



Breathe Easier • Clean the Air

Diesel Pollution • Your Air • Your Health

August, 2008

Position: Clean Diesel Outreach Intern
Location: Earth Day Coalition, Cleveland, Ohio
Start Date: Immediate
Stipend: Available

Earth Day Coalition, a non-profit environmental education and leadership organization in Cleveland, Ohio, seeks applicants for the position of Clean Diesel Outreach Intern.

Background:

Earth Day Coalition is working with the Cleveland Clean Air Century Campaign, Ohio Environmental Council and the Clean Air Task Force on local diesel reduction initiatives. Diesel pollution is the most widespread air pollution risk in the U.S. and fine particle diesel pollution (PM) is linked to serious health problems.

Diesel engines produce a significant amount of air pollutants that affect our health and the surrounding environment. The emissions from diesel engines are made up of a toxic mixture of particles, metals, and gases. Over 40 "hazardous air pollutants" as classified by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), fine particulate matter, and nitrogen oxides that contribute to the formation of smog are found in diesel exhaust.

The diesel soot health risk in Cleveland is ranked as worse than 89% of all other metro areas in the US, placing residents at elevated risk of asthma attacks, permanent lung damage, and other cardiovascular and respiratory problems associated with the toxic and irritating particles in diesel exhaust. Cleveland's and Northeast Ohio's air quality has triggered a federal PM "non-attainment" rating and the region is required to create an implementation plan to reduce PM pollution.

According to a 2005 report by the Clean Air Task Force, 'Diesel and Health in America: The Lingering Threat', Ohio ranked 8th out of the lower 48 States and the District of Columbia as having the highest concentration of diesel soot. According to the same report, 83,963 workdays are lost each year and 14,464 asthma attacks are caused by diesel soot in Ohio. Of those, Cleveland had 180 deaths, 15 cancer deaths, and 232 heart attacks linked to diesel pollution.

The good news is that pollution control technologies, practices and clean fuels are available today that can significantly reduce diesel pollution. Earth Day Coalition is seeking an intern to help in these efforts.

The primary function of the Intern is to serve as project and outreach coordinator. The Clean Diesel Outreach Intern's primary responsibilities are as follows:

1. Conduct a minimum of 4 community workshops
2. Conduct outreach in the communities identified to be residing in "diesel hot spots" in Cleveland. Select two target communities for deeper organizing efforts.
 - provide educational materials-brochure - local outreach venues
 - distribute and promote "hot spot" report
 - magnet or window cling
 - encourage activism - platform sign on, soot patrol, build support for citywide idle reduction ordinance
3. Distribute compact disk and information to health care providers-contact city and county partners/health clinics

The ideal candidate will possess the following skills, qualities and experience:

- Public speaking/presentation abilities
- Strong writing capabilities
- Project management
- Media relations
- Exceptional networking skills

Please send a cover letter and resume to apply for this intern position.

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For more information contact Chris Trepal at 216-281-6468 x 227