Atkinson Summer 2015 Intern, Analyzing the Economics of Creating Carbon Credits by Optimizing Fertilizer Agriculture Greenhouse Gas Markets/Ecosystems

With world attention focused on both the environment and the economy, Environmental Defense Fund is where policymakers and business leaders turn for win-win solutions. This leading green group, founded in 1967, has tripled in size over the past decade by focusing on strong science, uncommon partnerships and market-based approaches.

Are you interested in exploring a career at an internationally-recognized environmental organization? By joining EDF as a summer intern, you too can be part of a vibrant workplace that welcomes diverse perspectives, talents and contributions, where innovation and a focus on results are a way of life. EDF’s Internship Program welcomes intellectually hungry leaders to join us, advance our work, and cultivate the skills and relationships needed for a successful career working for the environment. Alumni of our Internship Program have gone on to important leadership positions, most notably our own President, Fred Krupp. Could you be the next Fred Krupp?

Overall Function

EDF offers internships for students and recent graduates in a variety of programs and departments throughout the organization. Our internships typically run for 10 weeks during the summer. The ultimate goal of our internship program is to provide high-quality experiences (including relevant projects and opportunities for networking) that form the foundation for any individual who is serious about an environmental career.

Position Description

EDF’s Ecosystems Team works with farmers, ranchers, and forest owners to enhance environmental management practices on private lands throughout the U.S. We develop and implement economic incentives for these producers to adopt environmentally-beneficial practices, including reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from their lands. In particular, we create policies, protocols and infrastructure to support California’s landmark cap-and-trade program which has built a $2 billion market for working landowners. In addition, our team has extensive experience working with growers and agriculture partners to implement projects. EDF is the only organization with experience creating agricultural greenhouse gas offsets from the basic science all the way through pilot projects and cultivating the market infrastructure to support the trading of reduction credits.

The goal of this internship is to explore the economic feasibility of U.S. agriculture to reduce its greenhouse gas footprint while generating revenue from carbon credits. The intern will work with the EDF Ecosystems Team, Climate and Energy Team, and outside experts (from research institutions and state and federal agencies) to 1) identify the economic costs for optimizing nitrogen fertilizer use to generate verifiable carbon credits, 2) analyze the costs and benefits of existing greenhouse gas quantification methods, and 3) strategize development of tools to scale offset projects to achieve these reductions from fertilizer optimization. Furthermore, the intern will help identify ways to reduce barriers to achieving greenhouse gas mitigation on working lands.

The Agriculture Greenhouse Gas Markets team will provide mentorship opportunities throughout the internship. The Intern will have the opportunity to interface and work with progressive agricultural producers, cutting edge scientists, and leading climate change policy experts. The Intern will be exposed to California’s cap-and-trade market and have access to EDF’s California Climate Team experts. The Atkinson Intern will be encouraged to pursue other professional development opportunities of most interest to the Intern. Additionally, the San Francisco office holds monthly professional development and speaker series presentations and the Agriculture Greenhouse Gas Markets team will support the Atkinson intern’s attendance.

- Location: San Francisco, CA
- Direct Work Supervisor Name: Sara Kroopf
- Direct Work Supervisor Title: Project Manager, Agriculture Greenhouse Gas Markets
Key Responsibilities

Tasks will include but are not be limited to:

- Research, analyze, and synthesize information on topics related to greenhouse gas mitigation through nitrogen fertilizer optimization, focusing on economic incentives and costs
- Conduct outreach to internal and external stakeholders to drive understanding and consensus on the economic costs associated with creating an aggregated nitrogen fertilizer project
- Conduct cost-benefit analysis to determine feasibility of aggregated nitrogen fertilizer project scenarios
- Create and present summary of cost-benefit analysis to key staff and partners

Qualifications

- Undergraduate or graduate student with demonstrated interest and knowledge of carbon markets and agriculture
- Coursework in environmental economics, ecology, statistics or accounting, agriculture
- Experience conducting an economic cost-benefit analysis
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Must be well organized, motivated, and detail-oriented
- Ability to multi-task, prioritize and meet deadlines
- Ability to work in a team setting and have the ability to work independently when projects are due
- Demonstrate initiative and problem solving skills

Term

- 10 weeks during the summer.
- The position is full-time (35 hours/week).

Compensation

- Compensation is $5,000 for the summer term.

Due to the volume of employment applications and queries received, EDF is unable to respond to each application individually. Applicants will be contacted directly if selected as a candidate.

Environmental Defense Fund is an Equal Opportunity Employer