

EVST 380: Sustainability Internship

Learning Outcomes: By the end of this course, a student should be able to demonstrate that they have made a tangible contribution to the sustainability goals of the partner organization through research, critical thinking, and problem solving and articulate how their specific project fits within the umbrella of sustainable environmental systems.

1. Sustainability Communications and Media Intern

- Promote the Office of Sustainability events and initiatives through creative communication including videos, newsletters, website posts, social media, infographics, etc.
- Develop streamlined photo organization system for the Office and add stock photos from events throughout the semester
- Create engaging “Instagram takeover” content for use on the sustainability instagram
- Help update sustainability.lafayette.edu to include more student voice
- Develop metrics for measuring success and participation in Office communications
- Add Sustainability Timeline to website

2. Sustainability Education and Awareness Intern

- Work to increase awareness about sustainability programs including Eco-Clamshells, Ink/Battery/pen recycling, pollinator gardens, toiletry and chip bag Terracycle, reusable water bottle usage, etc.
- Work with Recycling and Waste Reduction Intern to raise awareness on recycling at Lafayette and debunk the myth that we do not recycle
- Program sustainability into RA and OL training
- Develop creative means to integrate sustainability into Lafayette culture

3. Recycling and Waste Reduction Intern

- Collaborate with Facilities to streamline recycling programs and increase recycling efforts
- Conduct monthly waste audits; record and analyze data to see what are the main items that are misplaced
- Increase awareness and participation in recycling on campus
- Create educational information for off-campus housing
- Help improve campus-wide recycling events like Green Move In and Green Move Out
- Enhance participation and information on hard to recycle items including ink cartridges, batteries, pens/ pencils and Terracycle items
- Develop and evaluate system for students to swap items throughout the school year

4. Athletics Sustainability Intern

- Develop sustainability improvements for the Athletics Department related to energy, waste/recycling, athlete participation, compost, purchasing, reusable water bottles, etc.
- Implement and execute RecycleMania Gameday Challenges during the Fall semester
- Work with facilities to expand recycling to Kirby Sports Center
- Help “green” events that happen in Athletic complexes

5. Compost and Food Waste Intern (Not offered Spring 2020)

- Conduct food waste audits of all Dining Halls to establish a baseline understanding of how much food waste is produced and from what sources
- Research options for collecting and composting food waste on-campus, including on-and-off campus options, and budgets for implementation of different options
- Streamline and expand “Zero Waste Events”
- Develop methods of educating campus community on food waste reduction and compost collection, such as weekly/ monthly reports on amount of food waste collected, tours of on-and-off site composting facilities, etc.
- Monitor and improve on-campus compost production, including testing compost for OM, NPK, moisture, pH; help to develop system for using leachate
- Implement at least one additional method for collection and composting of food waste

6. Food and Farm Intern

- Lafayette’s 2018 Climate Action Plan does not yet account for carbon emissions which result from Lafayette’s food footprint, yet agriculture and food production are responsible for 15-20% of our global emissions.
- The Food and Farm intern will work closely with Bon Appetit and LaFarm to track our carbon footprint for our food consumed on-campus and help devise strategies for reducing or off-setting this number
- Research carbon smart farming methods and help LaFarm develop a plan for implementing one or more of these methods

7. Transportation Intern

- Investigate transportation emissions on-campus or related to campus activities to identify all sources of emissions and quantify their emissions
- Identify potential emissions-reduction strategies for each source and assess their suitability based on the amount of emissions reduction achievable, cost, visibility, opportunities for student engagement, etc.
- Investigate new technology or fuel alternatives for College-owned fleet
- Develop opportunities to reduce overall emissions via programs that encourage faculty and staff to commute by walking, biking, or switching to plug-in electric vehicles

8. Biodiversity Intern

- Work closely with the grounds crew and LaFarm to increase native and pollinator-friendly plantings at LaFarm and on-campus
- Create a proposal for a native and pollinator-friendly planting policy for all new landscaping on-campus, to ensure that new landscaping best supports biodiversity of our native flora and fauna
- Create educational materials or events to share information on the importance of pollinator habitat and native plantings and increase awareness on-campus
- Support maintenance of current pollinator gardens, including collaborating with EcoReps, planning and implementing volunteer days, and ensuring execution of maintenance plan throughout Summer months
- Design proposal for the implementation of one or more additional pollinator gardens on-campus and/ or at LaFarm

9. Energy Intern

- Climate Action Plan 2.0 identifies afforestation of fields adjacent to La Farm as a mitigation strategy to neutralize carbon emissions associated with the Metzgar Complex.
- This project seeks to investigate the science of carbon sequestration by plants and trees through a literature review which will summarize existing knowledge regarding the best management practices associated with successful afforestation.
- Develop a plan for the Metzgar Complex that evaluates several options for afforestation and provides a recommendation based on factors such as (but not limited to) soil carbon accumulation levels, biomass growth rates, environmental impacts associated with growing, cost estimates, and potential biomass energy applications of the harvested crop.