Summer 2020 Resilience Cohort Extern
Job Description

The City of Goshen seeks a highly motivated student to assist with the development of a climate action plan in the summer of 2020. 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 Goshen Department of Environmental Resilience 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. The extern will also have the opportunity to positively impact the policy and subsequent actions of Goshen’s new Department of Environmental Resilience during its first year of operation. This is a chance to engage with a small city as it seeks to take sustainable responsibility for its energy consumption.

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. 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.
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 such as public tree inventory, invasive species removal, stormwater/tree canopy education campaign, facility energy audits, and others depending on time and interest
- Attend a 4-day bootcamp training, hosted by Sustain IU and the Environmental Resilience Institute, May 18 – 21, 2020

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

To apply for this position, complete an application on the Sustain IU website, uploading a resume and cover letter. Applicants interested in the Goshen extern position should indicate so on their application. If you have questions about the program or any of the jobs available, email Danni Schast, ISDP Program Manager, at danmcphe@iu.edu. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis (first come, first serve); the final application deadline is Friday, Feb. 28, 2020.

Compensation

Compensation will be in the form of a scholarship 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 boot camp training in Indianapolis May 18 – 21, 2020.