

Interning with the West Coast Collaborative

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Acknowledgements

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Executive Summary

The following is a brief overview of the tasks that were required for the internship:

- Assist with research tasks and overseeing projects
- Help in planning and facilitating webinars
- Compile weekly news summaries focusing on specific subject areas or geographic regions
- Assist with compiling and editing one "WCC Communicator" newsletter
- Compile a directory of Southern California environmental justice groups and contacts, with an emphasis on communities affected by diesel pollution

Project Objectives

The Agency's mission is to create, support, and implement diesel emissions reduction projects. They accomplish this goal by raising awareness to citizens and work to find new technologies that would be most beneficial. One of the following projects which contributed to the agency's mission is to encourage companies to switch to solar power and to input electric vehicle charging station. This encourages companies to use new technologies that would be beneficial to the company and to the environment. Another major project that needed assistance with is helping with the Annual Green West Coast Collaborative Partners Meeting. This event which is a major contribution to the organization mission; is established to promote new technologies that will save money and reduce carbon footprint. Towards the end of the internship it was required to seek employment, which would contribute to your future career.

Project Approach

For the first project that involve reaching out to companies to promote electric vehicle (EV) charging stations. In order to convince companies to partake in the project, is by stating how the company would save money by inputting charging station and converting to solar power. How I approached this project is by providing a brief description of the overall initiative of the project. I also had to research the general benefits and financial incentives of EV charging stations and Solar Power in the workplace. Benefits mainly referring to anything related to exemptions, rebate programs, vehicle incentives, insurance discount, rate reductions, equipment rebate, any LEED certification, etc. Also provided brief descriptions of non-profits organizations which would be involved with the incentive process, organizations such as: PEVC (Plug-In Electric Vehicle Collaborative), Plug-In America, CALSTART, EVA(Electric Auto

Association) of Northern Los Angeles, EVA of Southern California. As well as research utilities: SCEs (Southern California Edison) Charger Ready pilot, LADWP (Los Angeles Department of Water and Power), GWP (Glendale Water and Power), and SCAQMD (south Coast Air Quality Management District) territory. Another part for this project was to provide information that would be useful for the website for people and companies to access and learn more about the project.

The other big project was assisting with the annual meeting. This involved making sure that brochure being provided was current and explained the itinerary for the meeting. From the flyer that was given I had to identify what needed to be added and what needed to be removed. The last assignment which help build career development skills involved looking for potential jobs that would be of interest and hopefully build towards your future career. This required writing a resume and cover letters for those potential jobs.

Project Outcomes

This internship made me realize my current strengths and weaknesses in the workplace. I was able to enhance my abilities to communicate effectively from an outside source, improving my writing skills and researching skills for projects, furthering my knowledge of diesel emissions, Electric Vehicle charging stations and Solar Power. This gave me the opportunity of applying what was learned in the classroom into the workplace. This experience gave me an insight into the type of work and skill-set I will be performing for my future career. A weakness that was portrayed through this was the working from home aspect. Normally when in an office you are told what to do on a daily basis, this was challenging because not everyday I was given

something to do. This involved constantly checking emails and making sure to turn in projects on a timely manner. In order to overcome this I had to improve my communications skills.

Conclusion

In conclusion with this organization I was able to see how they promote cleaner and safer technologies that will result in reducing diesel emissions. Through the projects of researching incentives for EV charging stations and Solar power for the West Coast Collaborative, this has further gain my knowledge and experience with diesel emissions, Electric Vehicles and Solar Power in the environmental field. By helping to prepare the team for the Annual West Coast Collaborative Partners Meeting has given me an incredible insight into some of the activities that the EPA performs. Also learning how to build on your career development skills was a critical skill to obtain for the future. With the knowledge that was obtained through this experience I will have confidence going forward in pursuing my career.

Appendices

N/A