McKinney Climate Fellows Program
2023 McKinney Climate Fellow – Indiana Land Protection Alliance

Who We Are

Indiana Land Protection Alliance is a vibrant nonpartisan network of land trusts, conservation partners, and community members. Our alliance champions land and water protection for all of Indiana. Collectively, our land trust members protect and care for over 158,000 acres of land.

Mission: To increase the pace and quality of land protection in Indiana.

Vision: An Indiana with conserved landscapes that support healthy and resilient habitats and ecosystems

The development of solar is important for Indiana to meet much-needed climate resilience goals. However, it is important that future developments, especially utility scale solar, are designed and implemented in a way that supports conservation goals such as healthy soil, native plantings, and unimpaired wildlife corridors.

POSITION SUMMARY

The McKinney Climate Fellow will be placed within the organization 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:

- Research into permitting requirements and local tax structures on solar;
- The creation of a template ordinance for local government agencies, which incorporates best development practices and guidelines for solar developers that address concerns regarding wildlife fencing, soil depth/digging, soil compaction, restoration requirements, no cut-and-fill, topsoil removal, native seeding, and decommissioning requirements;
- Draft template easement that permits sustainable solar development; and
- Summary of considerations for responsible and strategic planning.

Duties will include:

- Research, report on case studies, interview conservation leaders in other states, and draft template ordinance and easement language.
- Attend a weeklong training in May 2023
- Attend weekly (virtual) “Lunch and Learns”, Wednesdays from 12:00pm-1:30pm
- Submit weekly Canvas reports over the course of the fellowship
Qualifications
- Detail-oriented
- Familiarity with renewable energy development
- Interest and appreciation for land conservation
- Effective verbal and written communication
- Self-motivated
- Analytical
- Ability to prioritize and manage tasks
- Strong Research skills

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 29 – August 4.

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 Schaut, Resilience Implementation Manager, at dschaust@iu.edu, or the MCF Project and Outreach Coordinator. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis (first come, first serve) until Friday, January 13, 2023.