

Green Building Internship Program

CALL FOR GREEN PROFESSIONALS



EcoRise – in partnership with the teachers, schools, municipalities, and universities – is seeking inspirational green professionals to mentor student interns, serve as guest speakers, and/or volunteer. Green professionals will provide guidance, real-world work experience, and the professional framework necessary to cultivate a dynamic green workforce, particularly for those from underrepresented groups such as female students and students of color.

BLGY ARCHITECTURE LEADS THE WAY

BLGY Architecture, which focuses on institutional design, partnered with EcoRise in 2019 to host our first cohort of Green Building Interns. In an effort that aligns with the firm’s legacy of public service, students from Akins High School joined BLGY Vice President Sita Lakshminarayan and her colleagues for hard-hat tours of LEED construction sites, lunch-and-learn meetings, and reviews of the LEED documentation process.



As part of the Green Building Internship Program, Akins High School Interns toured a new school and then researched and proposed LEED Innovation points.

In the summer of 2020, EcoRise expanded the program by partnering with additional mentors from Austin Independent School District, City of Austin, and Portland State University. Our strategic approach to online internships helped deeply engage the interns through passion projects, mentoring, guest speakers, remote tours, and the Intern Showcase: interns presented to a national audience on an environmental challenge and a corresponding solution.

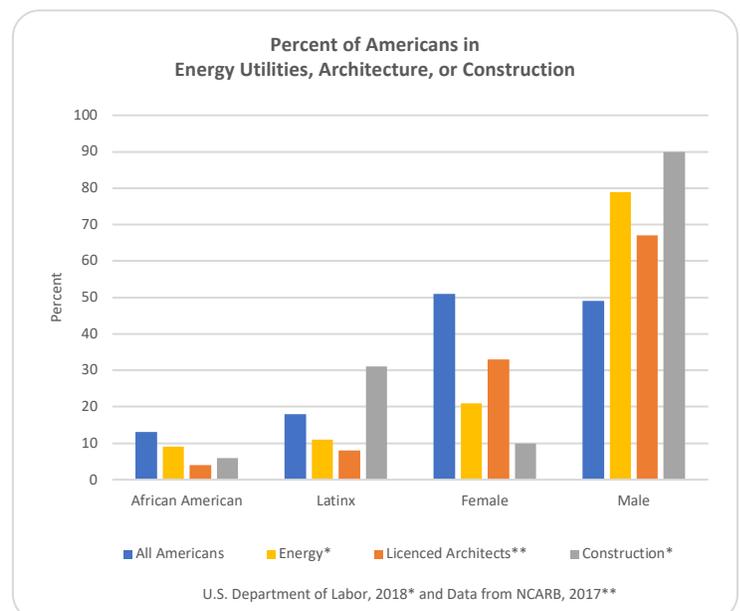
“My experience with the Green Building Internship Program is outstanding. I met several professionals and I got to hear from them about their passion, profession, and pathway which will resonate with me beyond the conclusion of this internship.”

SOPHIA RIVERA, SCHOOL YEAR AND SUMMER INTERN, UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS – SAN ANTONIO

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

As a mentor, guest speaker or volunteer, you will play a crucial role in expanding the scope and focus of the Green Building Internship Program so that more high schools have the opportunity to participate. This program includes a focus on schools that serve historically underrepresented students who are interested in improving the quality of life for all through energy efficiency and the built environment.

Your company will have a direct impact on increasing the numbers of women, African Americans, and Latinx professionals who currently make up less than 50% of the green workforce (see graph). Through your mentorship, EcoRise will strengthen its existing energy workforce development for green building by supporting teachers and students in the 2020-2021 school year.



HOW IT WORKS

EcoRise is committed to supporting interns and their mentors throughout the course of the Green Building Internship Program. Before the internship starts, we host informal interviews that allow interns and mentors to review resumes, work portfolios, and interests before final matches are made. We also schedule a variety of opportunities for interns and mentors to identify clear goals, review performance, and evaluate effective strategies for continuous growth. Guest speakers and other volunteers join us throughout the year to broaden the interns' experiences with our program.

2020-2021 CALENDAR

EcoRise supports flexible programming and varied professional experiences. Below is a listing of our year-long program:

- **Autumn - orientation:** Interns complete one [virtual*] field trip and meet guest speakers.
 - **Join us** as a guest speaker or volunteer for about 1-2 hours a month!
- **Winter/Spring:** Interns complete three field trips and meet guest speakers. Prospective summer interns apply and share resumes with prospective summer mentors.
 - **Join us** as a guest speaker or volunteer for about 1-2 hours a month!
- **Summer:** Interns spend 6-8 weeks with EcoRise and green building professionals as they prepare presentations related to climate studies, green building, and/or career exploration. Summer internships may be online, in-person, or hybrid as dictated by health guidelines.
 - **Join us** as a mentor for about 10-25 hours a week, or as a guest speaker or volunteer for about 1-2 hour a month!

SAMPLE INTERN ACTIVITIES*

Interns work with their mentors to explore their interests and better understand professional and green building principles. Activities might include:

- Tour existing green building sites
- Explore how green builders achieve sustainability (e.g. LEED, Living Building Challenge, CHPS, etc.)
- Meet with design teams
- Tour local green building sites when construction begins
- Attend on-site planning meetings at construction sites
- Document green building points for projects
- Participate in design reviews and submit comments
- Attend lunch-and-learns with sustainability product representatives, evaluate products, and create lists of viable products and green materials for green buildings
- Track and evaluate green building materials purchasing
- Integrate field experiences in preparation for the LEED Green Associate Exam
- * Activities may be online pending health guidelines

“EcoRise has provided a very engaging and clearly laid out path to learning about sustainable design principles and helping teachers to prepare students for the LEED Green Associate Exam.”

ANDREA SHURTLEFF, ARCHITECTURAL TEACHER FROM NEWTON NORTH HIGH SCHOOL, MASSACHUSETTS



Interested in serving as an Intern Mentor?

Join us: bit.ly/GBIPprofil