



CITY OF GARY

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Summer 2019 Indiana Resilience Cohort Extern

The City of Gary seeks a highly motivated student to assist with a community-scale and local government operations greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory in the summer of 2019. The successful applicant will be hired as an Indiana Sustainability Development Program (ISDP) extern through Sustain IU, formerly the IU Office of Sustainability. The extern will work on a small team within the Department of Environmental Affairs & Green Urbanism and participate in the Environmental Resilience Institute's Resilience Cohort, along with other Indiana municipalities performing GHG inventories. As part of the Resilience Cohort, the successful candidate will receive on the job training to use the greenhouse gas reporting tool, ClearPath, to complete the greenhouse gas inventories. Findings from the inventories will ultimately be disclosed to a climate reporting platform as well as used by the city to set emissions reduction targets. The extern will gain valuable experience in greenhouse gas accounting and working in local government. They will also develop technical and project management skills beneficial to a career in environmental science or policy.

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 local air, land, and water. Despite the effects of historical pollution, Gary is still a hot spot for biodiversity within its unique freshwater dune and swale ecosystems, oak savannas, and wetlands. Once named "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. Accordingly, a baseline emissions inventory is urgently needed to determine existing conditions and set achievable reduction targets. The Green Urbanism Department leads this charge and is committed to sustainable economic growth, blight elimination, and ambitious emissions management.

Responsibilities:

- o Communicate with data holders within and outside of the city government
- o Participate in regular Resilience Cohort webinars and conference calls
- o Identify and categorize emissions sources by sector and scope
- o Collect and compile emissions source data from multiple sources
- o Compile list of in-boundary industrial operators whose associated emissions are lower than the EPA's mandatory reporting threshold and work with them to provide emissions data for inclusion in inventory
- o Utilize Excel and ClearPath to execute moderately complex data analysis
- o Synthesize inventory findings into actionable policy and program recommendations
- o Draft inventory summary report
- o Assist with other sustainability projects such as the establishment of a Green Business Challenge and engagement program, waste minimization projects, urban farm development, and others depending on interest and time.

Qualifications:

- o Prior quantitative coursework or research experience, preferably in a discipline applied to sustainability such as environmental science, engineering, chemistry, or environmental economics
- o Experience manipulating data using spreadsheets
- o Experience summarizing research in reports and presentations
- o Understanding of climate change and the greenhouse gas effect
- o Effective verbal and written communication
- o Self motivated, proactive, and flexible with careful attention to detail
- o Ability to prioritize and manage multiple ongoing projects

Preferred Skills:

- o Familiar with GHG protocols, enthusiastic about greenhouse gas management and accounting
- o Experience in evaluating the environmental impact of products, activities, and systems
- o Experience writing case studies

Application Process and Compensation: Applicants should submit the online application for ISDP, uploading a resume and cover letter. Applicants interested in the Gary extern position should indicate so on their application. The application deadline is February 28, 2019. Compensation will be in the form of a stipend from the Indiana Sustainability Development Program. 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.