

Organization Name: Southface Institute

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Organization Mission: Southface Institute promotes sustainable homes, workplaces and communities through education, research, advocacy and technical assistance.

Internship Semester: Summer 2020

Project Title #1: Fulton County Community Resilience Hubs

Keywords: resilience, sustainability, equity

SLS Priority Issue Areas: Climate Change, Green Infrastructure, Water, Citizen Science, Energy Equity

Project Background: In partnership with Fulton County Government, Southface will implement a two-year project to enhance the first and second tier of climate resilience for Fulton County residents. With the ultimate goal of establishing one Community Resilience Hub at a facility owned and operated by Fulton County, the project team will conduct community engagement and education as well as techno-economic analyses of candidate facilities to determine the optimal location for a Hub. This is a new project for Southface and Fulton County and the proposed Community Resilience Hub would be the first of its kind in the Southeast. As climate change amplifies stressors placed on residents, especially low-income residents and communities of color, it is essential that solutions are advanced that aim to improve community and household resilience. Community Resilience Hubs offer an innovative method for increasing the capacity of a community to adapt to climate change. These Hubs employ resilient technologies and practices such as solar storage, rainwater harvesting, and educational programming to provide a central place for recovery after a natural disaster or power outage. Not only do Community Resilience Hubs provide resilience during and after extreme weather events, but they also engage and educate community members about best practices that can be used at home to be more resilient in daily life. The intern will work with the project team (both Southface and Fulton County) on the following project activities: 1) plan and implement community engagement sessions; 2) research and assemble Resilience Kits; and 3) support techno-economic feasibility analysis and building assessments at candidate facilities. The community engagement and feasibility analysis will help the project team identify the site where the Community Resilience Hub will be installed. Resilience Kits will serve an educational function for community members, and will provide residents with tools to improve their resilience at home.

Project Timeline: This is a two-year project that begins in January 2020 and ends in December 2021. The first year of work is focused on community education and selection of the site for the Community Resilience Hub. The intern will be working with Southface and Fulton County staff in the middle of year one of the work. The project team will continue the project after the intern leaves, and would be happy to keep the intern updated about the progress of the project.

Desired skills and qualifications: Community engagement, building science, writing

Deliverables: The intern will support the project team in the heart of the project phase focused on gathering information needed to select the site for the Community Resilience Hub. Site selection will be based on both community engagement and the feasibility analysis of the candidate facilities, so these two activities are crucial to the ultimate success of the project. By the end of the semester, the intern will have helped execute and compile input from community engagement sessions, assemble Resilience Kits, and support the completion of feasibility analyses.

Project Title #2: Municipal Climate & Clean Energy

Keywords: municipalities, clean energy, resilience

SLS Priority Issue Areas: Climate Change, Energy Equity, UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Project Background: The intern will support two projects within the municipal clean energy space. First, they will be providing support for the American Cities Climate Challenge work, funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies. Southface is providing technical support to the City of Atlanta by helping to enforce the commercial building benchmarking ordinance. The intern will be engaging with property managers via phone, email, and in-person communications to guide them through the benchmarking process. Second, the intern will be assisting the team with tasks associated with the Athens-Clarke County 100% Clean Energy Plan, including community and stakeholder engagement.

Project Timeline: The American Cities Climate Challenge (ACCC) work has an anticipated completion date of August 2020. The Athens-Clarke County work will run through November 2020.

Desired skills and qualifications: Strong written and verbal communication skills, Community engagement, Highly organized

Deliverables: Community outreach event, Presentation to property managers