

Environment North Carolina **Internship Description**

Who We Are

Environment North Carolina is a citizen-based environmental advocacy organization working at both the state and national level. We believe there's something special about North Carolina — something worth protecting and preserving for future generations. Whether it's watching for sea turtles at Cape Hatteras or taking in the views along the Blue Ridge Parkway, North Carolina's natural wonders enrich our lives in countless ways.

Yet the places we love and the environmental values so many of us share are too often threatened by powerful industries, shortsighted politicians and more. Defending our environment requires independent research, tough-minded advocacy and spirited grassroots action. That's the idea behind Environment North Carolina. Together with thousands of supporters from all walks of life, we take the kind of action that wins tangible results for our environment.

Current Campaigns and Context

Offshore Drilling

In January of 2018, the Department of the Interior released a draft plan that would open up the entire coastline to extraction practices. This will not only threaten the way of life of our coastal communities and the wildlife they live in harmony with, but also endanger a more than multi-billion dollar recreation industry that brings in tourism revenue for North Carolina every year.

The plan has been on indefinite hold since a federal judge ruled that President Trump exceeded his authority by lifting bans on oil and gas drilling in parts of the Atlantic and Arctic, but a revised plan is in the works and could be released at a moment's notice. That's why we need to keep the pressure on the administration to demonstrate the overwhelming opposition to keeping North Carolina in the final plan. By bringing together coastal citizens, community leaders, veterans, marine life scientists, and local businesses to communicate about the realistic impacts of offshore drilling, we can ensure that our elected leaders are hearing that that preservation of a pristine coast is a priority for North Carolinians.

Clean Energy

North Carolinians are facing increasingly intense and more frequent natural disasters due to climate change. Just last year, we had a devastating hurricane season; Florence and Michael wreaked havoc on the state, and vulnerable communities in Eastern North Carolina are still reeling from the damage.

We need climate action policies, especially at the federal level because carbon emissions know no boundaries. That's why we are working to transition North Carolina into a clean energy economy by inspiring cities and campuses to make commitments to 100% renewable energy, encouraging legislation that incentivizes zero emission vehicles, and sparking the conversations that will send the message to our decision makers across the state that now is the time to act. We are also writing op-eds and letters to the editor, planning press events, and pounding the pavement to elevate the issue in the public's eye to engage all stakeholders so we can see progress at the local, state, and national level.

Get the Lead Out

Lead is a potent neurotoxin, especially harmful to kids even at low levels. But because for decades we put lead into our pipes, fixtures, and plumbing, it is contaminating drinking water all across the country, including in schools and pre-schools.

The best way to prevent lead contamination is to "get the lead out" - replacing old water fountains, faucets, and other the lead-bearing parts in the water delivery systems of schools, pre-schools, and elsewhere. Installing filters is another, immediate step to preventing contamination. Given lead toxicity even at low levels, schools should limit lead concentrations in water to no more than 1 part per billion, as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Even after replacing lead parts and installing filters, outlets should be regularly tested to ensure that the water our kids drink meets this safety standard. All of these steps will require resources - from state, local, and federal sources. This fall we are releasing a report about lead contamination across the country and will be mobilizing communities across the state to take the initiative in protecting our children.

Realms and Responsibilities

Media Realm- Based around generating attention for Environment North Carolina's environmental defense campaign in both traditional and social media platforms. Visibility in the media is critical to our efforts to educate and engage North Carolinians on environmental issues. The media realm prioritizes outreach to Triad/Triangle print, television, radio, and online outlets with a focus on an opinion media drive, pitching reporters to attend and cover our public events, and organizing a video petition to be shared on social media. Additionally they will work with office staff to draft a social media plan.

Quantifiable Goals for Media Intern

1. Submit 7 Letters to the Editor, follow-up with outlets to publish and circulate

2. Work with office staff to plan a social media strategy and draft 3 social media posts per week to be shared on Environment North Carolina's accounts
3. Secure 3 media hits for each press conference or event we hold
4. Write 2 news advisory/release drafts

Organizing Realm- Rooted in generating support from local professionals and leaders for Environment North Carolina's campaigns by identifying and meeting with key members of the community including religious leaders, professors, business owners, veterans, and other local leaders as well as organizing events that these leaders, as well as the media, can attend. Event organizing and support from local leaders is critical to our efforts to show our elected officials that the environment is a top issue for North Carolina. The organizing interns will help expand a coalition of more than 30 community leaders from priority districts and will aid staff in planning events and outreach opportunities. The focus of this realm will be on meetings with community stakeholders, seeking support from small businesses in the form of sign-on letters, planning district advocacy meetings, and organizing other major campaign events.

Quantifiable Goals for Organizing Intern

1. Schedule and attend 10 meetings with community leaders (campaign organizer will be in attendance as well)
2. Recruit 5 academics to join our opinion media drive efforts
3. Schedule and attend at least 1 meeting with target representative staff
4. Secure 5 business partners to sponsor/support events ie. space, music, catering, etc
5. Research and identify 30 additional community group leaders as possible speakers, partners, etc
 - a. End goal to have 4 key participants

Grassroots Realm- Responsible for demonstrating citizen support for Environment North Carolina's campaigns by using grassroots tactics to organize the community around the issues. Citizen support is critical to our efforts because we seek to educate and engage North Carolinians across the state. The grassroots intern will prioritize citizen outreach in the Triad/Triangle area with a focus on organizing citizen participation, running a petition and photo-petition series, and developing a video petition to be shared on social media. The grassroots intern will activate 10 volunteers and collect at least 100 photo petitions over the course of the spring campaign block as well as participate in weekly phone banks to engage the public.

Quantifiable Goals for Grassroots Intern

1. Collect 100 photo petitions from the public in key congressional districts
2. Recruit and assist basic training of 10 volunteers
3. Generate 50 new student names for event attendance from tabling and class/club presentations

4. Generate 50 yeses to attend event from member phonebanking/email listserves

Qualifications

We are looking for people who are organized, responsible, have good written and verbal communication skills, and are able to take initiative on projects. Campaign assignments and responsibilities will be designated to each intern based on personal interest and knowledge set.

How to Apply – apply online at http://jobs.environmentamerica.org/intern-application.html?_ga=2.64488425.758443005.1567537257-1488878611.1544477385

A completed application includes the following:

- A one-page personal statement describing your reasons for seeking an internship with Environment North Carolina and what you hope to gain from the experience
- A resume outlining your educational, professional, and volunteer experiences