Summer 2023 McKinney Climate Fellow

The Town of Zionsville seeks a highly motivated student to develop a compost collection site on Town-owned property in the summer of 2023. Indiana University will hire the successful applicant as a McKinney Climate Fellow. The Fellow will work closely with the Parks Department and the Department of Public Work (DPW). Direct supervision will come from Jarod Logsdon, the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation.

The Fellow will learn replicable skills and gain valuable experiences in developing a compost site that aligns with Indiana Department of Environmental Management’s (IDEM) regulations for compost collection sites over 300 square feet. This compost site will initially serve as a collection site for DPW’s seasonal services, including leaf, brush, and limb collection. DPW offers these seasonal services for residents in nearly 15 square miles of Zionsville, resulting in the collection of 2,241 tons of leaves and 175 tons of brush and limbs in 2021. The vision for this compost collection site is to eventually extend services to residents to dispose of compostable materials and acquire composted soil.

The McKinney Climate Fellow will gain experience working in local government and develop technical skills, project management proficiency, and grant writing experience beneficial to a career in sustainability, parks and recreation, environmental management, and related fields.

Responsibilities

- Develop an IDEM-approved compost collection site over 300 square feet.
- Work with DPW to create a Stormwater Management Plan that aligns with IDEM’s regulations.
- Research best practices to develop a standard operating procedure for ensuring safe operations and site maintenance.
- Assess the feasibility of private access to the compost collection site for the disposal of materials and collection of soil.
- Promote and participate in public engagement with community members and stakeholders.
- Prepare materials for grant applications to fund equipment, materials, and labor for the compost site, including Boone County Solid Waste Management District’s annual Community Grants.
- Attend a weeklong training the week of May 15, 2023.
- Attend weekly (virtual) "Lunch and Learns" Wednesdays from noon to 1:30 p.m.
- Submit weekly Canvas reports throughout the fellowship
- Time and interest permitting, assist with other sustainability projects such as:
  - benchmarking progress on green sustainability strategies,
  - researching a variety of educational topics,
  - engaging and educating the public through programming.

Qualifications and Skills

- Prior coursework or research experience in a sustainability discipline.
- Enthusiastic about composting, community outreach, and sustainability.
• Experience summarizing research in professional reports and presentations.
• Experience in evaluating the environmental impact of products, activities, plans, and systems.
• Ability to understand and follow detailed and technical instructions and regulations.
• Effective written and verbal communication, especially for a public audience.
• Self-motivated, proactive, and flexible with careful attention to detail.
• Ability to prioritize and manage multiple ongoing tasks.

Compensation
The Fellow will work full-time for ten weeks. Work will take place during the summer, beginning no sooner than May 22 and ending no later than August 11. Compensation will be in the form of a scholarship through the Environmental Resilience Institute.

Feedback and Evaluation
Staff will provide the Fellow regular feedback on progress and performance - a successful fellowship results in the completion of specified projects professionally and promptly. The Fellow should learn how the Town of Zionsville identifies its sustainability priorities, communication principles, 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
Complete an application on the Environmental Resilience Institute's website. ERI will accept applications on a rolling basis (first come, first serve) until Friday, January 13, 2023. Questions about the program or positions available should go to the Environmental Resilience Institute at eri@iu.edu.