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Streets and Parks: 607-749-3813

Recreation: 607-749-2161

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Background

Introduction

Since 2018, the Village of Homer has been active and engaged in the Climate Smart Communities (CSC) program reaching bronze status in the fall of 2020. In order to continue progressing in the program and making the Village a more sustainable place, the Village is looking for students interested in remote, flexible, part-time, non-paid work experience this summer. Each of the projects have a different timeline, so the duration of the internship and start and end dates will be discussed once the student has expressed interest.

Eligibility

To be eligible for this internship, you must be a current college student or recent graduate and have some level of experience with the relevant project (coursework, previous work or internship, extracurricular activities, personal experience, etc). The structure of the internship will be flexible, including working times, starting and ending dates, and the subject matter. Interns should be self-motivated and have effective time management skills as this experience will be structured around mostly independent work.

Position Responsibilities

- Complete the project deliverables as described below.
- Communicate regularly with the Village’s CSC Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator.
- Attend monthly CSC meetings and prepare updates for the task force.
- Thoroughly document progress and findings to be submitted for CSC credit.

Benefits

- Flexible work schedule, and start and end dates
- Flexible location due to remote work format
- Gain real world experience in sustainable planning, local governments, and the Climate Smart Communities program

Project Descriptions

Composting Program

Last year, the Village began selling personal composters at cost to residents and community members in an effort to decrease the amount of waste households send to landfills. The composters sold out quickly and this high demand allowed the Village to purchase another round for distribution this spring.

In conjunction with this program, the Village would also like to create a broader education and information campaign about the benefits and process of composting so that residents can use their composters most effectively. This project would entail:

- Researching and putting together informational packets about how to start composting.
- Using media (radio, newspaper, website, social media, etc) to inform the public.
- Depending on Village policy and public health guidance, potentially finding and organizing in-person composting classes or information sessions.
- Documenting this process to be submitted for credit under action “PE5 Action: Waste Reduction Education Campaign” in the CSC program. (See [this site](#) for details.)

Complete Streets Proposal

In an effort to decrease dependence on fossil fuels for transportation, the Village would like to encourage alternative forms of transportation (including walking, cycling, etc). Part of this effort could include assessing how infrastructure (bike lanes, pedestrian and cycling signage, walking paths, etc) impacts transportation choices or how education campaigns could impact individuals’ choices. This project would entail:

- Researching other municipalities’ complete streets policies.
- Identifying possible infrastructure changes that could best encourage walking and cycling.
- Researching the environmental and health benefits of alternative transportation and how to best communicate this to the public.
- Draft a complete streets policy that includes infrastructure and education components.
- Documenting this process to be submitted for credit under action “PE6 Action: Complete Streets Policy” in the CSC program. (See [this site](#) for details.)

Note: Since this project involves knowledge of the physical layout and infrastructure of the Village, it could be useful (although certainly not required) to be within driving distance.

Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory

The Village has two baseline inventories - for community and government emissions, respectively. However, since both of these inventories were conducted by a group of students from SUNY ESF, the Village does not have a standard way of continuing to monitor GHG emissions, fuel consumption, electricity use, etc all in one place. This project would entail:

- Creating a “master spreadsheet” template that could keep track of GHG emissions, fuel use, electricity consumption, etc in one document
- Writing a detailed and clear explanation of how to fill out this spreadsheet that can be read and understood by the average person (who is NOT technically / environmentally trained).
- Documenting this process to be submitted for credit under action “PE10 Action: GHG Tracking System” in the CSC program. (See [this site](#) for details.)

Flexible Option

If an intern is passionate about a subject that is not included in one of the above projects, the Village will consider other project proposals on a case-by-case basis. Ideally, these proposals should fulfill an action in the Climate Smart program that the Village has not already completed. For information on all possible actions visit the [Climate Smart Communities website](#) and for information on what the Village has accomplished visit [our website](#).

Next Steps

Contacts

If you have questions about any of the above material or if you would like to express interest, our contact information is below. Please attach your resume with your email and indicate which project(s) you are interested in.

- Shenequa Perry, *CSC Coordinator*. shenequayperry@gmail.com
- Andrew Fagerheim, *CSC Assistant Coordinator*. andfagerheim@outlook.com