Summer 2021 Indiana Resilience Cohort Extern

The City of Gary seeks a highly motivated student to assist with the development of a climate action plan in the summer of 2021. Completing a climate action plan provides communities with a strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to climate change impacts.

The successful applicant will be hired as an Indiana Sustainability Development Program extern through Sustain IU, Indiana University’s sustainability office. The extern will participate in the IU Environmental Resilience Institute’s Resilience Cohort, along with other Indiana governments developing climate action plans. The extern will work with the Department of Environmental Affairs and Green Urbanism and receive on-the-job training from ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability on how to analyze the results of a greenhouse gas inventory using ClearPath, a cloud-based inventory software, and develop strategies to reduce emissions.

The extern will learn a replicable skill and gain valuable experience in greenhouse gas analysis, emissions reductions planning, and working in local government. They will also develop technical and project management skills beneficial to a career in climate science, policy, environmental management and related fields.

About the City of Gary: Gary sits along the southern shore of Lake Michigan, approximately 30 miles southeast of Chicago. The city is located in a highly-industrialized region where pollution has acutely damaged the quality of air, land, and water. Despite the effects of historical pollution, Gary still a hot for biodiversity within its unique freshwater dune and swale ecosystems, oak savannas, and wetlands. Once named the City of the Century and The Magic City Gary has since become a victim of economic instability following the decline of the steel industry, disinvestment, and white flight over the last 60 years. Roughly one in five properties in Gary is abandoned, so blight mitigation is a substantial focus of municipal operations and community engagement. Gary is also building its capacity as a regional transportation hub. The range of transport modes within its boundaries (road, rail, air, and water) present an assortment of opportunities to balance growth with emissions management and will offer a robust emissions accounting exercise. The city is crafting a sustainability plan and has committed to reducing its GHG emissions by at least as much as the US Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement. In 2019, a baseline emissions inventory was completed. To move forward a climate action plan is needed to establish emission reduction and climate adaptation goals. The Green Urbanism department leads this charge and is committed to sustainable economic growth, blight elimination, and ambitious emissions management.

Responsibilities

- Engage with community members and stakeholders to receive input and feedback
- Promote opportunities for the public to engage with plan development
- Communicate with government agencies, industries and local government officials to develop actionable emissions reduction goals
- Utilize Microsoft Excel and ClearPath to execute moderately complex data analysis
- Synthesize inventory analysis into actionable policy and program recommendations
Participate in regular Resilience Cohort webinars and conference calls
Assist in drafting a climate action plan
Assist with other sustainability projects and others depending on time and interest
Attend a 4-day bootcamp training, hosted by Sustain IU and the Environmental Resilience Institute, May 2021.

Qualifications
- Prior quantitative coursework or research experience, preferably in a discipline applied to sustainability such as environmental science, environmental management, engineering, chemistry, or environmental economics
- Experience manipulating data using spreadsheets
- Experience summarizing research in reports and presentations
- Ability to follow detailed and technical instructions
- Enthusiastic about greenhouse gas management and reduction
- Effective written communication, especially for a public audience
- Exemplary verbal communication, including speaking publicly
- Self-motivated, proactive, and flexible with careful attention to detail
- Ability to prioritize and manage multiple ongoing tasks

Preferred Skills
- Experience in evaluating the environmental impact of products, activities, and systems
- Experience creating professional reports

Application Process
Applicants should submit the online application for ISDP, uploading a resume and cover letter. Applicants interested in the City of Gary extern position should indicate so on their application. The application deadline is April 30, 2021.

Compensation
Compensation will be in the form of a stipend from Sustain IU. The externship will span 10 weeks between May and August. The extern will be expected to work full-time and must participate in a mandatory bootcamp training in May 2021.