Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources

University of Vermont

Perennial Summer Internship Program - 2017

Internship Title: Bringing the Good Word to the People: Universal Recycling Outreach and Education

Internship Site: National Life Building, Montpelier; significant travel

Description: This internship will focus on addressing the current and upcoming challenges of getting to Zero Waste in Vermont, and will involve substantial engagement with the public, as well as some in-office work on specific material types.

Recycling and composting outreach at events: Intern will set up informational tables/booths at farmers’ markets, fairs, and other public events, to provide information about recycling, composting, and the requirements of the Universal Recycling Law. A gregarious, outgoing personality, ability to think on your feet, composure, and strong communication skills necessary. Intern must demonstrate strong understanding of the details of recycling, composting, and trash, and be able to answer a lot of questions! The intern will think strategically about communications and outreach to specific segments of the population, plan outreach/education activities, and coordinate with events managers throughout the state. Work may include weekends and evenings.

Beyond Universal Recycling: The intern will also help build web content related to textiles (clothing, linens, etc.) reuse, as recommended in recent stakeholder meetings. Additional projects may include confirming the status of bottle deposit redemption centers, reviewing the redemption center database for errors, and developing a strategic work plan.

The intern would also have an opportunity to shadow DEC staff on site visits, meetings with town officials, haulers, composters, farmers, businesses, schools, etc.

Desired qualifications/skills/coursework:

- Ability to work independently
- Comfortable dealing with the public
- Familiarity with the Universal Recycling Law (Act 148 of 2012)
- Familiarity with state and federal environmental laws
- Strong communication skills, including the ability to make cold-calls to residents, businesses, and others
- Critical thinking skills
- Comfort working with Excel and databases
- Research and writing

*Rubenstein students currently in their sophomore and junior years are eligible to apply. Earning internship credit through the Rubenstein Internship Program is required.*

Supervision: Celia Riechel, DEC Waste Management & Prevention Division
Start and End Dates:

Mid-May – Mid-August, 2017 (exact start/end dates are negotiable)

Total Hours:

20 hours/week, 12 weeks

Compensation: $12.50/hour

How to apply: Follow step by step application instructions which are available on the Rubenstein Perennial Internship Program website. This will include logging into the CEMS-RSENR Internship, Co-Op, Research System and submitting the following (as pdfs whenever possible) by midnight, Sunday, January 29th 2017:

a. Resume
b. Cover Letter - You should upload and submit unique cover letters for each position to which you’re applying
c. Position Ranking - If you are applying for more than one Perennial Internship, please provide list of the positions in rank order.
d. Reference(s) – Provide name & contact information for at least one professional reference (this could be someone who supervised you in a past work/internship/volunteer position, a professor or teacher, etc.)
e. Transcript – Login to your my uvm portal, click on the Registrar link, click Request Official Transcript by email, once received save it as a pdf and upload.
f. A recommendation form, completed by a faculty member or teaching assistant, will also need to be submitted on your behalf. Please send this link to the faculty member/teaching assistant when you ask if they are willing to complete the recommendation form for you. Your recommender will complete & submit this form online and then your recommendation will be confidentially uploaded to your application(s).