

Center for Sustainable Communities

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Mission: The Center for Sustainable Communities is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to make communities greener, cleaner, healthier, safer and more climate resilience, and we do this through an equity and environmental justice lens. We focused on transforming schools from striving to thriving through a proven methodology that focuses on key community components such as education, housing, transportation, workforce development, community revitalization, job creation among others. The Center for Sustainable Communities provides its services through planning, engineering, technical assistance, education, research, evaluation and analysis among other features. The Center for Sustainable Communities currently has a myriad of projects that deal with clean energy, climate, community equitable development, sustainability, energy efficiency, severe weather impacts, regional food and food waste, transportation, housing and community engagement. The Center for Sustainable Communities fully believes in utilizing science based approaches to support the collaborative problem solving process including training and deploying citizen science.

Internship Semesters: Fall 2018, spring 2019, summer 2019, fall 2019

Project Title #1: ECO Districts--Broad Scale Community Equitable Development

Keywords: Research, Project Management, Community Engagement

SLS Priority Issue Areas: Climate Change, Community Health, Civic Data, Equitable Development, Green Infrastructure, Water, Citizen Science, Energy Equity, UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Project Background: ECO District Hampton Roads consists of a neighborhood of over 4,000 homes and 15,000 residents and is located in South Hampton Roads Va. The initiative is based on three imperatives; Equity, Resilience and Climate Action. The project is further advanced by projects and programs that embrace prosperity, place making, health and wellness, resource restoration and living infrastructure. We are transforming the Cavalier Manor community, the hub of the ECO District from one that is "striving to thriving". The ECO District Protocol is deployed in three phases; Formation; Road Map and Implementation Phases. A critical input to the ROAD MAP development phase is the performance of a demographic and an environmental justice analysis. The project is currently encompasses from the largest African American community in the country comprised of nearly 12,000 residents and 5000 homes. The ECO District project is the only district scale revitalization effort of its kind in the seven city Hampton Roads area. The projects focuses on the use of collaborative problem solving and collective impact is create a District Team focused on a common mission, vision, agenda, and value system. Upcoming projects will focus on creating a sense of place, connectivity, health and wellness, living infrastructure, resource restoration, and prosperity. Examples include piloting solar and energy efficiency programming; creating walking and biking trails; housing revitalization, enhancing workforce development, enhancing community resilience; youth developmental activities among many other projects. Interns will also participate in supporting projects associate with civic engagement, pollution

prevention, health projects, policy and advocacy and direct community engagement activities etc., The intern will also be engaged in meaningful enhancement opportunities designed for professional and personal development. The intern will have a meaningful assignment and title as a member of the ECO District Leadership Team "Associate Director". Overall it will be a meaningful assignment with visual gains while being fun, engaging, allowing for use of technical and related skills with a focus on overall student development

Project Timeline: The ECO District Hampton Roads Project is a multi-year projects consisting of three Phases; Formation Phase, Road Map Phase and Implementation Phase. Each Phase is highly structured and requires specific task to be accomplished. The Road Map Phase couples projects with the ECO Districts Imperatives of Equity, Resilience and Climate Action. Each Road Map Phase project will be coupled with a strategy plan, indicators and targets to each completion. Students will also be energized in a number of supporting, operational and administrative tasks as well. However, although long term intern will have the ability to start and complete projects.

Desired skills and qualification: Critical Thinking, Research, Manage a project

Deliverables: Pilot Solar and Energy Efficiency Project and Community Garden and Local Agriculture

Project Title #2: Advanced Atmospheric Research and Monitoring System

Keywords: Research, Outreach, Education

SLS Priority Issue Areas: Climate Change, Community Health, Civic Data, Equitable Development, Green Infrastructure, Water, Citizen Science, UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Project Background: The Advance Atmospheric Research and Monitoring Station is project designed to monitor atmospheric conditions, conduct research, assess changes in climate, monitor weather, local community monitoring and engagement, and STEM Education. The project is focused around the creation of an atmospheric monitoring station that consists both a stationary tower that rises over 150 ft in the air, and is equipped with instruments to monitor gases and particulates. The research station will connect with monitors distributed in lower income communities to monitor air pollution sources and impacts. The program will also provide educational impacts through data collection and analysis, monitoring weather conditions and patterns. The AARMS project will also incorporate the GLOBE geo science learning system that will teach youth about the atmosphere, hydrosphere, pedosphere and biosphere. The AARMS Project will partner with teams of scientist from the NASA Langley Research Center, NOAA Office of Climate and Atmospheric Research and the Thriving Earth Exchange.

Project Timeline: Project Completion August 2019 Some additional education program and citizen science programs will be designed and deployed following completion of the central tower project. The AARMS tower will be deployed as part of the national network of monitoring station known as NEON. The AARMS project will have significant relationship with national colleges and universities, local, state and federal agencies

Desired skills and qualification: Research Project Management, Data Analysis

Deliverables: Fully Deployed and Operable AARMS Tower and Citizen Science and Community Engagement and Education Programming Deployed