About HIPL

HIPL brings Hoosiers of different faiths, philosophies, spiritualities, and points-of-view together as stewards of creation to promote renewable energy, energy conservation, environmental justice, and energy efficiency, as a response to climate change.

HIPL supports hundreds of congregations and almost 4000 individuals across Indiana. H-IPL focuses on interfaith collaboration and environmental justice, clean energy and energy efficiency, creation care, and advocacy. HIPL has helped upwards of 50 congregations put on solar panels, 75 congregations reduce their energy usage by 25%, through our Using Energy Prudently Program and has helped countless others talk about climate change from the pulpit and engage their membership in advocacy work at the Indiana Statehouse and in Washington, DC. We are working hard to make our communities more resilient in the face of a changing climate and an unequal and unjust distribution of resources.

Hoosier Interfaith Power and Light is an affiliate of the national organization, Interfaith Power and Light. Active in almost 40 states, the IPL campaign is mobilizing a national religious response to global warming while promoting renewable energy, energy efficiency, and conservation.

HIPL is looking to continue our mission-driven work and is implementing a pilot project called ‘Thrive 100 Faith Communities.’ This is a plan to create synergies between the Thrive Indianapolis plan and the earth care goals of Marion County faith communities by helping 100 congregations reduce their energy consumption by 25%. HIPL is looking for an extern in 2020 to implement this pilot program that we look to replicate in other communities across Indiana.

The Thrive 100 Indianapolis Plan has three overarching goals related to climate change. (1) to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 and reduce CO2 emissions from buildings by 25% of the 2016 base year consumption by 2025. (2) Increase community resilience by prioritizing equity in policy, planning and project implementation. (3)Become a visible motivating force for community transformation to a sustainable economy. The Thrive 100 Plan estimates that 2/3 of the CO2 emissions in Marion County are from buildings.

There are 1000 to 1500 faith communities in Marion County. Many have substantial theological commitment to the challenges of Climate Change. This program will initially engage at least 10% of those communities, and it is scalable. Combining the Thrive 100 Indianapolis Plan overarching goals and the theological commitment of Indianapolis faith communities will make a substantial reduction in the carbon footprint of Marion County. An extern would help tremendously with our ability to implement this pilot.

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Job Description

This is a full-time position requiring 40 hours per week, and some flexibility to work a few evenings or weekends during the 10-week work period. The 10-week period will begin in May and end in August 2020. The extern will be required to attend a multi-day bootcamp in May prior to the 10-week work period. Compensation will be in the form of a scholarship through the Indiana Sustainability Development Program.

The ISDP extern will report to and work directly with the Board Chair, Ray Wilson. Hoosier Interfaith Power & Light will provide office space at the H-IPL offices at the Interfaith Interchurch Center. The intern will also work with the two staff members at H-IPL, Dori Chandler and Angie Williford in completing assigned tasks.

The extern will collaborate with staff members and green team/creation care volunteers from congregations across Marion county that agree to participate in the program. The extern may interact with additional board members and other stakeholders as well, including three Marion County H-IPL affiliate groups. H-IPL will work with Energy Stewards, HVAC companies, and others who may be available to the extern as a resource.

Ongoing Evaluation and Feedback

The extern will meet weekly with one or more members of the staff and/or executive board to review progress and discuss issues, timetables and next steps. The participating congregations will be asked to provide feedback and suggestions periodically throughout the 10-week work period.

Specific Tasks

The extern will be responsible to do the following tasks during the sustainability program:

1. Coordinate, engage, and track the Thrive 100 Faith Communities Participating Congregations through a google spreadsheet, email communications, and phone call check-ins with congregations 1x/month or as needed.

2. Creating a google form for the Thrive 100 Faith Communities to sign onto their “Covenant of Commitment” to reduce their carbon footprint by 25% by 2025 and commit to working on common and measurable sustainability goals in the following categories: energy, equity, and ecology.

3. Assist with the enrollment of the Thrive 100 Faith Communities into the “Energy Stewards” tracking program to track their energy usage over 5 years.

4. Plan and implement program orientation workshops to educate and introduce the concept of the 5-year commitment and program goals for participating congregations.

5. Prepare final extern program portfolio including (1) tracking documents (2) communication and (3) program successes to-date.

6. Assist with additional reporting as needed.

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