MASHA VERNIK

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SUMMARY

PhD student specializing in climate change, agriculture, and food systems with a well-rounded skillset in customer engagement, communications, data analysis & visualization, and remote sensing & GIS.

SELECTED PROJECTS

Carnation Farms | Analysis & Reporting
May 2025 – Present

Conducted soil test analysis and co-authored material for Carnation Farms' 2024 Impact Report, highlighting the effects of regenerative agriculture practices on soil health, biodiversity, and rotational grazing. Contributed to maps illustrating field-scale soil health trends. Continuing contributions toward the 2025 Impact Report.

American Prime Sustainable Solutions | Customer Engagement
Nov 2024 – June 2025

Launched a pilot program with five oilseed farmers to advance product development of CropMap, a satellite-based crop monitoring platform. Managed recruitment, onboarding, and feedback collection to guide product design.

University of Washington | Workshop Organizing
Jan – Sept 2024

Organized the D4 Hackathon: Disasters, Demography, Disparities, and Decisions, convening interdisciplinary researchers to integrate social and environmental data for climate adaptation decisions. Managed project timeline, participant recruitment, and agenda development for 30+ participants and organizers.

NASA Transform to Open Science | Data & Communications
March – Nov 2025

Led the creation of an online data science tutorial as part of NASA TOPS ScienceCore Heuristics for Open Science Outcomes in Learning (SCHOOL) program, teaching students how to use global climate datasets to calculate precipitation & temperature variability for a given location.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Public Justice Food Project | Sr. Communications & Organizing Coordinator
Oct 2020 – Aug 2023

Led strategic communications to promote community-based litigation for a just food system, producing written and visual content across blogs, email campaigns, and social media. Executed press campaigns by building press lists, writing press releases, and pitching stories to journalists. Represented organization in multiple food justice coalitions.

Committee to Elect Quinton Zondervan | Campaign Manager
Sep – Nov 2019

Successfully executed Cambridge, MA City Councilor's re-election campaign by executing political strategy, communications, and field operations. Managed the candidate, a field organizer, eight paid canvassers, and dozens of volunteers.

Local Roots Farm; Bumblebee Farm | Farm Crew
Summers 2019, 2024, 2025

Conducted daily farm tasks to produce organic vegetables in the Snohomish Valley, WA, including planting seeds, transplanting seedlings, harvesting vegetables and herbs, laying irrigation lines, and delivering produce.

EDUCATION

University of Washington | M.S. & PhD Environmental Sciences
Sep 2023 – 2025

Studies the factors that influence how farmers adapt to climate change, using a mix of methods including qualitative interviews, survey analysis, modeling, and remote sensing. Relevant Papers:
- Resilience in Diversity: Seed Selection & Climate Adaptation Among Organic Farmers in WA
- Exploring the relationship between land access and perceived adaptive capacity to climate change among organic farmers in the United States: A Bayesian modeling approach

Boston University | B.A. International Relations, Minor in Biology
Sep 2015 – May 2019

KEY SKILLS

Hard Skills: GIS, R, Python, Google Earth Engine, Data analysis, Data visualization, Bayesian modeling
Soft Skills: Communications, Project Management, Relationship Building & Collaboration
Languages: Russian (fluent), Spanish (advanced)