



Oregon Applied Sustainability Internships (OASIS)

2026 Host Business Project Descriptions

**All projects are subject to change without notice and will be reflected in this document.*

Last revised 3/26/2025

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Required Skills for All OASIS Positions:

- **Strong Research and Analytical Skills:** Ability to closely observe processes and conduct scientific research and literature searches, analyze data, create a data collection file (Microsoft Excel) for future use, and draw conclusions for practical applications
- **Project Management:** Organizing, planning, and executing project components, maintaining timelines, and reporting on progress. Knowledge of and ability to use computers, tablets, and commonly accepted computer programs like Microsoft Excel
- **Innovative Thinking:** The intern should bring creative solutions to potential challenges in waste prevention and energy efficiency
- **Communication:** Must possess strong oral and written communication skills, be able to work effectively with internal teams and communicate findings to upper management
- **Self-Confidence and Initiative:** Ready to take the lead on project tasks and confidently make decisions
- **Adaptability:** Capable of handling a dynamic, production environment, open to new ideas and skills, and eager to share ideas and thoughts

Eligibility: Applicants must be a US Citizen, possess a valid work permit or hold an international student Visa. Applicants must be an Oregon resident or attending an Oregon based institution. Position-specific requirements will be noted for each opportunity, such as transportation requirements for each project. All positions are either fully in person or offer some mix of locations (hybrid) and this is noted for each. Housing is not provided. Please reach out to inquire about any required accommodations, we are happy to help facilitate in any way we can.

1. Local Ocean Seafoods - Newport, OR

Prevent product and packaging waste, upcycle processing byproducts into consumer products

Company Information

IN PERSON POSITION: Local Ocean Seafoods is a Newport based, employee-owned seafood company that operates a dockside restaurant and retail fish market dedicated to showcasing and supporting Oregon's commercial fisheries. Founded in 2002 and now structured as a perpetual purpose trust, the business sources directly from over 50 local fishing vessels to deliver high-quality, traceable seafood while strengthening the regional economy and promoting sustainable harvest practices. Through its innovative 100% Fish Program, Local Ocean is advancing a circular seafood economy by transforming processing byproducts into value-added goods for human consumption, pet food, and agricultural use—reducing waste, increasing the value of each catch, and creating year-round economic opportunities for coastal communities.

Project Goals and Outcomes

Local Ocean Seafoods is seeking an intern to support their 100% Fish Program: an innovative, zero-waste seafood utilization initiative. This program seeks to prevent waste, upcycle byproducts into value-added consumer products, and divert waste from landfills or pollution. The intern will work within an active commercial seafood processing and food production environment, supporting data collection, labor efficiency, resource optimization, and compliance of small-scale manufacturing operations. More specifically, the intern will support the refinement and documentation of production workflows of fish fillets, skins, bones, and trim. The objective is to increase total yield and value per fish while reducing reliance on waste disposal. Environmental improvement will be measured through quantifiable metrics such as pounds of waste prevented, pounds of byproduct diverted from waste streams, utilization rates per whole fish, and efficiency gains in processing and cold-chain handling.

Project Details

The following will be researched and/or investigated:

- Carbon impact of conventional seafood processing versus optimized butchery techniques to improve yield recovery per fish
- Total harvest optimization, waste diversion possibility, and potential value generation from whole fish purchased annually by Local Ocean
- Comparison of single-use plastics and paperboards against reusable containers in food production and storage with regard to environmental impact, price economics, labor efficiency, transportation/shipping, storage, sanitation, durability, and safety risk
- Alternative environmentally-friendly cleaning procedures and chemicals and freshwater consumption reduction

Tasks and activities to expect:

- Maximizing and quantifying sustainability metrics (waste diversion, byproduct utilization rates)
- Supporting food safety, sanitation, and quality control during processing days
- Maintaining production logs, inventory tracking, and basic yield calculations
- Assisting with process optimization, product testing, and recipe scaling
- Participation in dockside boat offloads, fish processing, and working waterfront exposure opportunities

The intern will gain:

- Exposure to leadership, operations, and decision-making in a mission-driven employee-owned seafood business
- Understanding of the management of Oregon's marine resources: focusing on sustainable fisheries and aquaculture, as well as their impacts on estuaries and waterways
- Carbon impact calculation and life-cycle analysis in the development of Seafood Consumer Packaged Goods
- Understanding FDA-mandated food safety requirements in the production of consumer goods including Good Manufacturing Practices and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP)

Degrees/Skills Identified by the Host

Degree types: Environmental Science/Sustainability, Food Science, Business/Entrepreneurship, Engineering, or related degree

Minimum qualifications:

- Oregon Food Handlers card (required, can be completed at start of internship)
- Familiarity with or interest in learning about Good Manufacturing Practices, Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points as well as local and federal food safety regulations
- Self starter with strong communication skills
- Organized and proficient in data management in Microsoft Excel
- Reliable and consistent work ethic; strong attention to detail and safety
- Comfort around fish butchery, with the willingness to work in a hands-on, wet, cold, seafood-processing environment
- Ability to stand for up to 8 hours and frequently bend and lift up to 30 lbs
- An ability to see, hear, and feel texture and temperature

Other optional qualifications:

- Interest in sustainable food systems, food production, and seafood/fisheries
- Previous experience working in a food facility, familiarity with production logs, documentation, and sanitation protocols
- Ability to communicate with Spanish-speaking co-workers is highly desired

Other Considerations

This is a hybrid position with onsite office work, work at the processing facility, and occasional opportunities for remote telework. Reliable transportation between the Newport Bayfront, Local Ocean Seafoods Restaurant, and the Yaquina Lab processing facility is required. The facility is not located near public transportation and is not within walking distance to residential areas, but carpools, biking, or rideshare may be an option. Because this is a food processing facility, service animals cannot be accommodated. Housing is not provided but can be arranged at the Hatfield Marine Science Center at a starting rate of ~ \$1,400 for the duration of the internship. Housing is in shared dorm style studio apartments.

2. Jacobsen Salt Company - Portland, OR

Assess energy alternatives, research uses for manufacturing byproducts, create greenhouse gas inventory, and formally charter Coastal Expansion Project

Company Information

HYBRID POSITION: Jacobsen Salt Co. strives to create salt and premium pantry staples that transform the way people cook and experience food. Founded in 2011, they harvest salt from the cold, pristine waters of Netarts Bay on the Oregon Coast to create a bright, briny, and crunchy salt that is a reflection of this bay and their attentive salt making process. Jacobsen Salt Co. is in a growth phase and has the critical task ahead to grow salt operations (by double or more) while improving upon sustainability and efficiency. Jacobsen has the unique goal to generate a cyclical by-product from optimization of current processes and equipment upgrades.

Project Goals and Outcomes

Jacobsen Salt Co. is looking to reduce propane usage through engineering considerations related to brine concentration and evaporative processes. By reducing propane usage, the company will reduce their carbon emissions. The intern would assist in assessing the feasibility of using biomass fuel produced in Tillamook County as an alternative to propane. This would include conducting a study on the cost of operation, storage and transport of biogas and assisting in a greenhouse gas inventory report. Additionally, the intern would explore nutrient recovery from water treatment and salt concentration processes to divert mineral rich matter into a circular byproduct.

Project Details

The following will be researched and/or investigated:

- Reverse osmosis as water treatment and other desalination processes
- Prospective equipment upgrades for energy usage and return on investment related to salt brine concentration prior to evaporative processes
- Comprehensive greenhouse gas inventory of current coastal salt work operations
- Vacuum evaporative processes used in industrialized salt making
- Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD) applications in water treatment
- Biomass fuel generation, storage, and transport feasibility
- Nutrient recovery through nanofiltration

Tasks and activities to expect:

- Information gathering and gleaning internally
- Meetings with stakeholders and public and private entities related to current and future projects
- Data collection, analysis, and reporting
- Conversations and ideation cross-departmentally with Jacobsen staff
- Experience with and exposure to use of elemental, elevated culinary and wellness salts
- Working in a flexible manner as a team member on the Impact Team and Coastal Expansion Projects
- Creating a project charter that authorizes the Coastal Expansion Project, establishes the project managers, and documents the high-level requirements, flexible timeline, milestones, and success criteria

The intern will gain:

- Exposure to real-world environmental impact analysis and corporate sustainability strategies
- A keen understanding of greenhouse gas inventory analysis and reporting
- Evaluative exercises in alternatives to propane usage for commercial and industrial operations
- Opportunities to work alongside a project management leader and the Coastal Expansion Team to see the initiation stages of expansion projects and assist with creating a project charter
- Experience with feasibility, modeling, and communication of complex sustainability data into clear, concise, and public-facing messaging

Degrees/Skills Identified by the Host

Degree types: Environmental Science/Sustainability, Food Science, Business/Entrepreneurship, Engineering, or related degree

Minimum qualifications:

- Interest in learning about innovation in salt making and wastewater management
- Project management: ability to manage multiple research tasks, stay organized, and meet deadlines with minimal supervision
- Strong written and verbal communication skills: ability to summarize research findings into clear, concise reports and recommendations
- Team collaboration: willingness and excitement around engaging with a multidisciplinary team, participating in meetings, and contributing
- Cell phone and wireless internet access (when working remotely)

Other optional qualifications:

- Direct project management experience
- Familiarity with sustainability standards: knowledge of sustainability frameworks (e.g., life cycle assessments, carbon footprinting), or corporate social responsibility (CSR) reporting is a plus
- Experience with bench testing equipment and components

Other Considerations

This is a hybrid position with a mix of in-person and virtual meetings. The main component of travel will be out to Jacobsen Salt Co.'s coastal facility. A car and/or driver's license is recommended but not required; carpools to the coastal facility will be available. Because this is a food processing facility, service animals cannot be accommodated. There may be instances when smocking and other personal protective equipment (PPE) may be required; jewelry and embellishments on clothing may need to be removed prior to entrance into production Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) areas. Jacobsen's coastal facility can experience weather related closures and incidents related to weather. Flexibility and comfortability to work or research processes remotely is an important consideration.

3. BRING Recycling - Eugene, OR

Create materials and support outreach efforts for pollution prevention at beverage manufacturers and automotive businesses in Oregon

Company Information

HYBRID POSITION: BRING is a 501(c)3 environmental nonprofit organization formed in 1971, dedicated to recovering reusable building materials from the waste stream and educating students, community members, and businesses on the impacts of consumption and waste. Through their retail outlet, BRING recovers an estimated two million pounds of reusable materials from their local landfill annually. BRING has provided waste prevention, reuse, and recycling education, technical assistance, and waste assessment services to local governments, businesses, and school districts and is widely recognized as a leader in the field. BRING's commitment to sustainable business practices has landed them in the top 20 of the 100 Best Nonprofits and Green Businesses to work for in Oregon for over a decade.

Project Goals and Outcomes

BRING is expanding the Oregon Rethink Business Network and plans to partner with other organizations (Pollution Prevention Resource Center (PPRC) in the Portland metro area, Marion County, City of Gresham) to implement the BetterBev program. More specifically, BRING aims to expand their support for breweries to reduce upstream waste and enhance their waste practices utilizing the BetterBev checklist. The intern will assist with this project to support businesses going through the checklist and adopting the practices to reduce energy waste and water usage, as well as support them with custom rebates to recapture heat and water during the brewing process. A secondary project will be supporting automotive businesses in Eugene to improve their adoption and compliance with stormwater requirements.

Project Details

The following will be researched and/or investigated:

- The adoption of BetterBev principles at craft beverage manufacturers. These principles promote identifying sustainable facility operation improvements, business cost reductions, and resource availability. The intern will assist in trialing the BetterBev program to enhance technical assistance since this checklist focuses on raw materials, water use, wastewater, energy and emissions, cleaning and sanitizing, solid waste, packaging and materials, and environmental culture.
- The adoption of municipal wastewater principles for Automotive Repair contacts in the City of Eugene to improve compliance with City of Eugene Wastewater team regulations. The intern will initiate and implement effective outreach and improve the focus on building in good principles.

Tasks and activities to expect:

- Learn about the BetterBev program, BRING's approach to implementing technical assistance, and building competence with technical assistance principles in the Food and Beverage Manufacturing (FBM) arena.
- Engage in outreach to existing brewery partners and recruit new partners to review the full BetterBev checklist and participate in a walk-through.
- Engage in follow up on the BetterBev checklist and support businesses to complete their necessary steps, including initiating a write-up of one of the breweries.

- Compare and contrast experiences with the PPRC and the engaged breweries to determine if this checklist will best meet BRING's needs.
- Learn about the aspects of municipal wastewater requirements and build a list of outreach approaches to engage in technical assistance for Automotive Repair shops.
- Participate in effective outreach and engagement with Automotive industries.

The intern will gain:

- Mentorship and training in pollution prevention principles
- A concrete resume/curriculum vitae building experience and letters of recommendation
- Insight into partnering with businesses to support policy compliance and learning barriers
- Incorporated knowledge from a diverse host of Rethink Program Coordinators at BRING

Degrees/Skills Identified by the Host

Degree types: Environmental Science, Environmental Studies, Business Administration, Public Policy & Management, Engineering, or related degree

Minimum qualifications:

- Ability to reach out to businesses in-person
- Creativity with applications of materials and concepts
- Ability to learn about the basics of brewing and automotive maintenance and storage principles
- Ability to work independently and primarily remotely, and come into the office 1-2 times per week (as needed, can be adjusted with communication)
- Availability for in-person outreach and travel throughout the state
- Excellent communication and organizational skills
- Willingness for flexibility and attempting new situations (with training)

Other optional qualifications:

- Comfort with working in a rural area and outreach to a variety of businesses

Other Considerations

This is a hybrid position with 30% field work, 20% office work, and 50% remote work. There may be a significant amount of travel around Eugene, Salem, and Portland, but a car/driver's license is not required. The intern may utilize public transportation, carpooling, or take a company vehicle for travel around Lane County (after passing background driving check). The intern will be reimbursed for any project related travel.

4. City of Yachats - Yachats, OR

Develop sustainable policies, operational practices, and purchasing guidelines for City waste prevention

Note: This position is focused on marine debris prevention and is funded by a NOAA Sea Grant Marine Debris Community Action Coalition grant.

Company Information

IN PERSON POSITION: The City of Yachats (pop. 1,026) provides essential municipal services including drinking water treatment and distribution, public works, stormwater and wastewater management, parks and trails maintenance, community outreach, environmental stewardship programs, and support for local infrastructure. City-managed public facilities offer a broad range of community events, programs, and rentals that support recreation, civic engagement, youth services, and cultural activities.

Project Goals and Outcomes

The City of Yachats intern will assist in the Waste Prevention and Materials Reduction Initiative; a project focused on eliminating waste before recycling or disposal becomes necessary. The intern will develop policies, operational practices, and purchasing guidelines that reduce materials use and sources of waste within City buildings and heavily used community facilities. Secondary projects may include identifying city system improvements for waste and toxics reduction in municipal operations and working on the Community Recycling Enhancement Initiative by assessing existing recycling systems to reduce contamination and support more effective use where necessary. The intern will be introduced to partner organizations and be invited to attend relevant meetings.

Project Details

The following will be researched and/or investigated:

- Waste-prevention frameworks used in municipal and community facility settings
- Sustainable purchasing practices used by public agencies
- Methods for auditing products (e.g. life cycle, sustainability, and toxicity assessments)
- Reusable systems suitable for implementation in public event venues
- Effective strategies for reducing recycling contamination
- Best practices for improving recycling and waste-sorting signage

Tasks and activities to expect:

- Performing onsite audits of City supplies and purchasing patterns
- Documenting renter and event activities that contribute to waste
- Recommending reusable dishware, refillable options, and other durable materials
- Drafting city-wide waste prevention and sustainable purchasing policies
- Developing renter guidelines, signage, and resources that support low-waste events

The intern will gain:

- Hands-on experience working within a municipal organization, including insight into local government structure, interdepartmental collaboration, and public service delivery
- Exposure to city system logistics and operations, with a focus on waste prevention, recycling systems, and materials management in municipal and community facility settings
- Experience contributing to real-world policy development, including drafting waste prevention and sustainable purchasing guidelines used by City staff and facility users
- Public outreach and environmental education experience, including the creation of signage, renter guidelines, and communication tools that support low-waste community events
- Exposure to urban planning and sustainability initiatives at the local level, including how environmental goals are integrated into day-to-day municipal operations and decision-making

Degrees/Skills Identified by the Host

Degree types: Environmental Science, Environmental Engineering, Sustainability, Natural Resources, Water Resources, Public Health, or related degree

Minimum qualifications:

- Strong analytical skills
- Ability to communicate effectively
- Capable of working independently

Other optional qualifications:

- Interest in municipal systems, policy, and planning

Other Considerations

This is a hybrid position with 50% field work, 40% office work, and 10% virtual work; telework may be possible 1-2 days per week during analysis or reporting periods. Fieldwork may require occasional early mornings, and weekend work if auditing events. Travel will likely account for 10-15% of work time. A driver's license is helpful but not required; city staff can assist with transportation to field sites if needed, and many sites are within walking distance of City Hall.

5. New Seasons Market - Portland, OR

Support development of recycled materials collection depots, research uses for downstream organics waste, track funding for regenerative practices

Company Information

IN PERSON POSITION: Since opening in 2000 in Portland, New Seasons Market (NSM) stores have been places to gather and discover the region's best food and meet and learn about the folks producing it. As the world's first Certified B Corp grocer, their mission is to honor local farmers, ranchers, and makers, and help them, their community, and the environment prosper. Over the years, New Seasons Market has grown, but that core is 100% the same—build community through really good food.

Project Goals and Outcomes

New Seasons Market is seeking an intern to support the development and roll-out of Circular Action Alliance (CAA) depots at NSM stores to align with collection goals for materials not on the Unified Statewide Collection List of the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) law. Secondary projects may include researching beneficial uses of downstream organics waste to prevent catastrophic waste events and developing a resource for tracking upcoming funding for regenerative practices in the region. The resource would be used to multiply funds for regional farmers and ranchers to implement practices that reduce emissions, slow water/erosion, protect biodiversity, and support farm resilience.

Project Details

The following will be researched and/or investigated:

- Space, infrastructure, staff time, and operational lift needs at each of the 20 Oregon market locations for transforming current recycling centers into depots for the new EPR law
- Options for organics waste diversion, including investigating rules and permits to allow for organics waste stream to go to the best-use place
- Regenerative agriculture funding, including creating a resource of regional governmental, academic, private grants for climate-smart practice adoption at farms and ranches

Tasks and activities to expect:

- Gather information about various store set-ups and document the details of the space and the potential for the store to become a depot, accepting materials not included on the Unified Statewide Collection List of the new state EPR law. Assess staff time spent, collection space, additional materials potential, signage needs, storage capacity, and recommend pathways for adoption for each store scenario.
- Work with NSM contract team to review store waste contracts to understand opportunities for adjusting the downstream end market for organic waste and identify a best-use option.
- As time allows, research regional opportunities for grants and funding mechanisms that could stack with other private funding for farmer/rancher sustainable agricultural practices. Ideally, create a catalog of present and upcoming grants to share with farm partners seeking funding for practices that have historically been funded mainly through Federal grants (i.e. USDA).

The intern will gain:

- Knowledge of working in a fast-paced retail environment, centering environmental benefit with business's needs
- Organizing data and information to support recommendations including timelines, list of requirements, potential costs, potential barriers/risks, and sales benefit
- Working cross-functionally with staff at various levels (from clerks in stores to presenting recommendations to Small and Medium Sized Enterprises and C-suite)
- Understanding requirements of laws and how businesses are working to implement facets of law

Degrees/Skills Identified by the Host

Degree types: Environmental Science, Sustainability, Business, Engineering, or related degree

Minimum qualifications:

- Strong organizational and documentation skills
- Ability to research projects with complex layers
- Strong communication skills

Other optional qualifications:

- Curiosity about market/grocer systems/environmental impact projects

Other Considerations

This is an in-person position with approximately 80% office work and 20% field-based work visiting stores. The intern will need to visit 20 stores throughout the Portland metro area to collect information; therefore, a car and driver's license is a requirement for this position. The intern will be reimbursed for mileage associated with store visits.

6. Pure Light Botanical Beauty - McMinnville, OR

Develop a roadmap to sustainability certifications, outline waste and energy reduction strategies, investigate solar-powered green lab and green cosmetics research and development

Company Information

HYBRID POSITION: Pure Light Botanical Beauty is a woman-led botanical cosmetics company preparing to scale its manufacturing operations in McMinnville, Oregon. As the company transitions toward Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) compliant production and expands across wholesale and direct-to-consumer channels, sustainability is being intentionally embedded into core systems rather than retrofitted later. Sustainability is foundational to the brand—from reusable bamboo lipstick tubes to thoughtfully sourced glass packaging. Commitment to environmental responsibility is integrated into product design, supply chain decisions, and long-term operational strategy. The intern will play a key role in helping formalize, measure, and strengthen sustainability infrastructure while identifying opportunities to improve operational efficiency and support scalable, responsible growth.

Project Goals and Outcomes

Pure Light Botanical Beauty seeks an intern to develop a clear, actionable roadmap that integrates sustainability, regulatory compliance, and certification pathways. This work will support responsible growth, substantiated environmental claims, reduced material waste, and alignment with industry standards as manufacturing capabilities expand. The internship will culminate in a comprehensive report and presentation outlining energy and waste reduction strategies, pollution prevention measures, plastic reduction and packaging innovation opportunities, certification pathways (e.g., clean beauty, sustainability, and manufacturing standards), and circular economy opportunities that enhance both environmental impact and operational resilience.

Project Details

The intern will research or investigate:

- Manufacturing energy consumption and efficiency opportunities
- Waste streams and pollution generated in production processes
- Cosmetic packaging systems, including refill and reuse models
- Relevant sustainability certifications and compliance frameworks
- Data collection methods to support compliant sustainability and efficacy claims
- Circular economy applications within the beauty industry (reuse, refill, take-back programs, etc.)

Tasks and activities to expect:

- Conducting a waste audit, resulting in a sustainability systems and waste reduction analysis
- Evaluating and optimizing refillable packaging systems for cost, efficiency, and environmental impact
- Supporting the documentation and refinement of sustainability-related Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- Assisting in aligning internal processes with future certification and compliance pathways
- Identifying inefficiencies in production flow impacting cost of goods and margins
- Developing a sustainability impact summary that can be used in retail buyer decks, grant applications, website pages, and investor communications

The intern will gain:

- Hands-on experience building sustainability systems within an early-stage manufacturing company
- Exposure to cosmetic formulation, OTC compliance considerations, and GMP-adjacent practices
- Practical experience in waste auditing, lifecycle thinking, and circular design strategy
- Experience translating sustainability initiatives into business value (cost savings, brand positioning, and revenue support)
- Direct mentorship from a founder actively scaling a mission-driven beauty brand
- A tangible portfolio project, including a professional report and presentation with real business application

Degrees/Skills Identified by the Host

Degree types: Environmental Science/Studies, Sustainability, Industrial Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Manufacturing Engineering, Food Science, Operations Management (with sustainability focus), or other related degree

Minimum qualifications:

- Strong research, analytical, and problem solving skills
- Ability to synthesize information into clear, actionable insights
- Interest in sustainability, manufacturing systems, and/or the beauty industry
- Strong written and verbal communication skills

Other optional qualifications:

- Familiarity with sustainability frameworks (e.g. life cycle assessment, Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) framework, circular economy principles)
- Exposure to GMP, OTC, or regulated manufacturing environments
- Interest in clean beauty, product development, or cosmetic science
- Experience with data analysis reporting, or process optimization
- Self-starter mindset with the ability to work both independently and collaboratively

Other Considerations

This is a hybrid position with approximately 30-40% onsite work at the McMinnville manufacturing facility and 60-70% remote work. Remote work will typically be 1-3 days per week, depending on the project phase. Participation in special events or production days will be discussed in advance and will be optional. Reliable transportation to the McMinnville facility is necessary for onsite work, but a car/driver's license is not a requirement.

7. David Douglas School District - Portland, OR

Identify waste and resource inefficiencies, explore green chemistry pathways

Background Information

HYBRID POSITION: David Douglas School District (DDSD) covers 12 square miles of family homes, apartments, shopping centers and small businesses. It serves a community population of approximately 53,775. The David Douglas School District was formed in 1959 from three elementary districts — Gilbert, Powellhurst and Russellville — and the David Douglas Union High School District. The District now includes nine elementary schools for grades kindergarten through 5, three middle schools for grades 6 through 8, one comprehensive high school for grades 9-12, and one alternative high school campus for grades 9-12. The David Douglas Aquatics Center and Howard Horner Performing Arts Center are located on the campus of David Douglas High School.

Project Goals and Outcomes

The David Douglas School District intern will participate in a project focused on identifying and reducing upstream waste and resource inefficiencies in district-wide science chemical waste, storage, and disposal practices. The intern will analyze current procurement, material use, and instructional design practices related to science labs and hands-on learning to identify opportunities to reduce single-use materials, minimize hazardous or unnecessary chemical use, and prevent waste before it occurs (green chemistry). Measurable outcomes should include inventory of chemical stockrooms, identifying high risk chemicals for disposal, and development of cross-district systems for sharing best practices and providing access to modifiable resources for school districts. Other projects may include developing guidance for waste-conscious instructional practices and creating replicable tools or recommendations that other school districts could use to reduce waste and improve sustainability in science education systems. Project completion will directly support the district's sustainability goals by identifying actionable strategies to reduce chemical waste, minimize unnecessary chemical use, and improve material efficiency across science instruction. The project will help shift practices upstream - before waste is generated - while supporting long-term cost savings and environmental protection. Outcomes will also inform future processes and professional learning opportunities that are sustaining, creating lasting environmental benefits.

Project Details

The following will be researched and/or investigated:

- Evaluation of lab kits for hazardous materials that need disposal and/or re-design lab kits to reduce waste
- Chemical usage patterns associated with science curriculum materials
- Signage and procedures to enhance chemical lab safety in science classrooms
- Existing waste streams related to instructional materials
- Alignment between Safety Data Sheets (SDS) catalogue system and current chemical inventory
- Best practices in pollution prevention and sustainability within K–12 education systems
- Providing sustainable models for district-wide chemical use practices

Tasks and activities to expect:

- Collecting and analyzing data related to science material usage, waste generation, and purchasing patterns
- Identifying opportunities to reduce pollution and increase green energy practices
- Preparing for student chemical use with a focus on a needed disposal system and decreasing pollution
- Developing practical recommendations, tools, or guidance documents for district use
- Developing a website that can be used across Multnomah County School Districts
- Preparing written deliverables, presentations, and a final report summarizing findings and recommendations
- Supporting the Laboratory Safety Institute workshop from August 10th - 14th
- Co-leading chemical hygiene trainings for science teachers

The intern will gain:

- Understanding of K-12 chemical safety challenges, partnerships, and solutions
- Experience applying green chemistry principals in lab/school settings
- Experience with data collection and analysis
- Guidance document writing capabilities
- Website (Google suite) development skills
- Improved communication and presentation skills

Degrees/Skills Identified by the Host

Degree types: Environmental Science/Studies, Chemistry, Education/Science Education, Sustainability, Public Policy, or related degree

Minimum qualifications:

- Strong data analysis and research skills
- Ability to synthesize complex information into clear recommendations
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Comfort working collaboratively with educators and staff
- Experience with Google Workspace tools, including Sheets, Docs, and Slides

Other optional qualifications:

- Interest in pollution prevention and systems-level sustainability

Other Considerations

This is a hybrid position with 30% office work, 20% field-based work (site visits or meetings), and 50% remote work. Local travel is required to the district office and schools; therefore, a car and valid driver's license are required. Travel is expected to constitute a small portion of the intern's overall time. Telework is based on weekly goals and tasks. A background check and fingerprinting is required for this position and will be coordinated by DDSD.

8. Pollution Prevention Resource Center (PPRC) - Portland, OR

Support the development of a green business certification program for Oregon craft beverage manufacturers

Company Information

HYBRID POSITION: The Pollution Prevention Resource Center (PPRC) aims to reduce or prevent the generation of pollution at its source through the dissemination of reliable, impartial, high-quality technical information, training, and services. Through strategic partnerships and collaborations, PPRC provides direct education and technical assistance to businesses, governments (local, state, and tribal), and P2 technical assistance providers (TAPs). PPRC has established itself in the Northwest and nationally as an essential resource for pollution prevention. As a neutral and non-regulatory force, PPRC educates its audiences, facilitates communication, and initiates progressive change.

Project Goals and Outcomes

The PPRC intern will help research, develop, and support a green business certification standard and checklist for craft breweries and related beverage producers. Development of the certification checklist will be conducted in coordination with BRING (as noted in project #3) and will be adapted from the BetterBev program. The checklist identifies opportunities for improved energy efficiency, reduced waste generation, and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. If time permits, the intern, with help of project mentors, will assist a pilot brewery with implementation planning for selected improvements. The intern may also assist with PPRC's EcoBiz program working with automotive businesses and landscapers. The intern will attend a company orientation including an overview of Green Business Certification Programs, hands-on training at a brewery, an introduction to brewing and fermented beverage production, and a review of past pollution prevention reports.

Project Details

The following will be researched and/or investigated:

- Green business certification systems, including analysis of the BetterBev program as a model for beverage industry certification
- Craft brewery manufacturer operations and corresponding environmental impacts (i.e. solid waste/wastewater generation, manufacturing processes, HVAC/refrigeration systems, sanitation practices)
- Historical /related projects and insights, including reviewing PPRC's past recommendation reports for craft beverage and kombucha producers

Tasks and activities to expect:

- Supporting the development of final standards and certification checklist
- Collaborating with BRING to refine the certification criteria based on industry best practices, existing programs (e.g., BetterBev), and site-specific observations
- Observing, measuring, and documenting waste during on-site assessments
- Analyzing opportunities for environmental improvement and developing recommendations with projected cost and resource savings

- Preparing a structured report for the participating brewery as well as a presentation for the P2 West 2026 conference and/or through the Green Business Engagement National Network and/or the National Pollution Prevention Roundtable Food and Beverage Workgroup

The intern will gain:

- Knowledge of nationwide Green Business Programs and the new statewide network in Oregon
- Knowledge of pollution prevention opportunities in breweries and similar industries
- Experience assisting businesses in applying pollution prevention strategies
- Experience measuring the impacts of pollution prevention: reductions in water pollution, energy and water efficiency, hazardous and solid waste reductions
- Introduction to beverage/brewing industry leaders
- Introduction to local, state, and federal government environmental specialists
- Experience effectively preparing and creating reports in a professional format that will serve as a skill in either a university, business, or government setting

Degrees/Skills Identified by the Host

Degree types: Environmental Science/Studies, Sustainability, Engineering (mechanical, chemical, industrial, or related), Manufacturing/Process Efficiency, or related degree

Minimum qualifications:

- Basic understanding of pollution prevention concepts
- Self-directed and able to work independently when necessary
- Solid written and verbal communication skills
- Ability to engage with businesses in person during site visits
- Social media skills – ability to design engaging social media posts
- Proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite and Google Drive

Other optional qualifications:

- Basic knowledge of pollution concerns associated with craft brewing/beverage industries (e.g., wastewater, wasted product, cleaning chemicals, packaging)
- Conversational Spanish a plus (but not required)

Other Considerations

This is a hybrid position with 30% office work, 20% field-based work (site visits or meetings), and 50% remote work. Local travel will be required to the selected pilot brewery in Gresham, Oregon for site visits, assessments, and hands-on training. Therefore, a car, car insurance, and a valid driver’s license are required for this position. Travel is expected to constitute a small portion of the intern’s overall time, with most work conducted in the Portland Metro region, OR DEQ offices, or remotely. Telework may be possible for tasks such as data analysis, report writing, draft certification criteria development, and presentation preparation.

9. Revino Inc. - McMinnville, OR

Evaluate lower impact packaging and glass reuse infrastructure, conduct packaging audit for Oregon wineries

Company Information

HYBRID POSITION: Revino Inc. was founded to revive the refillable glass bottle ecosystem for beverage producers and consumers. Co-founders Keenan O'Hern and Adam Rack saw the need for breakthrough change in the packaging options available to the Willamette Valley's world-renowned wine producers. Despite the sustainability efforts taking place in local vineyards and wineries, packaging remains one of the least controllable and most emissions-heavy contributors to a winery's process. Revino's dedication to sustainability goes beyond recycling. Their bottles are part of a wider closed-loop system that keeps bottles in circulation and reduces the need for imported glass packaging and virgin material consumption, supporting the wine industry's drive towards lower emissions and a more circular and sustainable model.

Project Goals and Outcomes

This internship will focus on reducing the environmental impact of Oregon's wine industry by bridging the gap between new regulatory requirements and physical waste prevention. The intern will execute a two-pronged strategy: helping wineries leverage data to transition toward lower-impact packaging (Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Readiness) and optimizing the physical infrastructure needed to keep those materials in a circular loop (Reverse Logistics). The primary project is data-driven packaging innovation and EPR readiness, focused on source reduction and beyond-compliance reporting. A secondary project is optimizing consumer-facing "reverse logistics" with a focus on outreach, waste prevention, and resource conservation. The intern will serve as a Circular Economy Coordinator, acting as the technical and operational bridge between Revino, participating wineries, and the public.

Project Details

The following will be researched and/or investigated:

- The intersection of Oregon's EPR regulations and life cycle of wine packaging. This will include researching the Circular Action Alliance (CAA) fee tiers to understand how specific Pollution Prevention (P2) actions can result in lower producer fees as well as investigating current packaging specifications across a 3–5 winery cohort to establish a baseline for "virgin material" usage.
- Logistical "friction" points that prevent the efficient return of reusable assets. This includes mapping distribution routes and optimizing transportation networks as well as investigating the physical constraints of potential return/collection sites.
- Behavioral economics principles involving designing signage and digital content that shifts consumer behavior from recycling (energy-intensive) to returning (energy-saving).

Tasks and activities to expect:

- Data analysis and auditing current packaging procurement and waste streams of winery partners
- EPR data mapping, reverse logistics mapping, and stakeholder recruitment/outreach

- Synthesizing and reporting collected data to calculate CO2 saved and tons of glass diverted using EPA-approved formulas or P2 calculators

The intern will gain:

- Technical expertise in Circular Policy: hands-on experience navigating newly established EPR frameworks and ecomodulation - skills that are in high value and demand as Oregon and other states implement new packaging regulations
- Life-cycle thinking and data analysis: professional experience auditing procurement data and translating complex environmental metrics (solid waste, energy, water) into actionable business case studies
- Field-based sales, auditing, and consultation experience, including managing stakeholder relationships within the Oregon wine, food, and beverage industries
- Sustainability storytelling/marketing: opportunities to build a portfolio of "Case Studies" and multimedia content that bridges the gap between technical data and public-facing environmental information
- Professional networking: direct exposure to the PNW's sustainability and reuse leaders, including Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) partners, the Circular Action Alliance (CAA), and local industry innovators
- Water resource benchmarking: develop a sub-metering or cycle-based calculation methodology to isolate Revino's water footprint within the McMinnville Hub, providing a comparative metric against single-use manufacturing
- Applied Pollution Prevention (P2) methodology and practice with real-world engineering estimation techniques (e.g., cycle-timing and flow-rate benchmarks) to report water and energy conservation data required by federal and state funding bodies

Degrees/Skills Identified by the Host

Degree types: Environmental Science/Sustainability, Environmental Engineering, Supply Chain Management/Logistics, Food & Beverage Science (Enology/Viticulture), Business/Economics (with a Green Focus), or related degree

Minimum qualifications:

- Strong analytical skills and research abilities
- Proficiency in Microsoft Excel and/or Google Sheets
- Science communication skills and/or experience with social media
- Comfortable with public outreach and engaging with stakeholders
- Professionalism and empathy when interviewing winery owners and tasting room managers
- Comfort with a hybrid work environment
- Basic project and time management
- Ability to visualize and map logistics

Other optional qualifications:

- Strong sales and outreach background
- Knowledge of the wine/beer/spirits and wider beverage industry
- Understanding of circular economy principles and waste hierarchy

Other Considerations

This is a hybrid position with 40% field work, 40% office work, and 20% remote work/independent research. The schedule will typically be 3-4 days onsite and 1-2 days of telework per week. Travel will likely account for 30-40% of work time. A car and driver's license is required; project-related mileage will be reimbursed at the IRS standard business rate.