

Organization Name: City of Atlanta, Mayor's Office of Resilience

Organization Contact Person: Natasha Dyer

Contact Phone: 404-546-1764

Contact Email: ndyer@atlantaga.gov

Organization Mission: Atlanta, both the city and metro region, has experienced explosive growth over the last few decades. While residents and new businesses alike are increasingly attracted to the region, a history of growth, intertwined with periods of suburban sprawl, segregation, and lack of investment in infrastructure and affordable housing, has left some residents behind. To become the city we envision, we work to address Atlanta's resilience challenges while increasingly strengthening our communities. We support policy and programming that reflects a city in which all Atlantans have equal and equitable access to the resources, education, livable wages, and beyond-income-earning opportunities that will prepare them for success. This builds on the strengths of regional growth, diversity, and integration, while addressing key challenges that face the region. Resilient Atlanta Visions: Preserve and enhance Metro Atlanta's culture, shared identity, and history; Reduce the barriers preventing Atlantans from achieving economic stability and security to increase access and reduce income inequality; Facilitate the development of an equitable and inclusive city while preserving and expanding the natural environment, and; Adapt Atlanta's civic systems to become a leader in equity, sustainability, and resilience.

Internship Semester: Summer 2020

Project Title #1: Increased Food Access Through Food Recovery

Keywords: Analysis and Program Development, Outreach, Policy

SLS Priority Issue Areas: Climate Change, U.N. Sustainable Development Goals

Project Background: This project has been in the making all of 2019 and is now set to ramp up. Some sub actions that the intern will be working on include: Determine percentage of recoverable food already being recovered AND large generators of fresh food surplus that don't have recovery infrastructure; Do gap analysis of food recovery network to determine where we could create more donation/access spots; Institutionalize ongoing food waste reduction challenges by sector (i.e. restaurants, hotels, convention centers, grocery. See initial challenge here: <https://www.aglanta.org/city-of-atlantas-full-circle-food-challenge>; Aid in the creation of legislation to mandate food waste recovery. The project is important to our organization because we are tasked with meeting the Mayor's 85% food access goal by 2022.

Project Timeline: The intern will help move this 12 – 18 month project along, but it will continue beyond the summer.

Desired skills and qualifications: Analysis and research, Digital acumen (possibly graphic design/easy website), Policy

Deliverables: New food access point, and food waste challenge in a specific sector.

Project Title #2: Increased Food Access Through Nourishing Soils

Keywords: New Program Development, Outreach

SLS Priority Issue Areas: Climate Change, U.N. Sustainable Development Goals

Project Background: In 2015, the Atlanta City Council enacted a Climate Action Plan to reduce GHG emissions and part of the solution was assuring local food security. Food deserts can exacerbate GHG emissions because people living in these areas are required to travel long distances to obtain healthy and affordable food. As the City grows more local food by expanding its Grows-A-Lot (GAL) program, the creation of its own community composting system is a key component to closing the loop on the urban agriculture cycle. Water and fertilizer are the biggest expenses for any farmer and compost helps with both, as addition of this rich soil amendment increases water holding capacity by 33% and naturally adds nutrients back to the soil. The City will create compost systems at all City GAL sites to create community and commercial food scrap drop-offs that create compost that goes back into the farm. The City will commit to diverting 5% (or 150 tons) of Department of Public Works (DPW) monthly yard trimming collections to be used as carbon source for local composting operations, community and commercial. The project is important to our organization because we are tasked with meeting the Mayor's 85% food access goal by 2022.

Project Timeline: The intern will help move this 12 – 18 month project along, but it will continue beyond the summer.

Desired skills and qualifications: Program Development

Deliverables: Food scrap drop off at one community garden. Help create distribution method for Department of Public Works yard trimmings (carbon source) to urban farms/gardens.