



**McKinney Climate Fellows Program**  
**2022 McKinney Climate Fellow – Indianapolis Airport Authority**

Who We Are

Rated the #1 Convention City in the U.S. by USA TODAY, Indianapolis offers Hoosier Hospitality to visitors young and old. IND serves as a gateway to the city offering world-class service and a commitment to the regional community. The Indianapolis Airport Authority (IAA) is committed to environmental sustainability across our entire system of six airports. Our goal is to minimize the impact of our operations on the environment by exploring continuous improvements and opportunities for innovation. We strive to always act as responsible stewards of the environment and work collaboratively across departments to do so. In 2017, Indianapolis International Airport (IND) successfully received the **Level 2 Reduction of the Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) Program**. ACA is the only aviation-dedicated carbon management and certification program that recognizes and encourages emission reduction at airports. Level 2 accreditation is given to airports that have provided evidence of effective carbon management procedures and show that reduction targets have been achieved. In 2019, IND advanced to **Level 3 Optimization of the Airport Carbon Accreditation (ACA) Program** (engaging stakeholders to further reduce airport-related Greenhouse Gases) as well as Level 1 ACA certification for each of our five reliever airports, making the IAA the largest accredited airport system in North America.

Efforts to attain Level 3+ accreditation have prompted us to become a partner in the [Good Traveler Program](#). This initiative provides travelers a simple way to offset emissions resulting from their flight. We are committed to positive carbon reductions year after year to meet our long-term goal to be Net Zero by 2050. We are in the process of developing our first-ever, comprehensive Sustainability Management Plan for IND to help us get there.

Passengers traveling to our Airport can view many of our sustainability achievements. IND is home to the largest solar farm on any airport property in the world! 183 acres on IND airport property currently house 87,478 solar panels, enough energy to power 3,675 average American homes per year. The IND solar farm is a win-win for the community. It provides renewable energy to the electric grid and lowers emissions, improving our community's air quality. It also lowers IND's operating costs. Similar benefits are gained by the zero-emission electric shuttle fleet, one of the largest at any airport.

In partnership with the **White Lick Beekeepers Association**, the IND Community Bee Apiary is housed on 4.7 acres of otherwise unused airport land. The apiary helps to preserve Indiana's honeybee population and serves as a training site for future beekeepers. The site also serves an educational role for visitors from groups such as 4-H and has been the focus of projects with local universities. This novel use of land is providing a bridge to the community that is supportive and engaging. In 2017, the IND Community Bee Apiary was the recipient of the Airports Council International **Environmental Achievement Awards** for Outreach, Education and Community Involvement.

IND has received additional Environmental Achievement Awards for two other exciting projects including the IAA Sustainability Toolkit, a first-of-its kind Toolkit applicable to all aviation projects – from terminal renovations to taxiway and runway reconstructions. The Toolkit provides an automated dashboard so staff can clearly track each project’s sustainability progress, easing the burden on project teams. Most recently, IND received the Environmental Achievement Award for the use of carbon capture technology on the upcoming runway reconstruction project. Through a new technique, we will use captured carbon in the production of concrete – reducing the amount of process emissions and permanently storing carbon that would otherwise release into the atmosphere. On this and other projects across the airport system, we are pursuing sustainability rating system certifications and verifications including LEED (for facilities), Parksmart (for parking garages), and Envision (for infrastructure).

See additional information about IAA’s sustainability program here: [Sustainability | Indianapolis Airport Authority](#)

### POSITION SUMMARY

The McKinney Climate Fellow will be placed within the Environment & Sustainability Department and will be responsible for taking the lead on select initiatives and assist with sustainability, climate, and community resiliency projects. The Fellow will provide support for IND’s achieving of Level 3+ accreditation through the ACA Program, through research of best practices and implementation of select projects to best manage IND’s carbon reduction strategies to achieve Net Zero by 2050. The Fellow will participate in and contribute to the ongoing Sustainability Management Plan development and pursuit of sustainability rating system certifications/verifications. The Fellow might also assist with community outreach and engagement efforts associated with Sustainability programs to spark more awareness of the importance of pollinators for those in the community and travelers engaging with IND.

The McKinney Climate Fellow will be placed with the Indianapolis Airport Authority for a one-year Fellowship. The Fellow will be expected to work full time in the summer (10-12 weeks), and part time during the academic school year (10-20 hours a week). This opportunity is open to IUPUI students.

Duties will include:

- Provide support for select IND projects tackling carbon reduction strategies
- Provide support with the implementation of sustainability rating systems and pursuit of associated certifications
- Participate in the planning process for IND’s Sustainability Management Plan
- Promote awareness of IND’s sustainability efforts to travelers through social media, signage, and displays
- Research other practical applications of carbon reduction at IND
- Raise awareness of the IND Community Bee Apiary, and engage the Indianapolis community with pollinator education and conservation
- Support other sustainability projects as needed
- Attend the boot camp May 16 – 20, 2022
- Attend weekly (virtual) “Lunch and Learns,” Wednesdays from 12:00pm-1:30pm

- Submit weekly Canvas reports over the course of the fellowship

### Qualifications

- Self-motivated, student must be able to prioritize and manage multiple ongoing tasks
- Previous experience or coursework in sustainability studies, environmental management, and/or environmental engineering, with research/coursework or interest in sustainable transportation a plus
- General knowledge of sustainability rating systems (e.g., LEED, Envision, Parksmart)
- Experience working with Microsoft Office products
- Effective verbal and written communication
- Student must be knowledgeable, and/or have experience or coursework in data tracking of measurable outcomes on projects (such as tracking Greenhouse Gas emissions reduction over time at an organization, or other similar quantifiable processes)
- Equity mindset/lens and other critical indicators related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in climate work are preferred
- Student must be from the IUPUI campus, and be able to commit to a one-year Fellowship

### Compensation

Compensation will be in the form of a scholarship through the Environmental Resilience Institute. The Fellow will work full time for 10 weeks, beginning May 23, 2022, and ending July 29, 2022. The Fellow will continue their work in a part-time capacity over the academic school year, for a one-year fellowship.

### Feedback and evaluation

The Fellow will be given regular feedback from staff on progress and performance. Success in the fellowship will be determined by the completion of specified projects in a professional and timely manner. The Fellow should learn how this organization identifies its sustainability priorities, effective principles of communication, and how to develop and maintain professional relationships.

### Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

The McKinney Climate Fellows Program supports the continual advancement and development of diverse, inclusive and equitable spaces. Indiana climate change solutions should be equitable in implementation, and projects with equity considerations are encouraged to reduce climate change impacts on marginalized communities in the state.

### Application instructions

To apply for this position, complete an application on the Environmental Resilience Institute's website. If you have questions about the program or any of the positions available, email Danni Schaust, MCF Program Manager, at danmcphe@iu.edu, or Sarah Miller, MCF Project and Outreach Coordinator at sjm8@iu.edu. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis (first come, first serve) until Monday, February 14, 2022.