

# Ricardo Magallon

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## SUMMARY:

Ricardo is a well-rounded Systems Thinker that has extensive experience with sustainable management practices, programs, and policies in local government, LEED green building practices, and sustainability data analysis, strategy implementation and reporting. Ricardo holds dual BS Degrees in Biology and Environmental Science, an MS in Environmental Management, was honored by GreenBiz and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development as one of the [2018 30 Under 30](#) working in Sustainable Business, and is a University of Chicago [2022 Civic Leadership Academy fellow alum](#). He currently works as the Air Inspection Division Manager for Cook County's Department of Environment and Sustainability and is an Adjunct Professor at the Illinois Institute of Technology where he teaches Industrial Ecology and the Circular Economy.

## WORK EXPERIENCE:

### Manager, Air Inspection Division

**October 2020 – Present**

#### Cook County Government, Department of Environment & Sustainability – Chicago, IL

- Supervised and coordinated a team of 9 environmental engineers and technical support personnel responsible for permitting and inspecting over 9,000 stationary sources of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, Criteria Pollutants, and Hazardous Air Pollutants in Suburban Cook County.
- Advised Department Head regarding policies and ordinances related to air quality, sustainability, and pollution based on current and emerging science, regulation, and standards. Drafted ordinance and policy language that supported County-wide pollution prevention, GHG emission reduction, waste diversion from landfill, environmental justice, and other environmental issues.
- Established and directed Cook County's Businesses Reducing Impact on the Environment (BRITE) Program, a \$10M American Rescue Plan funded voluntary Pollution Prevention assessment and grant program for businesses operating within Suburban Cook County. Assisted with application for \$200M in Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) funding and was invited to join the Industry Working Group for CMAP's ongoing Chicago Metropolitan Statistical Area climate action plan

### Green Operations Specialist

**December 2017 – October 2020**

#### San Francisco International Airport – San Francisco, CA

- Developed data collection methodologies to capture and quantify environmental attributes (ie waste and GHG emission tonnages) from Airport tenant business practices. Information was used to develop major environmental regulations such as the Airport's nationally recognized compostable foodware ordinance, [ban on plastic water bottles](#), and further supported the Airport's annual [Climate Action Plan](#).
- Managed SFO's Construction & Demolition (C&D) Debris Management Program for over 16 capital construction projects at the airport to ensure each project achieves San Francisco's minimum 75% diversion rate from landfill. SFO diverted over 30,000 tons of debris in FY 17/18 with a total debris diversion rate from landfill of 96.8%.
- Co-authored SFO's Green Cleaning Policy which mandates that 85% of all cleaning products purchased must be environmentally certified by a third party (ie EPA Safer Choice, SF Approved, etc.).

### Sustainability Specialist

**January 2017 – September 2017**

#### San Francisco International Airport – San Francisco, CA

- Developed and implemented SFO's Green Business Program for the Airport's 180+ tenants and generated program metrics/environmental attributes to determine water and energy savings, greenhouse gas inventory and/or Life cycle assessments (ie carbon dioxide equivalent reductions), and solid waste diverted from landfill.
- Conducted waste survey throughout SFO's terminal Material Recovery Areas that determined 65% of waste material surveyed going into SFO's landfill compactors contained compostable products. This information was published in SFO's [2018 Zero Solid Waste Plan](#).

### Laboratory Manager/Sustainability Consultant

**April 2014 – August 2015**

#### UDM Medical Services – Oklahoma City, OK & San Francisco, CA

- Identified, researched, and recommended the implementation of an Environmental Management System (EMS) using ISO 14001 criteria standards with the goal of reducing medical waste by 20%
- Conducted QA/QC procedures on laboratory equipment daily to monitor consistency of chemical testing.

**Climate Science Writer**  
**Field Museum – Chicago, IL**

**October 2012 – November 2013**

- Wrote and edited summaries of scientific articles for the Museum's bimonthly newsletter related to global climate issues such as deforestation, industrial pollution, and endangered species as well as climate solutions such as advances in renewable energy, decarbonization practices and technologies, and climate policies.
- Engaged with local stakeholders, such as NGO's and government entities, on Chicago area environmental initiatives that developed nature-based solutions to sequester carbon.

**EDUCATION:**

**MS in Environmental Management**

**May 2016**

University of San Francisco - San Francisco, CA

Master's Project – *Water Conservation Techniques in Agriculture: Application to California's Agricultural Cotton Industry.*

- Conducted a comparative analysis of agricultural water conservation methods to determine how California farmers could save water and money when growing cotton – a California cash crop industry worth \$2 billion.
- Discovered drip irrigation to be the best conservation practice as it reduces water usage to grow cotton by 70%.

**BS in Biology, BS in Environmental Science, Minor in Bioethics**

**May 2013**

Loyola University Chicago - Chicago, IL

Aquatic Research Fellowship - *Abundance of Invasive Asian Clams (*Corbicula fluminea*) in an urban and rural watershed.*

- Quantified the abundance and health of *C. fluminea* (Invasive Asian Clams) throughout urban and rural freshwater rivers and streams and extensively developed and analyzed field and laboratory data to reveal that *C. fluminea* is most dominant in urban watersheds over rural watersheds
- Theorized that *C. fluminea* was spreading further north due to the warming effects of climate change in the Midwestern region of the United States.

**ADDITIONAL SKILLS/KNOWLEDGE:**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • Environmental Economics                 | • Environmental Chemistry & Engineering                        |
| • Environmental Law & Policy              | • LEED Green Associate Credential                              |
| • Geographic Information Systems (ArcGIS) | • Emotional Intelligence/Crucial Conversations/Behavior Change |

**INDEPENDENT RESEARCH, TRAINING, AND HONORS:**

Industrial Water, Waste, and Sewage Group Steering Committee Member

**2022 - Present**

- *The Industrial Water, Waste & Sewage Group's purpose is to create and provide a networking and educational forum for its members regarding a broad range of environmental issues focused primarily on the Chicagoland area, but also on Illinois and the country.*

UChicago Civic Leadership Academy Fellow

**2022**

- *The Civic Leadership Academy (CLA) is an interdisciplinary leadership development program for emerging and high-potential leaders in nonprofit organizations and local government agencies within the City of Chicago and Cook County.*

2018 GreenBiz 30 Under 30 Honoree

**2018**

- *Honored internationally by the GreenBiz and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development for developing and implementing a terminal-wide waste study at SFO that revealed 65% of landfill generated at the airport is compostable.*

Principles of Sustainable Management Course at Presidio Graduate School

**2015**

- *Educated on the United Nations Sustainable Development goals and how to apply the concept of "systems thinking" to discover leverage points in organizations that would allow for the successful implementation of sustainable management programs, practices, and policies.*

Marine Observer Training in Kodiak, AK

**2013**

- *Received biological identification, compliance, and survival training as a marine observer by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game.*