



GREEN IOWA AMERICORPS: ENERGY & COMMUNITY

RESILIENT IOWA COMMUNITIES

TRACK DESCRIPTION:

The University of Northern Iowa's Green Iowa AmeriCorps (GIA) program in collaboration with the Resilient Iowa Communities (RIC) is offering the opportunity for cities to host AmeriCorps members to assist with furthering the goals of their community's climate action work. AmeriCorps members will provide boots on the ground support for education, outreach, data collection, and community engagement surrounding the unique priorities and goals of the community alongside the mission of the Green Iowa AmeriCorps/RIC programs. The service track option will provide members with a unique experience to work closely with government officials and community partners, learn technical skills related to climate action planning and greenhouse gas inventories as well as planning and executing education and outreach projects on a community scale.

TRACK DESIGN:

The E/C RIC track is designed to place two AmeriCorps members with each host organization, each serving a 1,700-hour service commitment over the course of an 11-month period. This breaks down to roughly a 37-40 hour weekly commitment. Members assume one of two coordinator roles created by the host organization. Traditionally, one member is focused on the work associated with the greenhouse gas inventory project and data collection surrounding the climate action plan project. The other member is traditionally focused on organizing education and outreach efforts with the community, including community wide events, presentations, education materials for the website, and other activities focused on promoting environmental work. Team coordinator roles may fluctuate based on site specific initiatives or host site placement.

E/C RIC sites also enroll a minimum of two minimum-time, 300 hour positions to serve in 3-month summer AmeriCorps positions as Environmental Summer Stewards. This is an introduction for less experienced members into the environmental field, community service projects, job training, and hands-on skill development. It also creates more boots on the ground support for program initiatives during the warmer months of heightened environmental work.

PROJECT & COORDINATOR EXAMPLES

- Collaborate with utility companies and facilities to determine where and how districts are losing energy dollars
- Work to make public buildings more energy-efficient through maintenance upgrades, data tracking and/or behavioral tactics
- Gather data and build necessary networks to create a climate action plan for the host city / county to assess climate impacts and develop future planning decisions and upgrades as available

- Complete greenhouse gas inventory data collection and analysis for community
- Complete a minimum of one energy efficiency project with a community partner or host
- Complete a minimum of one residential energy efficiency project engaging a minimum of 25 households in collaboration with their host or community partners
- Refer minimum of 3 local businesses to energy efficiency services through Iowa Waste Reduction Center
- Plan and execute 10 environmental education events, in person and online for a minimum of 100 participants over the course of the service term in collaboration with team members and program partners.
- Complete environmentally focused service projects including but not limited to tree planting, invasive species removal, native habitat restoration, community & school gardens, river and highway clean ups
- Create marketing/outreach/incentive programs to achieve residential/commercial/governmental waste, water, and energy use reduction via energy conservation education and/or energy efficiency measures
- Create or participate in a marketing/outreach/incentive program to increase renewable energy production by homes
- Conduct presentations and create materials to Increase walking, biking and transit use by one or more of the following: produce/distribute route maps, signage or a website; document bike facilities such as bike racks, bike stations, rideshare programs, and other activities to help reduce barriers to public transit use to reduce carbon emissions created by transportation
- Collaborate with hosts to implement improved sustainable landscaping and stormwater mitigation tactics including but not limited to tree planting, buffer strips, rain garden installation, and stormwater drain beautification projects
- Compare the energy use and financial performance of your facilities with other peer facilities using standardized, free tools.

FAQs

1. **Who qualifies to host a Resilient Iowa team?** The program will partner with counties or cities who have joined the Resilient Iowa Communities program at the University of Iowa's Center for Energy & Environmental Education. Communities will have to be a committed partner of RIC to be eligible to host members as a RIC site.
2. **We are interested in hosting a team. What are my next steps?** The program has an application process for anyone interested in hosting members from any of our service tracks. Host site selections are based on availability, application, and timing of requests. You can contact Program Director Ashley Coffin at Ashley.Coffin@uni.edu or the CEEE's Energy Program Manager with your inquiries.
3. **What requirements are involved with hosting a program?** The program requires the necessary capacity to host a team, including functional office space, a designated site supervisor, and a cash match payment to the program annually to help cover costs associated with the member's uniforms, living allowance, and general program operations. A portion of the total also goes to support the work associated with support for the greenhouse gas inventory and climate action planning work. Each host executes a host site agreement with Green Iowa AmeriCorps and the University of Northern Iowa that outlines all the host and program responsibilities that goes into greater detail of the expectations of each partner.

- 4. Are members employees or our organization?** All Green Iowa AmeriCorps members, including members serving in our Energy & Community RIC sites, are contractual employees through the University of Northern Iowa (UNI). UNI is responsible for all hiring processes, paperwork, distribution of living allowance, health benefits, FICA, workers compensation, etc. A host site is where a member is placed for their service, but they are not considered the host's employee, intern, etc.
- 5. I am interested in serving as a Resilient Iowa community member. How do I apply?** Interested applicants can take the first step in the process by applying to our available positions on our website at www.greeniowamericorps.org. Applicants can also send any questions to the GIACrecruitment@gmail.com email address.