Indiana Sustainability Development Program

2021 Indiana Climate Fellow – Goshen Department of Environmental Resilience

The City of Goshen seeks a highly motivated student to assist with the development of implementation programs related to a local government operations climate action plan in the summer of 2021. Implementation programs focused on solar capacity, electric vehicle infrastructure readiness, and energy reduction in waste-water treatment will push related strategies toward fruition. Additionally, assistance on a Community-wide Climate Action Plan will be expected.

Goshen is a small, RV manufacturing city of 33,000 in northern Indiana. Local government and city departments are increasingly taking steps to address environmental and climate change resilience issues that are particular to Goshen. Re-structuring our storm sewer system to eliminate combined sewer overflows to the river, and initiating an urban tree canopy goal are among some projects which the government has recently supported. In the wake of severe flooding in late winter of 2018, the Mayor initiated a Mayoral Environmental Advisory Committee to work at identifying pressing needs, and to research and propose appropriate action. In 2019, Goshen City Council passed a resolution targeting zero emissions by 2035, completed a GHG emissions inventory, and later in the year created the Department of Environmental Resilience. In 2020, Goshen completed a local government operations Climate Action Plan in collaboration with an ISDP cohort. With support from the public, and with continued public education, Goshen is working to become a better steward of resources, in order to benefit our ecosystem and our economy.

The successful applicant will be hired as an Indiana Sustainability Development Program Fellow through Sustain IU, Indiana University’s sustainability office. The Fellow will participate in the IU Environmental Resilience Institute’s Resilience Cohort, along with other Indiana governments implementing climate action plan strategies. The Fellow will work with the Goshen Department of Environmental Resilience.

Jeremy Stutsman
Mayor of Goshen
The Fellow will learn replicable skills 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. The Fellow will also have the opportunity to positively impact the policy and subsequent actions of Goshen’s new Department of Environmental Resilience during its second year of operation. This is a chance to engage with a small city as it seeks to take sustainable responsibility for its energy consumption.

POSITION SUMMARY

The Indiana Climate Fellow will be placed within the Goshen Department of Environmental Resilience and will be responsible for taking the lead on select initiatives and assist with sustainability and climate projects. The Fellow’s duties will include support for:

- Attend the Boot camp May 17 – 21, 2021
- Assist in creation of implementation programs related to Goshen’s emerging Local Government Operations Climate Action Plan, in coordination ISDP Cohort.
- Promote opportunities for the public to engage with development of Community-wide Climate Action Plan
- Engage with community members and stakeholders to receive input and feedback.
- 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

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o Participate in regular Resilience Cohort webinars and conference calls
o Assist in drafting a Community-wide climate action plan
o Assist with other sustainability projects such as public tree inventory, invasive species removal, stormwater/tree canopy education campaign, facility energy audits, and others depending on time and interest

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
• Experience working with Microsoft Office products
• 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
• Ability to work remotely and remain in ready contact with supervisor.

Compensation

Compensation will be in the form of a scholarship through the Indiana Sustainability Development Program. The Fellow will work full time for 10 weeks, beginning approximately May 17 and ending July 23.

Feedback and evaluation

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The Fellow will be given regular feedback from staff on progress and performance. Success in the fellowship will be determined by the completion of specified projects in a professional and timely manner. The Fellow should learn how a city identifies its sustainability priorities, effective principles of communication, and how to develop and maintain professional relationships.

Application instructions

To apply for this position, complete an application on the Sustain IU website. If you have questions about the program or any of the positions available, email Danni Schaut, ISDP Program Manager, at danmcphe@iu.edu. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis (first come, first serve) until Friday, Feb. 19, 2021.

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