

ENVS Remote Environmental Service Project Capstone Summer 2020

BACKGROUND: In light of the COVID-19 epidemic, many summer internships and research experiences have been cancelled or delayed and planned research disrupted. While this is all deeply unfortunate, Environmental Program faculty and staff see that there may be opportunities to be creative and adaptable. Life throws unknowns and learning to deal with them is critical to environmental and social well-being.

ENVS REMOTE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE PROJECT: One approach to being adaptable is to localize. If your capstone internship or research experience has been cancelled or otherwise thwarted, you may propose an environmentally related service project focused on the community where you reside.

Allow yourself to think broadly. Maybe this whole situation has led you to an idea about resilience in communities, climate adaptation, or how to address lessons learned from shutting down the economy and the reduction in pollution that has resulted. Perhaps the fact that people report more time in natural areas and parks is something you'd like to think about. Maybe a local agency, organization, company or business could use your help, creativity, and research skills practiced remotely – it can't hurt to offer some new ideas and an offer of your time and energy to help make them reality. Or maybe you see a social need that you could act on – planning a food shelf, designing a community garden, organizing a trail maintenance project to begin once the epidemic is over.

NEXT STEPS: There are many ways this experience can be shaped. Take initiative. If you have an idea for something interesting or helpful right now, propose it. Reach out to Amy Seidl or an ENVS faculty member and schedule a chat. Then, once you have established that the work can be done remotely, is related to the educational focus of your academic work and will be a culminating experience, and you have a faculty or staff member willing to advise you, submit a proposal via web form using **this link**

<https://www.uvm.edu/environmentalprogram/forms/envs-summer-2020-remote-environmental-service-project-proposal>

FINAL CAVEAT: As we all know, COVID-19 is an infectious disease spread by human-to-human contact. To avoid all risk of spreading the disease, Environmental Service Projects must be based on entirely remote work.

QUESTIONS? Contact: amy.seidl@uvm.edu