



RYAN PRICE

Matched with
Environmental Working Group



Ryan's Story

I've spent my career at the intersection of public policy and climate action, serving in the White House, advancing climate policy for leading nonprofits, and supporting New York City's Chief Climate Officer.

Over time, my interests broadened from climate policy alone to the moral questions surrounding our relationship with the broader living world and other animals. Watching footage from inside modern factory farms forced me to confront a reality I had previously understood only in the abstract. It became impossible to think about animal agriculture solely as an emissions problem. Since then, I've become convinced that the climate movement cannot fully live up to its aspirations without addressing the harms of industrial animal agriculture. For a movement rooted in compassion and stewardship, relegating the animal question to the margins is increasingly difficult to justify.

I'm motivated by a belief that conscience can reshape society, and that moral progress depends on people becoming willing to see what they once overlooked and to act on it. Through this fellowship, I hope to advance policies that reduce the harms of factory farming for people, animals, and the planet. I believe the environmental movement's story is still being written, and that one of its next chapters must reckon with industrial animal agriculture.

The Proposed Project

At the Environmental Working Group, I will support the development of a range of data and policy projects, including mapping toxic algae blooms from agriculture, publishing policy analysis, helping build capacity for state-level climate-smart agriculture legislation, and identifying opportunities to redirect public funding away from costly and often overlooked structural support for industrial animal agriculture. This work is especially timely amid a rapidly changing environmental policy landscape. With federal priorities continually shifting, and states continuing

to serve as important laboratories for policy innovation, rigorous analysis today can help ensure that future policy debates are grounded in transparent evidence rather than hidden costs.

The work will help reveal the extent to which current policy support for industrial animal agriculture is embedded structurally through upstream feed subsidies, conservation capture, manure infrastructure financing, and downstream cleanup costs. This creates a situation where taxpayers subsidize both production and remediation simultaneously. The Environmental Working Group is uniquely suited to improving transparency around environmental externalities, subsidies, water pollution, economic concentration, and whether public dollars are ultimately aligned with public health and climate goals.

The Potential Impact

Increasing transparency around the full costs of industrial animal agriculture is an essential step toward building a healthier, more accountable food system. Many of the industry's largest costs remain diffuse or largely invisible to both policymakers and the public, including water pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, public health impacts, and taxpayer-funded subsidies. By making these costs more visible, Ryan and the Environmental Working Group hope to strengthen the case for reforms that better align public spending with the public interest.

Over time, this work will help shift policy away from subsidizing environmentally damaging production and toward food systems that better protect people, animals, and the planet. More broadly, the project aims to improve public understanding of the true economics of industrial animal agriculture, helping create the political conditions for lasting reform. By making those hidden costs visible, this work seeks to give policymakers and the public the information needed to make more informed, and ultimately more humane, choices.