About Earth Charter Indiana and our Resilient Communities Campaign

Earth Charter Indiana is a statewide non-profit, founded in 2001, dedicated to advancing a peaceful, just and livable planet for all. Our main focus is on climate change intergenerational education and action, in a program we call Resilient Communities Campaign.

The Resilient Communities Campaign works directly with mayors and other municipal officials to 1) assess climate change’s impact on cities 2) agree to a learning collaborative process where cities confer and collaborate to establish resiliency plans. Earth Charter Indiana will lead the discussion and advance the collaborative work between cities. Our goal is to have at least 20 cities in Indiana with — or working on — a climate action or climate resiliency plan by 2020. The opportunities are vast to create green jobs and more vibrant communities while protecting citizens, but we need to act quickly before time runs out.

At present, no cities in Indiana have a climate action plan.

Last August, ECI staged the state’s first Climate Leadership Summit, gathering over a dozen cities from around Indiana to discuss climate change and the need for resiliency plans. Over a hundred attended, including public health officials, environmental activists, business leaders, youth, and climate scientists. Seven mayors attended the event.

We will stage the second Climate Leadership Summit in August.

Note: we do a lot of our work with youth, elementary students through college. In two Indiana cities, youth have inspired their elected officials to pass Climate Recovery Resolutions: Carmel and Indianapolis. Our plan is to pass more Resolutions, while building community partnerships and intergenerational capacity to steer cities toward long term thinking in the face of the climate crisis.

Position:

• Assist in the development of our Resilient Communities Campaign, including: the building of a toolkit to share with cities; in-person visits with cities to identify successes, opportunities, and challenges; connecting with cities outside of Indiana who have already developed resiliency plans for guidance and inspiration; planning and implementing August Climate Leadership Summit event.
• The ideal candidate will be adept at program and economic analysis, able to communicate effectively with diverse groups and have a passion for creating a sustainable future for Indiana.
• Intern will report to RCC state director Jim Poyser, and work with RCC state coordinator John Gibson and other ECI staff and board members, including Shannon Anderson and Rosemary Spalding.
Expectations:

• An understanding of the basic functions of municipal government and how they are provided, including knowledge of municipal infrastructure
• An understanding of extreme weather impact on cities
• An interest in policy action on a municipal level
• A career trajectory in urban sustainability and/or politics
• Ability to travel to other areas of Indiana, on own if necessary
• Some familiarity with technical writing, a plus

Compensation and timing:
• Compensation will be in the form of a stipend through the Indiana Sustainability Development Program. The intern will work full time (35 to 40 hours week) for 10 to 12 weeks from late May to late August. Exact beginning and end dates are negotiable. Interns will be required to attend a bootcamp on the IU Bloomington campus from May 8 to 10.

Contact information
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