

2003 EPA Community Intern Program Project Summaries

Region 1

1) Childhood Lead Action Project (Providence, RI)

Research completed by the Community Intern would provide the Childhood Lead Action Project with critical information needed to advance its public policy agenda, and to confront the root causes of childhood lead poisoning in Providence, Rhode Island. The intern would research current ordinances on minimum housing standards and lead poisoning; secure background information on absentee landlords responsible for the majority of lead poisonings in Providence; and research innovative approaches to lead poisoning prevention adopted by other communities.

2) Green Roundtable (Cambridge, MA)

The Regional Green Case Studies Project intern will research and document all completed construction projects that incorporate elements of green design in New England to create a green case study library as a resource for design and construction professionals and the general public. The intern would select and document projects in the six New England states that cover a minimum combination of sustainable efforts. All types of construction will be considered including: commercial, public, housing (multi-unit and single family homes), industrial, institutional and landscape design. The project will culminate with the creation of a project binder, categorized by state, presenting each project as an individual case study in green design.

3) HELP Lead Safe Center (Providence, RI)

The HELP Lead Safe Center works to limit the impact of severe lead poisoning in Providence-area children to improve their health and educational outcomes. The intern would be responsible for reviewing the design of the center's case management database to determine the efficacy of the data collection process. The intern would also collect, collate and analyze information on clients' blood lead levels, changes in their housing status, and whether intervention has placed them in a better position. This will assist the center in its efforts to provide effective case management and community health services.

4) New England Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (North Easton, MA)

New England Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) is researching cancer incidence in the town of Berkley, a small, economically depressed blue-collar town in southeastern Massachusetts. The intern would collect data, interview cancer patients and relatives of deceased cancer victims regarding their precise location in town, work with PEER's statistician to compare these data to a control town, and develop a report based on the statistical analyses. The study will determine whether there is a cancer cluster in Berkley, in which case it will work with authorities to safeguard the citizens of the town.

Region 2

5) El Puente (Brooklyn, NY)

El Puente's North Brooklyn Asthma and Environment Consortium aims to investigate family environmental exposures to asthma, investigate the domestic worker population prevalence, and identify feasible interventions and pilot them in the asthmatic family environment. The intern would help in the collection of community health research and survey data, development of a community-based research model, and various community organizing activities around health and environment issues.

6) West Harlem Environmental Action (New York, NY)

As part of the "Assessing Diesel Exhaust in East Harlem" collaboration between the West Harlem Environmental Action (WE ACT) and Columbia University, the intern would help assess the relative contribution of a "point source" of diesel exhaust to ambient concentrations of black carbon and validate an alternate method to monitor black carbon that is more accessible to community residents. The intern will gain experience with a university-led project, the responsibility for an independently designed component of that study, and help develop outreach and community education skills as part of WE ACT's mission of training youth in community organizing around environmental justice issues.

7) Sustainable South Bronx (Bronx, NY)

Sustainable South Bronx (SSB) is dedicated to sustainable environmental and economic development for the South Bronx. The intern would work with community members and the New York City Tree Trust to create a community forestry plan to expand on preliminary studies of the numbers of street trees and green spaces in the Hunts Point and surrounding neighborhoods. In addition to designing and administering surveys and focus groups to the community, the intern will work on outreach for a feasibility study for the proposed South Bronx Greenway bike/pedestrian trail.

Region 3

8) Herring Run Watershed Association (Baltimore, MD)

The objective of this internship is to promote meaningful community participation in exposure studies and involvement in the creation of the Thurgood Marshall Environmental Justice Center and Biddison Run Outdoor Classroom. To support the efforts to create a community information hub, nature center/outdoor classroom, Streamteam, and laboratories, the intern will report on population perceptions, census information and scientific studies. This research on the environmental and economic history of the target area will document settlement patterns exposed to long-term background contaminants. A revised draft will be presented to communities and volunteer environmental monitor teams. The intern will coordinate three community meetings to solicit comments and develop support for the Center and the Outdoor Classroom.

9) Parks & People Foundation (Baltimore, MD)

Parks & People's Urban Resources Initiative Program seeks an intern for a cooperative environmental justice project with Operation Reach Out Southwest (OROSW), a group of 11 low-income, predominantly minority neighborhoods in southwest Baltimore working together to restore their communities to physical and environmental health. The intern would train, oversee and lead a group of youth from the OROSW area in collecting data on the number and condition of vacant lots in the area, as well as information on the number and health of trees, and other environmental health indicators. The intern would analyze the data and conduct research on management options for neighborhood stewardship of vacant lands, and also draft a report outlining the research findings.

10) Center for the Inland Bays in cooperation with Inland Bays Citizen Monitoring Program (Lewes, DE)

The Center for the Inland Bays, in collaboration with the Inland Bays Citizen Monitoring Program, will conduct several small-scale research and monitoring projects that will provide an intern with the opportunity to work with marine scientists and educators in field projects, lab analysis, and outreach education. The major focus of the internship will be working with the Inland Bays Citizen Monitoring Program bacteria monitoring initiative to support Delaware's need to collect information to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for state waters and watersheds. The intern will be trained to collect and evaluate bacteria samples, follow a quality assurance procedure, maintain the database and report results via the Web. The intern will also have the opportunity to participate in the University of Delaware College of Marine Studies summer intern program where students take seminars and develop a course of independent study on a research topic and participate in an oceanographic research cruise.

Region 4

11) EarthMatters Tennessee (Nashville, TN)

The Urban Environmental Education Research intern would assist EarthMatters Tennessee in applying geographic information systems (GIS) to assess the impacts of our environmental education, urban greening, and recycling programs upon the inner city and predominantly African American North Nashville communities we serve. The intern will work cooperatively with Tennessee State University's Geographic Information Systems Laboratory, using GIS software to produce maps that delineate the positive externalities associated with EarthMatters Tennessee's home/community gardening, recycling, composting, and home energy management efforts. The final products will help EarthMatters Tennessee qualitatively and quantitatively assessing the impact of its work upon people of color communities.

12) Faith and the City at the ITC (Atlanta, GA)

The goals of the Atlanta Clean Community and Environment Programs are to reduce trash on public and private properties by a 24-hour phone line to keep the faith-based organizations

informed. The intern would research city codes and ordinance for community awareness; compile FBO listings for the area through canvassing and surveying; process-in the form of disseminating information of city codes and ordinances through workshops and faith services; analyze and update previous data for position papers, brochures, community sessions. This research will provide updated community & environmental data; help keep local churches and clergy informed about environmental issues through the Environmental Clergy Information e-line.

13) African American Cultural Alliance (Nashville, TN)

The EJ Stakeholders Collaboration & Consensus intern will assist in the alliance's work to establish mutual trust and collaborative efforts between the Nashville inner-city "White Way Laundry" toxic site community and the rural community in Hartsville, TN contesting a proposed uranium enrichment facility. As part of efforts to establish a middle Tennessee environmental watchdog, the intern will gain basic techniques of EJ advocacy, including terminology and history, laws and ordinances, and will help create an EJ advocates directory, research demographic & GIS data, coordinate meetings, and work with media as part of community campaigns.

14) Agricultural Resources Center & Pesticide Education Project (Raleigh, NC)

The Toxic-Free Schools intern would fulfill several functions at the Agricultural Resources Center that address the scope of toxic pesticide use in North Carolina schools. The intern would create a databank of contacts for all North Carolina school districts, help design and implement a survey of school pesticide use, compile the data collected, help ARC and school communities determine how to best use resources to put safe, non-toxic pest control programs into place, and help design and deliver community educational programs.

15) North Carolina Rural Communities Assistance Project (Pittsboro, NC)

The intern would provide data analysis on solid waste policies and procedures by researching examples of how states and rural communities throughout the US have developed policies and procedures to incorporate environmental justice concerns into the solid waste management decision-making process. In addition, the intern will work with community groups and individuals on policy recommendations. The results from the research will be compiled into a guidance document useful to both local governments and community organizations as a tool for strengthening public participation in solid waste decision-making and accounting for community concerns.

16) Southern Organizing Committee for Economic & Social Justice (Atlanta, GA)

The Southern Organizing Committee seeks an intern for one of the following projects-- 1) Pollution Prevention: research successful p2 initiatives; identify former superfund site and

brownfield communities that could benefit from the p2 initiative; develop information packet for distribution; provide assistance in identifying and contacting potential partners and projects; 2) Cumulative & Synergistic Risks: consult with environmental health experts to develop an instrument for inventorying communities that may be affected by these risks; identify four diverse communities to assist with developing a summary of risks, potential exposure sources, emissions data, permit activities and other relevant environmental, community health and education data, especially reproductive and developmental health; 3) Alternative Dispute Resolution: develop fact sheet on alternative dispute resolution; identify communities that could benefit from its use; identify and access technical support for communities interested in this alternative.

Region 5

17) Safer Pest Control Project (Chicago, IL)

The intern will learn about environmental and health risks of pesticide use and safer pest control strategies, including integrated pest management (IPM). The intern will select one of the following projects, based on their qualifications and interests: 1) conduct research on environmental impacts and fate of pesticides used for lawn and garden care, producing a report on types and quantities of outdoor pesticides used in Illinois, locations of concentrated use and impact on environment and water quality; 2) conduct a survey of current pest management practices at Illinois schools and the barriers to implementation of Integrated Pest Management, summarize and analyze the data and provide recommendations; 3) Develop a system for cataloging materials in the Safer Pest Control Resource Center, research and recommend materials for the Center, respond to public information requests on pesticide-related issues.

18) Earth Day Coalition/Sustainable Cleveland Partnership (Cleveland, OH)

Earth Day Coalition's Sustainable Cleveland Partnership (SCP) initiative promotes environmental justice in Cleveland's low-income and minority communities. The SCP intern would assist with research for fish consumption safety issues and develop user-friendly brochures for an expo for Cleveland's environmental justice neighborhoods. The intern will survey expo participants for their needs and perceptions regarding water pollution, fish consumption and public health, and initiate a pledge drive to the Ohio legislature to provide sustained funding to the Ohio Department of Health for regular advisories.

19) Environmental Community Organization (Cincinnati, OH)

The research intern would assist the Environmental Community Organization (ECO) with chemical inventory of air emissions at the AK Steel/Middletown integrated steel mill, one of southwest Ohio's largest industrial polluters, as part of its Good Neighbor Campaign. The intern would help research public sources of emissions information and standard production processes, reconciling information about factory emissions sources, creating a picture of the types and amounts of pollutants, mapping their locations, and providing a basis for identifying the best pollution control options. This project will provide information to help the community make

more informed choices in health care and lifestyle and to provide them a basis for better negotiations for pollution control.

20) The Greening of Detroit (Detroit, MI)

The Greening of Detroit is a nonprofit dedicated to guiding and inspiring the reforestation of the city of Detroit by conducting environmental education to support its reforestation efforts. As a counselor for Camp Greening, the intern will learn how to develop, implement and evaluate environmental education programs and activities about ecology and the urban environment, including the planting of trees and wildflowers at Detroit schools in May. The intern will improve their teaching skills and knowledge of urban forestry.

Region 6

21) Galveston Houston Association for Smog Prevention (Houston, TX)

The Galveston Houston Association for Smog Prevention GHASP recently conducted an impact assessment of the pollution caused by school buses in the Houston region as part of its efforts to reduce exposure of Houston area children (65% of whom are from minority populations) to harmful levels of particulates and air toxics. The intern would take this assessment to the 49 area school districts to advocate through public and media outreach that each district adopt appropriate pollution and exposure reduction policies.

22) Texas Bucket Brigade (Houston, TX)

The Texas Bucket Brigade, Houston Citizens' Air Monitoring Project, is a volunteer citizen organization which takes air samples in all the minority communities adjacent to the Houston Ship Channel, home to 200 chemical plants and refineries. The intern would assist in the daily operations of organizing, tracking air samples, organizing analyses and designing a portion of the website where results from the air samples will be posted. The communities will benefit from learning about the constituents in the air they breathe.

23) Silas Hunt Community Development Center (Ogden, AR)

The intern for the Silas Hunt CDC would assist in a short-term research project focused on the communities of Stamps and Warren, Arkansas, including researching complaints filed on behalf of the two communities; compiling related correspondence and developing a database of this information; and providing an analysis to share with community leaders. This research will identify critical environmental impacts and information gaps, serving as an impetus for action and communications.

24) Gulf Coast Institute (Houston, TX)

The intern would work with the Gulf Coast Institute's GIS Director to develop a traffic count database that would be used to produce digital and hard copy maps of Harris County, depicting highest traffic volumes for specific areas. Overlay maps depicting race, ethnicities, schools and

income levels can be superimposed on the traffic map to indicate areas of disproportionate and unfair burdens. Once developed, the database and maps of Harris County will make widely accessible data that was previously inaccessible because it was available in hard copy only. The intern will also assist with a comparison of demographic information before and after the opening of Houston's "Main Street Corridor" 7.5-mile light rail line.

Region 8

25) Brothers Redevelopment, Inc. (Denver, CO)

Brothers Redevelopment, Inc. (BRI) provides community development and programs in lower-income areas. In conjunction with BRI's Brownfield revitalization partnership with the City of Westminster, the intern would be involved in monitoring the environmental assessment of redevelopable land, participating on behalf of BRI in the preparation of redevelopment plans, pursuit of potential development partners for BRI, and support towards pursuit of construction. Specific responsibilities include assisting with: cataloging, monitoring and analyzing sampling data and mitigation plan preparation; compiling and analyzing data for redevelopment plans; participating with the City in planning and design workshops; and conducting research.

26) Project YES (Lafayette, CO)

Project Youth Envisioning Society (YES) is seeking an intern to design summer environmental education programs for youth ages 11 through 19 at its Youth Center as part of its community environmental service-learning water conservation project. The intern would survey community members, research water issues, collect and analyze data and share the results to educate and motivate at-risk youth to become active in leadership and service learning around environmental conservation issues.

27) Colorado People's Environmental & Economic Network (Denver, CO)

The Toll Road Project of Colorado People's Environmental & Economic Network (COPEEN), voices community concerns about the proposed elevated Toll Road on Interstate 70 and the resulting increase in air pollution faced by the already disparate community of Northeast Denver. The intern would research air pollutants; conduct literature research on pollution's impact on sensitive populations; conduct scoping sessions, public meetings, and focus groups; and educate community members about the health effects of pollution. The intern will also write and distribute articles and press releases about the proposed expansion of Interstate 70.

28) Utah Navajo Downwinders (Montezuma Creek, UT)

The intern for Utah Navajo Downwinders' environmental justice research project would develop comprehensive materials to be used by community members to educate the surrounding impacted communities about hazardous waste and chemicals from mining and milling facilities. Activities would include developing four posters with diagrams of regulatory agencies; non-radioactive and

radioactive materials and their sources received by the local dump; similar dumps across the nation; map of proposed waste origination routes and the likely increase in traffic that would result.

Region 9

29) Santa Clara Center for Occupational Safety & Health (San Jose, CA)

The intern would conduct interviews with young immigrant workers from the 12 main ethnic groups in Santa Clara County to increase scientific knowledge of their exposure to toxics where they work, live, learn or play, to aid in identification of possible exposure routes, and to identify environmental health risks for these populations. The intern will help compile and edit the interviews to produce a study manual telling these workers' stories. The project will help raise awareness about environmental health and justice issues and available policy resources.

30) West Oakland Neighbors (Oakland, CA)

There are many vacant and contaminated properties scattered throughout West Oakland—an intern would assist with determining the ownership of unsafe properties; collaborating with the County on lead and other toxics testing; and organizing the assistance of youth and other community members on soil tests. The intern would help analyze research and prepare a report of the findings for presentation to government agencies, foundations and other groups seeking funds for clean-up of hazardous lots.

31) Literacy for Environmental Justice (San Francisco, CA)

The Environmental Justice Organizer will be responsible for conducting research and compiling critical information on the health effects of Hunters Point Shipyard Superfund site on local children. S/he will also create a chronological history of the site as it relates to possible toxic releases and accidents that may have affected local children. The Organizer will gather information through conducting interviews with local physicians, teachers, parents, and students; by attending community meetings; and through archival research. The Organizer will compile this information along with site photos and maps into a final public presentation which will be utilized for educational and outreach purposes.

32) Dine Citizens Against Ruining our Environment (Winslow, AZ)

Dine Citizens Against Ruining our Environment (CARE) aims to inform community members in the Chuska Mountains, in their native language, about the Navajo Nation Administration's Forest Management Plan, Environmental Impact Statement and current laws and policies pertaining to land use and grazing permit issues. The intern would conduct research; help increase awareness by improving community access to different environmental laws; assist in the drafting of a model tribal environmental code with affected communities; strengthen community organizing techniques; and gain proficiency in translation/interpretation skills. These efforts would help guide tribal decision-making in the rehabilitation of over-logged and/or devastated forestlands resulting from commercial timbering.

33) Indigenous Community Enterprises (Flagstaff, AZ)

Indigenous Community Enterprises (ICE) was founded to create a direct link between the restoration of forests and traditional use lands, and the well being of native communities in northern Arizona. This summer, the ICE intern would help expand its Research and Development activities, including product and market research, product development, community assets assessment, community trainings in new business opportunities, and prototype testing. These activities show promise in helping federal forest managers find ways to make restoration treatments more economically viable and ways to create much-needed economic options in Native communities.

Region 10

34) Siuslaw Watershed Council (Mapleton, OR)

The Siuslaw Watershed Council's Volunteer Estuary Monitoring Program (VEEP) intern would help determine non-point source pollution impacts from urbanized areas adjacent to the estuary and potential sedimentation effects related to lowland industrial activities. The intern would collect field samples, enter data, participate in data analysis and presentation, coordinate volunteers, coordinate a newsletter, and assist in a water quality community education event. The data will be integrated into a comprehensive monitoring plan and for restoration and improved estuary management strategies.

35) Washington Toxics Coalition (Seattle, WA)

As part of the Washington Toxics Coalition's new project, the intern would help publicize the stories of real people in Washington State suffering from real health problems associated with pesticides and toxic chemicals. The intern would compile stories of people of color and in low-income situations who have suffered health impacts, and help communicate these stories to the public through profiles in the coalition newsletter and website, media outreach, and a report.

36) Alaska Community Action on Toxics (Anchorage, AK)

Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT) is collaborating with the Native Village of Hydaburg (Haida Indians) in grassroots efforts by to prevent the state from permitting applications of harmful herbicides in Alaska forests. The intern for this project would research documents, sample streams for pesticides, and analyze results. The intern will have the option to work with members of the ACAT team to write the research report, produce GIS maps, organize and advocate for communities, and/or work with the media as part of community outreach efforts.