

LEONARD & SANDY SARGENT EVST GRADUATE FELLOW

2023-24

August Guenther

August Guenther was born and raised on an organic vegetable farm in Western Wisconsin. There he developed a deep passion for sustainable agriculture and the environmental systems that are intertwined with farming. As August grew up, he discovered that the vast majority of people are disconnected from the foods they eat and the environmental systems that we all rely on. This understanding inspired August to turn his passion for sustainable agriculture and the planet into a career.

In 2019, August graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire with a bachelor's degree in Physical Geography, which afforded him the opportunity to learn about a wide variety of earth systems and processes that impact agriculture. During this process, August developed an interest in climate change studies and a deep concern for the lack of climate action in the world around him. More specifically, a concern for the impact climate change poses to current agriculture systems and the need for our society to change the way we farm and eat.

In 2021, August completed a masters degree in Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security from the National University of Ireland in Galway. While spending a year in the beautiful country of Ireland, August explored the intersection between his two research interests, and learned more about the complexities of climate change and agricultural systems on a global scale. However, due to the coronavirus pandemic, August felt like he was unable to fully engage with his peers, faculty and research, prompting him to explore the possibility of completing a second masters program.

Having grown up taking yearly family road trips to Montana and falling in love with its mountainous landscapes, and having spent a summer in Missoula before completing his undergraduate degree, August decided to further his education at the University of Montana.

As the 2023-2024 Leonard and Sandy Sargent Environmental Studies Graduate Fellow, August plans to study the intersection between climate change and sustainable agriculture with the goal of finding practical climate solutions for Montana farmers.

