Cornell Atkinson Summer 2016 Intern – (2016 ACSF Internship #2)

Project/Job Title: Economics of Groundwater Management
Program: Office of Economic and Policy Analysis
Location: Boston, MA

Environmental Defense Fund (edf.org), a leading international nonprofit organization, creates transformational solutions to the most serious environmental problems. EDF links science, economics, law and innovative private-sector partnerships. Connect with us on EDF Voices, Twitter, and Facebook.

Are you interested in exploring a career at an internationally recognized environmental organization? By joining EDF as an intern, you 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?

EDF offers internships and fellowships for students and recent graduates in a variety of programs and departments throughout the organization. The ultimate goal of our internship and fellowship 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 pursuing an environmental career.

Reports to
Matthew Zaragoza-Watkins
High Meadows Senior Economist, Office of Economic and Policy Analysis

Overall Function
In many places, groundwater resources are dwindling, often due to chronic mismanagement. At EDF, we believe that the establishment of equitable property-rights systems, coupled with incentive-based allocation mechanisms, can begin to solve this widespread problem. However, in many regions, communities and local agencies do not possess the requisite expertise to build robust groundwater institutions on their own. Therefore, to catalyze the adoption of institutions for sustainably managing groundwater, EDF is launching a project to equip local communities and agencies with a toolkit of viable rights-based approaches to efficiently achieve groundwater sustainability. Reaching our goals will put regions on a path to more resilient flexible water systems, healthier ecosystems, and a stronger economy in the years to come.

The Office of Economic and Policy Analysis (OEPA) and the Ecosystems Program are partnering to write a handbook for designing groundwater management institutions and a series of case studies aimed showcasing how regions have successfully established rights-based management systems for groundwater. To develop a portable and durable rights-based
management framework, we will build on EDF’s experience developing market-oriented solutions to environmental problems, gathering and applying lessons from jurisdictions that have previously implemented rights-based systems for managing groundwater, building strong relationships with experts in a variety of disciplines, and developing tools to effectively communicate with diverse stakeholders.

The Atkinson intern will assist OEPA economists in developing the handbook and case studies through research, data analysis, and writing internal and public communications. Over the course of the internship, the Atkinson intern will work with OEPA economists to identify a list of ten or twelve case studies, conduct a literature review on the theory and evidence of rights-based groundwater management, work with OEPA economists to develop an outline for the groundwater design manual, and work with OEPA economists to draft two to four case studies. Well-qualified candidates will have demonstrated research interest in economics or a related field and a passion for public policy and advocacy, particularly related to natural resources and use of market-based solutions to environmental problems.

With one of the richest ecosystems of research universities in the world, Boston is the ideal location for the Atkinson intern to engage in professional development. OEPA maintains affiliations with the environmental economics programs at Harvard and MIT. Through these connections, the Atkinson intern will have an opportunity to attend seminars given by leaders in the fields of development, energy, and environmental economics. In addition to these Boston-specific amenities, OEPA organizes a semimonthly environmental economics seminar where researchers in the field of environmental economics present their current work. Through these seminars and lunchtime discussions, the Atkinson intern will have the opportunity to interact with researchers and deepen his or her understanding of the field.

**Key Responsibilities**

Tasks will include but are not limited to:

- Gathering information on regions using rights-based systems to manage groundwater.
- Helping create and maintain databases of physical and economic indicators.
- Compiling statistics on regions using rights-based frameworks to manage groundwater.
- Assisting in drafting case studies and synthesizing general lessons from various regions.
- Providing support for the above tasks through internet research and literature reviews.
- Candidates with significant prior research experience may be invited to participate in related research projects.

**Qualifications**

- Course work in economics (at least two college-level economics classes required); economics major or related discipline preferred.
- Demonstrated interest in public policy and advocacy, particularly natural resources and use of market-based solutions to environmental problems.
- Highly proficient in MS Word and Excel.
- Knowledge of statistical software (e.g., Stata) and computer programing languages (i.e., Python).
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
• Well-organized, motivated, and detail-oriented.
• Ability to multitask, prioritize, and meet deadlines.
• Ability to work in a team setting, with the ability to work independently when projects are due.
• Demonstrated initiative and problem-solving skills.

**Location**
Boston, Massachusetts

**Term**
10 weeks during the summer

**Hours**
Full-time (35 hours/week)

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

**Application Materials**
- Submit applications by email to Paula Euvrard, pge3@cornell.edu.
- Attach your application as a single PDF file.
- Application must include a **cover letter** addressed to the EDF contact with a brief explanation of your qualifications and interest, followed by your **CV** or **resume**.
- Optional: you may include a brief writing sample.
- You must attach a **separate** PDF file for each internship, if applying for more than one.

*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**

_March 2016_