



Policy & Research Volunteer Position for Climate & Agriculture Policy Nonprofit

Remote Positions for Summer 2021

Rural Investment to Protect our Environment (RIPE) 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 toward the following goals:

- **Comprehensively addressing climate change with a bipartisan mandate.**
- **Fairly compensating farmers with a profitable and reliable revenue stream** that communities can rely upon in an era of declining rural economies, climate-related disruptions to agricultural production, and fluctuating commodity pricing.
- **Investing in the adoption of 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. Each volunteer's workplan 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.

Volunteers will select their priority interests from a list of projects, similar to those listed below.

- Minimum payment policies deep dives, including crop insurance and commodity payments
- RFS and LCFS deep dives
- Case study creation for ecosystem service values for sustainable agriculture practices, relying on literature review and calculating average values
- Farm Stewardship plan research and analysis
- Analysis of how the Farm Bill and other agricultural policies have gained support
- Policy precedent research for efforts similar to elements in the RIPE100 Plan

- Research on state-specific policy landscapes, including policymakers, local voting districts, and top commodities and interest groups

Skills & Interests

The desired skills and interests of this volunteer position are:

- Independent and proactive researcher who takes the 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 and communicate the salient points
- Preference for Master’s students in the fields of policy, politics, economics, or environmental science. Undergraduate students with strong research skills also invited to apply.
- Some coursework completed on either: political science, climate, sustainable agriculture, water, environmental science, environmental economics, or environmental policy.

Logistics

- Volunteer positions run from early June through August, with 3 weeks’ vacation.
- Volunteers work remotely with flexibility on which hours work for them, with weekly or bi-weekly check-in calls with their project manager. Volunteers will submit weekly work memos in advance of, and receive feedback during, those calls.
- RIPE Team meetings 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 Careers@RipeRoadmap.org as soon as possible and no later than May 10, 2021. Application are being reviewed on a rolling basis and opportunities will be offered to preferred candidates until all positions are filled. Please use the subject line “Research Volunteer Application.” Due to the high volume of applicants, we do not respond to all candidates.