City of Bloomington- Economic & Sustainable Development Department

Climate Resilience Planning Fellow – Job Description

Who We Are
About the City of Bloomington Department of Economic and Sustainable Development
The mission of the City of Bloomington's Department of Economic & Sustainable Development (ESD) is to foster a livable and resilient community through partnerships, collaboration and outreach. Through strategic initiatives that expand economic opportunities, the Department aims to preserve the health of our environment, provide for social equity to residents, and advance the principles of sustainable development.

ESD leads the strategic direction of the City of Bloomington sustainability efforts, while also implementing sustainability and climate programs. In 2021, ESD project managed LEED for Cities and Communities certification by the U.S. Green Building Council, created a comprehensive framework for emissions reduction and resiliency through the Bloomington Climate Action Plan, and launched several new sustainability programs with Recover Forward funding to reduce building greenhouse gas emissions and grow the local food economy. The residential Bloomington Green Home Improvement Program (BGHIP), the Bloomington Solar and Energy Efficiency Loan Program (SEEL), and Zero In Bloomington have utilized funds appropriated by Council to operationalize goals of the organization’s plans to improve energy efficiency and expand solar access. Through these programs, ESD has directly engaged with a broad range of constituencies including neighborhoods, nonprofits, and businesses to take action on climate and reduce the community’s environmental impact.

Summary
City of Bloomington seeks a highly motivated student to assist with the development of a community-wide climate resilience plan in the summer of 2023. Updating Bloomington’s Climate Vulnerability Assessment will provide Bloomington with a strategy for improving resilience and adapting to climate change impacts.

The intern will work with the City of Bloomington’s Economic and Sustainable Development Department, which is a participant in the Indiana University Environmental Resilience Institute’s 2023 Resilience Cohort program. The successful candidate will receive on-the-job training from the Geos Institute and ERI staff on how to: analyze climate hazards and associated physical and social vulnerabilities using leading national climate data tools; deeply engage the public and other stakeholders in an equitable, whole-of-community planning approach; develop strategies to improve climate resilience; and coordinate a climate resilience planning process. The intern will also develop technical and project management skills beneficial to a career in local government, climate change science and policy, environmental management, and related fields.
City of Bloomington is interested in the possibility of extending the Fellowship through the 2023-2024 academic year on a part-time basis if an extension is mutually agreeable to both the City of Bloomington and the Fellow, and pending funding availability.

City of Bloomington

The City of Bloomington has a long-standing commitment to sustainability and City partnerships. Programs related to energy conservation, renewable energy, and waste reduction have helped establish Bloomington as a regional sustainability leader.

The City addresses sustainability through careful attention to environmental, economic, and social equity issues, and looks for linkages among those issues. Sustainability and livability are our guiding principles and are the foundations of quality, long-lasting economic and community development.

Duties and Qualifications

Duties will include:

- Communicate with government staff, members of the public, and other local stakeholders throughout the course of the project
- Utilize web-based data tools to execute moderately complex data analysis
- Support the development of a climate trends primer that identifies climate projections for Bloomington
- Support the development of a community primer that identifies socioeconomic characteristics of community
- Assist in updating Bloomington’s vulnerability assessment report, aligning the vulnerability assessment with ERI Hoosier Resilience Index findings and Carbon Disclosure Project reporting requirements
- Engage with members of the public and other stakeholders to gather input on vulnerabilities and community priorities
- Promote opportunities for the public to engage with plan development
- Assist in developing strategies and/or drafting a climate resilience plan as time allows
- Assist with other sustainability projects depending on time and interest
- Participate in regular Resilience Cohort webinars and conference calls
- Attend the McKinney Climate Fellows virtual Climate Camp training, hosted by the Environmental Resilience Institute in May 2023
- Attend weekly (virtual) “Lunch and Learn” sessions as part of the McKinney Climate Fellows program
- 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, especially for a public audience
• Exemplary verbal communication, including speaking publicly
• Self-motivated, proactive, and flexible with strong attention to detail
• Ability to prioritize and manage multiple ongoing tasks
• Equity mindset and an understanding of justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion in the climate change field

Preferred Skills
• Experience evaluating climate trends and hazards, as well as social vulnerability
• Experience coordinating events, especially public engagement
• Experience creating reports

Feedback and Evaluation
The Fellow will be given regular feedback from their supervisor 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 the organization identifies its sustainability priorities, effective principles of communication, and how to develop and maintain professional relationships.

Compensation
Compensation will be in the form of a scholarship through the Environmental Resilience Institute. The Fellow will work full time for 10 weeks, with a start date in late May or early June, arranged in coordination with the Fellow and ERI staff. The Fellow may be selected for a 2023-2024 academic year extension, subject to the availability of funds, and the interest of both Bloomington and the Fellow in extending the Fellowship.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion
The McKinney Climate Fellows and Resilience Cohort programs support the continual advancement and development of diverse, inclusive, and equitable spaces. Indiana climate solutions should advance equity, with climate plans including strategies that reduce climate change impacts on marginalized communities in the state.

Application Process
To apply for this position, complete an application via the Environmental Resilience Institute’s website, which includes additional details about the application process and timeline. If you have questions about the program or any of the positions available, email Anagha Gore, Resilience Programs Coordinator, at anagore@iu.edu.