



6100 Southport Road
Portage, Indiana 46368
(219) 763-6060
www.nirpc.org

Indiana Sustainability Development Program

2022 Indiana Climate Fellow –Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission

Who We Are

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) is the Council of Government and Metropolitan Planning Organization for a region incorporating Lake, Porter, and LaPorte Counties. In addition to the three (3) counties, NIRPC serves and is governed by elected officials from eleven (11) cities, twenty-seven (27), and two (2) townships.

Position Summary

The Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) seeks a highly motivated student to assist with the development of a Regional Climate Action Plan Framework. Completing this plan will provide NIRPC regional emission reduction goals, the basis of a regional transportation source climate action plan to be incorporated into future long range transportation plans and project selection criteria, and a suite of climate action plans and policies for local communities to consider that have been pre-evaluated for regional emission profiles, community characteristics, economic and environmental justice impacts.

The intern will work directly with the Natural Resource Planner in the Environmental Department, but also with NIRPC planners specializing in transportation, land-use, data and spatial analysis. NIRPC is a participant in the Indiana University Environmental Resilience Institute's [Resilience Cohort](#). The successful candidate will receive on-the-job training from ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability on how to analyze the results of a greenhouse gas emissions inventory using ClearPath (a cloud-based inventory software), develop strategies to reduce emissions, and coordinate the regional climate action planning process. The intern will also develop technical and project management skills beneficial to a career in local government, climate science, policy, environmental management and related fields. They will have opportunities to build presentation skills and develop professional relationships with a variety of Northwest Indiana stakeholders.

As detailed in Indiana Code 36-7-7.6, the mission of NIRPC is to provide a forum that enables the three-quarters of a million people residing in Northwest Indiana to improve their quality of life by addressing regional issues relating to transportation, the environment and economic development. Successful integration of the three focus areas NIRPC is charged with is essential to the future sustainability of the region. Regional climate action planning in Northwest Indiana will build on previous sustainability initiatives and core NIRPC functions such as identification and framing of issues; planning, plan implementation, programming,

and coordination, participation in partnerships, and direct provision of technical services and data to local governments.

Responsibilities include:

- Utilize Microsoft Excel and ClearPath to execute moderately complex data analysis to develop regional GHG emission reduction goals.
- Synthesize analysis of 18 local government GHG emission inventories with demographic and community characteristics to create several CAP profiles tailored to maximize reduction of Northwest Indiana's emission sources
- Create strategy "menus" actionable policies, programs, or strategies suitable to different community profiles, including environmental justice and economic impacts
- Identify transportation emission reduction strategies that NIRPC could implement through its role as the Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Support quantification of the carbon sequestration potential on regional ecosystem restoration and green infrastructure investments.
- Supporting and presenting results to the regional CAP stakeholder advisory task force, other NIRPC committees and stakeholder or public groups.
- Assist in drafting and designing plan documents and public information materials.
- Participate in regular Resilience Cohort webinars and conference calls
- Attend the Climate Fellows virtual bootcamp training, hosted by the Environmental Resilience Institute, May 16-20, 2022
- Attend weekly (virtual) "Lunch and Learn" sessions
- Submit weekly reports on Canvas over the course of the fellowship

Qualifications

- Prior quantitative coursework or research experience, preferably in a discipline applied to sustainability such as environmental science, environmental management, engineering, chemistry, environmental economics, or a related field
- Experience manipulating data using spreadsheets
- Experience summarizing research in reports and presentations
- Ability to follow detailed and technical instructions
- Effective written communication skills especially for a public audience
- Exemplary verbal communication, including speaking publicly
- Self-motivated, proactive, and flexible with careful attention to detail
- Ability to prioritize and manage multiple ongoing tasks
- Equity mindset and an understanding of diversity, equity, and inclusion in climate
- Enthusiastic about greenhouse gas management and climate planning

Preferred Skills

- Strong quantitative and statistical analysis skills.
- Experience designing attractive documents and materials that convey complex information to the public.

Compensation

Compensation will be in the form of a scholarship through the Indiana Sustainability Development Program. The Fellow will work full time for 10 weeks, beginning May 16th 2022.

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 Indiana Climate Fellows and Resilience Cohort Programs support 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 Process

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 Steve Chybowski, Resilience Cohort Coordinator, at schybows@iu.edu. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis (first come, first serve) until Monday, February 14, 2022.