SUSTAINABILITY AT NEWFIELDS

Newfields is committed to enriching lives through exceptional experiences with art and nature. Stewardship is one of our core values. We strive to be good stewards of our art collection and other historic assets contained in our 152-acre campus. As good stewards we consider the conservation of our environment to be as important as the artwork and living botanic collections. Newfields is in a unique position to positively impact our environment and community to preserve these assets for generations to come. Over the past twelve years, we have made great strides toward sustainability. For example, Newfields joined:

- the Central Indiana Clean Air Partnership, where we achieved gold-level membership by making more than 10 commitments to improve local air quality.
- the Indiana Recycling Coalition, which helped us improve source reduction, reuse, and recycling activities.
- the Center for Plant Conservation, because we are dedicated to removing invasive species and helping Indiana’s native flora and fauna thrive.
- the Environmental Protection Agency’s Green Power Partnership, where our voluntary membership underscores our commitment to use green power wherever feasible.

In looking to the future, we created a Sustainability Policy along with a Sustainability Strategic Action Plan to ensure we achieve our sustainability goals. This policy aligns with the Indy Thrive plan and contains specific goals associated with managing the built environment, economic sustainability, energy consumption and reduction, food and agriculture, natural resources, public health and safety, transportation and land-use, and waste and recycling at Newfields.
POSITION SUMMARY

The fellow will be placed within the Natural Resources department at Newfields reporting to the Manager of Natural Resources in the Fairbanks Art and Nature Park. The fellow will be responsible for taking the lead on researching and create a proposal to compost all pre-consumer and post-consumer food waste across all outlets on the Newfields campus including the Beer Garden, Internal Hospitality/Culinary program, Lume café, Wine Pop-up, and the main Café. The fellow will also work with the Advancement team to write a grant application to fund the program. Additional opportunities will include working with the Newfields Sustainability Task Force (a cross-divisional team), supporting the annual waste audit, creating annual staff educational programming, supporting public facing waste diversion efforts, and creating statistics for the composting program for the institutional sustainability dashboard.

Duties will include:

- Researching and creating a compost program to compost all pre-consumer and post-consumer food waste across all outlets on the Newfields campus including the Beer Garden, Internal Hospitality/Culinary program, Lume café, Wine Pop-up, and the main Café.
- Work with Advancement to write a grant application to IDEM to fund the program.
- Work with Director of Natural Resources to update statistics on the Sustainability Dashboard to measure institutional progress
  - Update dashboard by collaborating with the IMA Lab
  - Work with relevant departments to maintain annual stats
- Work with the cross departmental Sustainability Task Force to implement public facing waste diversion efforts and education
  - Collaborate with the Marketing/Communications team
    - Consistent interior and exterior signage for recycling
    - Website content development
    - Social Media content
- Work with Sustainability Task Force to implement programming for staff during the month of June (Sustainability month) via lectures, hands-on events, Sustainability resolutions, etc.
- Assist the Sustainability Task Force with the annual internal waste audit to measure progress in waste reduction
  - Record results and update dashboard
Work with Procurement and Purchasing Department to identify which existing vendors have green practices such as the packaging they use, their ability to combine orders, their delivery methods, etc.
  • Research practices of new vendors for master planning/capital projects
  • Collaborate with the IMA Lab to determine best way to include these stats on the Sustainability dashboard
Follow-up on outstanding items from 2021 institutional action plan

Qualifications

The ideal candidate will have the following qualifications:

  • Detail-oriented and self-motivated
  • Experience and/or coursework in sustainability/environmental studies
  • Experience working with Microsoft Office products
  • Effective verbal and written communication
  • Ability to prioritize and manage multiple ongoing tasks

Compensation

Compensation will be in the form of a scholarship through the Indiana Sustainability Development Program as well as partial funding from Newfields. The fellow will work full time for 10 weeks.

Feedback and evaluation

The fellow will be given weekly feedback from Newfields 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 Newfields manages its sustainability priorities, effective principles of communication, and how to develop and maintain professional relationships.