



Research Volunteer Description for Climate & Agriculture Policy Nonprofit Remote Positions for Spring 2021

The Rural Investment to Protect our Environment (RIPE) Roadmap is a non-profit program dedicated to fostering a bipartisan coalition for federal climate policy that invests in sustainable agriculture and agricultural producers' profitability. Volunteers will gain experience with environmental policy design, economic analysis, stakeholder engagement and political projections in a variety of fields including: climate, water, sustainable agriculture, ecosystem services, and agricultural economics. If you are analytically talented and a proactive researcher interested in bipartisan climate policy, this is the opportunity for you.

About RIPE

RIPE is a non-profit based in Washington, DC that works on the following goals:

- **Comprehensively address climate change with bipartisan mandate**
- **Fairly compensate farmers with a profitable and reliable revenue stream** that communities can rely upon in an era of declining rural economies, volatile commodity prices & disrupted access to international markets.
- **Invest in voluntary sustainable agriculture practices to improve drinking water quality, soil health, and climate mitigation**

Experience Gained & Responsibilities

Volunteers are integrated into the RIPE team as core members and are treated as professional policy analysts. Volunteers will select their priority interests from a list of projects, including those listed below. The final workplans will be designed in consultation with each volunteer's interests, balanced with program priority needs. Volunteers will have a combination of research project responsibility and some administrative or communications support.

- Minimum payment policies deep dives, including crop insurance and commodity payments
- RFS and LCFS deep dives
- Fundraising - review foundation deadlines & find contact info
- Fundraising - Major donor compilation of names to BPC, EDF, etc.
- Farm Stewardship Plans
- Rural electricity examination, including extra climate cost estimates and rural econ solutions
- Board of Directors development
- Farm Bill support building history digest
- Create case studies on ecosystem service values for sustainable agriculture practices, relying on literature review and calculating average values.

- Precedent for policy exempting future expenses
- Respond to analytical needs of agricultural advisory committee, which may include literature review of estimated costs of various sustainable farming practices

Skills & Interests

The desired skills and interests of this volunteer position are:

- Independent researcher with pro-active initiative to approach research in creative ways
- Interest in learning about and contributing to climate and agricultural policy improvements with a pragmatic practical lens
- Diplomatic and confidential approach to politically sensitive topics
- Strong research skills – ability to review lengthy reports and identify the relevant bullet points
- Preference for Masters students in the fields of policy, politics, economics, or environmental science. Undergraduate students with strong research skills also accepted.
- Some coursework completed on either: political science, climate, sustainable agriculture, water, environmental science, environmental economics, or environmental policy

Logistics

- Volunteer positions runs from early January through May, with 3 weeks' vacation.
- Interns work remotely with flexibility on which hours work for you. Weekly or bi-weekly check-in calls will be scheduled in advance at the same time each week. Volunteers submits weekly work memo in advance of those calls and will receive feedback on those calls.
- Team check-ins will occur weekly, allowing volunteers to present summaries of their research to RIPE staff and connect with other volunteers.
- Please submit your resume and cover letter to Info@RipeRoadmap.org by December 1, 2020. Please use the subject line “Research Volunteer Application for Spring 2021.” Due to the high volume of applicants we do not respond to all candidates. Top applicants will be invited for interviews by the 15th of the month that applications are due.