

Kelsey Ryan-Simkins followed passions for food and agriculture, social justice, and theology to Columbus and discovered the work of Ohio IPL through these interests.



Before moving to Ohio, Kelsey facilitated ecojustice educational workshops and a permaculture-based youth leadership program at The GrowHaus, a nonprofit urban farm Denver, CO. During this time, Kelsey completed a Permaculture Design Certificate, which has inspired her to think about the ways we learn from patterns in the environment around us.

After moving to Columbus, Kelsey studied practical theology with a concentration in ecology and justice at the Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO). Kelsey is now a PhD student in the School of Environment and Natural Resources at Ohio State. Her research explores how religion, spirituality, and deeply held values inform engagement with environmental justice and food justice.

Whenever possible, Kelsey enjoys getting her hands in the dirt at Seminary Hill Farm and Franklinton Farms and cooking the beautiful vegetables that these farms produce. She and her husband are members of Columbus Mennonite Church.