and national organizations to develop climate, sustainability, and environmental justice strategies rooted in best practices and informed by data. Facilitates meetings, supervises staff, and provides strategic counsel.

Previous Professional Experience

2017–2022 **Director, Office of Sustainability, City of Detroit, Detroit, Michigan.** Provided strategic consulting, project planning and management, and performance metrics to departments, the mayor, and associated agencies. Established staff culture and expectations for the first office of sustainability for the city, built relationships, and developed Detroit’s first sustainability strategic plan through extensive engagement, data-driven analysis, and responding to Detroiters’ needs.

2015–2017 **Director of Open Data and Analysis, City of Detroit, Detroit, Michigan.** Developed and implemented the Open Data Strategy by working with city departments to develop better data management, sharing, and collaboration using various technical tools. Engaged with staff departments, partners, and the Open Data Advisory Committee to ensure the data would be accessible and usable for all Detroiters.

2014–2015 **Principal Supervisor, Performance Center, DTE Energy, Detroit, Michigan.** Developed and implemented metrics-based continuous improvement plans and a collaborative problem-solving culture with gas service centers throughout the state by developing real-time indicator dashboards and workload planning tools. Supervised 12 individual contributors responsible for workload planning and scheduling company-generated work. Advised on the first corporate sustainability report for the company.

2010–2014	Director of Sustainability Planning, EcoWorks/WARM Training Center , Detroit, Michigan. Led sustainability and climate action planning processes in ten communities in Southeast Michigan, including community engagement, metrics development, greenhouse gas assessment, and strategic planning. Developed and delivered Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) technical assistance to over 40 Southeast Michigan municipalities. Organized and managed development of the Detroit Environmental Agenda.
2010	Data Analyst, Data Driven Detroit . Detroit, Michigan. Conducted database creation, data analysis, geographic information system (GIS) mapping, and project management.
2009	Green Initiatives Assistant, Office of Detroit City Council President , Detroit, Michigan. Researched and wrote Detroit's EECBG, managed Green Task Force meetings and subcommittees, and interacted with clients and stakeholders.
Education	<p>University of Michigan, BA in Economics and Anthropology (dual degree)</p> <p>University of Michigan, MA in Teaching</p> <p>University of Michigan, MS in Environmental Policy and Planning</p> <p>University of Michigan, MA in Urban Planning</p>

Activities

- Member, Advisory Committee, Sustainable Business Network of Detroit, 2022–present
- Member, Michigan Advisory Council on Environmental Justice, 2020–present
- Member, Eastside Community Network Climate Advisory Committee, 2020–present
- Member, Detroit Equity Council, 2020–2022
- Member, Wayne State University Transformative Research in Urban Sustainability Training (T-RUST) Advisory Board, 2018–present
- Fellow, Detroit Revitalization Fellows Program, Wayne State University, 2015–2017
- Participant, Urban Land Institute of Michigan Larson Leadership Program, 2012–2013
- Affinity Group Leader, Uprooting Racism, Planting Justice, 2009–2015

Certifications

- Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, American Society for Quality
- American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP), American Planning Association
- Associate Certified Data Management Professional, DAMA International
- Project Management Professional (PMP), Project Management Institute
- Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Associated Professional, Green Building Certification Institute