

CCLIs Student Internship Program

Every year now CCLI offers paid student internships as a program to help engender student leadership and to encourage young people to actively participate in solutions to the climate crisis. Not only do interns learn skills of taking initiative, organization and problems solving, they also establish experience that can help them and others make a difference and even pave the way for careers in the new energy economy.

We begin interviewing new or nominated candidates in late November after Thanksgiving each year for a year of paid service. The work commitment is part-time and flexible to accommodate students' academic and extracurricular activities.

Contact the CCLI Director ccli@takeresponsibility.us to learn more, to apply or to nominate someone you think would be well suited for the student internship.

Click here or see here below to learn what CCLI's inaugural 2009 student interns have to say about their internship experiences and perspectives:

Claire: “When I first took an interest in global warming a few years ago, the issue had made a profound impact on me, but I figured I wouldn't be able to make a difference – aside from changing my own habits – until I got to college and beyond. However, my experience with the Climate Change Leadership Institute showed me that getting involved as a high school student was quite possible. The CCLI is not lobbyist group or research institute, one of their primary focuses is raising awareness about climate change in order to provide a path towards the solution. This commitment to raising awareness demonstrated by the CCLI board of directors and student interns is such an important step; how else will the rest of the world and the government take action unless this is seen as a pressing issue among all citizens? It's easy to feel helpless with the daunting prospect of the consequences of global warming and of generating solutions for it. With my work with the CCLI, I have come to learn that change can start at the bottom, like by working with a small, dedicated non-profit group. It really does feel satisfying to know that you have done something to confront this problem, by drawing other people into the movement and starting the ripple effect that will only get more people involved. Working as an intern was very gratifying, but it was also difficult in some ways. The internship is structured similarly to how college is. The deadlines are far in the future and the tasks can be broad, and there is plenty of room for imagination and innovation in what you wish to accomplish as an intern. Because of this, I learned how to develop skills – such as time management, organization, planning ahead, and communication– that are necessary to succeed both in school and later on in life. Some things I did also pushed me out of my comfort zone, but helped me develop adult skills: I went around town to various businesses asking to advertise in their shops, called the mayor's office asking for help with a public service announcement, and took part in a meeting with a congressman's aid, and organized an advertisement with a newspaper. All these were difficult things for a teenager to do, but I came out of them feeling satisfied and more confident with myself. Overall, I feel like the CCLI is not only making a difference locally, but is preparing interns and recruiting other citizens to make a difference globally.”

Mara: “The internship for CCLI has been an extremely beneficial learning experience. Going into the job I assumed the work would be all set out for us but I was quickly corrected. Although we were given very specific assignments, we had to work out how to space them out so that we got them all done in the time allotted. The loose structure of our work taught me a lot about time management, self-motivation and techniques to help me overcome procrastination. These skills will definitely be helpful in adjusting to life in college.

The job also introduced me to a lot of new information about climate change and what is possible to accomplish. Through groups like CCLI we can greatly help to reach a solution by spreading awareness and improving participation in the effort to reduce our impact on the planet. For me the internship with CCLI was just the first step to having a real impact in the push for a more energy-responsible community.

I really loved my time working with CCLI and appreciate having such a great opportunity so early in life.”