

Position: Clean Energy Case Study Researcher - unpaid summer internship
Organization: Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs)

Position description:

Date: Summer 2010

Hours: Hours are flexible, part-time

Location: Work can be done from the CERTs office at the U of M St. Paul campus or from home. Ability to meet at CERTs office at least every few weeks is preferred.

Compensation: Unpaid, can complete paperwork for credit or internship requirements.

Reports To: CERTs Campaign & Metrics coordinator

Background:

The Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERTs) project, launched in 2003, is connecting people with the technical resources needed to identify and implement community-scale energy efficiency and clean energy projects.

The Clean Energy Resource Teams are diverse—individuals, small business owners, farmers, members of environmental groups, local utility representatives, local, state and federal government staff and elected leaders, academics—and all share common goals and values. They want strong communities, local jobs, and secure, clean, reliable energy.

The CERTs approach is one of pragmatism and cooperation. It's a model for how tangible economic, social and environmental benefits can be achieved by reaching across traditional interest groups and taking a true, community-based approach. In fact, CERTs has become something of a model for community-based clean energy.

Description:

CERTs supports community-based clean energy projects across the state with seed grants. Once the project is completed, the grantee submits a final report telling how the project was implemented. The final step is to create a case study to describe community models, technologies and lessons learned about projects CERTs has helped fund. These case studies are typically one to two pages long and are a helpful resource to communities who want to do similar projects. Interns will be given a byline (credit) for the case study they write (if they wish) and hopefully gain valuable insight into the variety of clean energy projects springing up across the state.

Responsibilities:

- Coordinate with CERTs staff regarding which projects need case studies.
- Read the final report submitted about the project, do additional research, and conduct interviews with applicants if needed (interviews can be conducted over the phone from the CERTs office).
- Write the case study draft and make suggested edits suggested by CERTs staff.
- Submit completed case study for publication on CERTs website.
- Assist with Minnesota Schools Cutting Carbon tasks as needed.

Qualifications:

1. Strong writing and communication skills.
2. Ability to work independently as well as in a group setting.
3. Ability to interact effectively with diverse groups of people.
4. Comfortable with research and conducting interviews.
5. An interest in environmental or energy issues, community, or journalism.

Please submit a cover letter and your resume to Michelle Vigen, email: vigen010@umn.edu by Wednesday, June 2nd at 12:00 noon.

For more information, contact:

Michelle Vigen, CERTs Campaign & Metrics coordinator

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