



## WATER POLICY INTERNSHIP

### Overview

Water policy issues are inherently wicked—inaction over a number of years have left a series of challenging tasks unaddressed, and the involvement of multiple actors inhibits nimble decision-making. The Water Policy Internship offers a unique opportunity to help understand the various challenges facing the water sector (water, wastewater, and stormwater) in the U.S. and using that knowledge to find radically innovative or extraordinarily mundane ways to improve outcomes in public health, environment, and public satisfaction. The research will focus on questions that are highly relevant to current efforts to improve water policies, including [regulation of contaminants](#), [financing of infrastructure](#), and [consideration of equity issues](#). The intern will gain valuable skills in researching science and policy issues; understanding the water policy landscape; communicating effectively in writing and verbally; and creating online visualizations of the research results. We prefer candidates who can work in our Washington D.C. office at least two days a week but will consider remote work arrangements. The internship is open throughout the year, and we request a minimum commitment of three months. The internship is unpaid, but we can help the intern seek funding or academic credit.

### Background

The [Environmental Policy Innovation Center](#) (EPIC) focuses on developing and implementing innovative, pragmatic solutions to improve the quality of water. Put simply, we seek faster paths to safer and cleaner water. Our [Water Program](#) has several initiatives to better understand how water infrastructure is financed, to develop new ideas for improving water quality and its delivery, and to implement those ideas through partnerships with federal and state agencies, community organizations, universities, and the private sector. The intern will advance these initiatives by working closely with water policy experts on research projects. We are also open to pursuing project ideas proposed by the intern.

Current research priorities include the following:

- Conducting a broad scan of the water sector by interviewing leading thinkers, planners, and doers on various changes happening in the water sector and identifying emerging needs and solutions.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of innovative mechanisms for financing water infrastructure.
- Analyzing long-term funding trends for federal programs, and tracking relevant legislation affecting the water sector.
- Developing policy priorities for the water sector at the national and sub-national levels.
- Identifying cross-sector partnerships that can accelerate improvements in water quality using market mechanisms.

Most of these research projects involve a variety of research methods, including evaluating government documents and data, reading legislation and policies, conversations with experts, and data analysis. The intern will gather, analyze, and synthesize the data and convey the results in written and visual work products. We will work with the intern to determine the specific projects he/she pursues based on the person's expertise and interests. Where feasible, we will work with the intern to publish the results of his/her work.

### Qualifications

The ideal candidate is passionate about preserving plentiful access to high quality water, has strong research and analytical skills, and demonstrates exceptional writing and verbal communication abilities. Below are the required and the additional preferred qualifications for the position.

### **Required qualifications**

- Experience gathering, organizing, and analyzing large datasets.
- Formal training in data analysis and tools, and familiarity with data visualization tools.
- Ability to write clearly and concisely.
- Ability to work independently, including knowing when to seek help.
- Exceptional analytical strength and creativity.

### **Preferred qualifications**

- Working knowledge of R for statistical computing or other comparable programming languages.
- Working knowledge of data visualization tools such as Tableau or R Shiny apps.
- Working knowledge of GIS tools, such as ArcGIS.
- Basic familiarity with water policy issues.
- Innovative, creative thinker interested in building better policies to improve water quality.

### **Location**

The internship is located in our Washington, D.C. office in Gallery Place/Chinatown. We will consider remote work arrangements for especially well-qualified candidates.

### **Compensation**

The internship is unpaid, but we can help the intern seek funding or academic credit.

### **Applying**

Qualified candidates should send an email to [sri@policyinnovation.org](mailto:sri@policyinnovation.org) with “Water Policy Internship” in the subject line. Please include a resume and a cover letter (specifying your availability for the internship). You may also provide any supporting documents we should consider in evaluating your candidacy (*e.g.*, class report). Because of the potentially large number of applications we may receive, we can respond only to candidates we interview. Candidates we interview will be asked to provide a self-edited writing sample. Thanks for your interest in the internship.