Work for a green future: Become an Environment America fellow

Each year, Environment America hires recent college graduates with the passion, the commitment and the talent it takes to stand up to polluters, organize public support and fight for our environmental values.

Environment America

Environment America works to advance the environmental vision and values we share—clean energy, clean water, wilderness and wildlife protection, healthy food and sustainable agriculture, and more. With nearly 100 professional staff, more than 1 million members, activists and allies, and affiliates in 29 states, we organize the support it takes to stand up to polluting industries and ultimately sweep past them.

The results of our work include:

- more solar and wind power in 22 states,
- caps on global warming pollution in five states and a regional cap on global warming pollution from power plants in 10 states,
- energy-efficiency policies in 22 states,
- new clean car standards that will do more than any other single step to reduce our dependence on oil and cut global warming pollution,
- bans on plastic bags in more than 50 cities,
- better-protected parks from Mt. Rainier to the Everglades, from Glacier to the Grand Canyon,
- bans on offshore drilling, and
- stronger protections for waterways from Colorado’s rivers to the Great Lakes to Long Island Sound.

We’ve also endorsed pro-environment candidates in tight national and state races since 2008, organizing in key districts and states to help them win.

But let’s not kid ourselves: we are living through an environmental crisis.

Temperatures are rising, polar pack ice is melting, catastrophic fires are burning, and pollution has created dead zones in the oceans. Each day, another development, another big-box store, another drilling rig, another mining operation crowds out a little more wilderness.

Fighting for the environment is the challenge of a lifetime. You need to start somewhere. But where?

Apply to be an Environment America fellow

As an Environment America fellow, you’ll get a two-year crash course in the nuts and bolts of environmental activism, organizing, advocacy and the type of institution-building that can sustain long-term battles.

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Learn by doing
You won’t be rehearsing to make an impact—you’ll be making one. As a fellow you’ll:

- Plan and run grassroots campaigns: you’ll identify a policy or power-building goal, develop a strategy, then devise and carry out the tactics of your campaign.
- Organize town hall meetings: you’ll create events where constituents have an opportunity to make their needs clear and hold politicians accountable. You’ll also lobby lawmakers directly, learning to make a convincing case for our policy goals.
- Set up and speak at news conferences: you’ll create news events to get the word out about your campaign through the media. You’ll also meet with editorial boards, and get op-eds published.
- Run citizen outreach campaigns: you’ll build the power of your organization, learning to raise funds, manage staff and educate the public.

Gain the experience you need to lead
After two years, you’ll have participated in a rigorous training and gained invaluable hands-on experience. Best of all, you’ll be ready to become a lead advocate, a lead organizer or a state director with Environment America or one of our state affiliates. You might even start a new state affiliate or launch a new program.

Qualifications
We’re seeking candidates ready to commit themselves to fighting for the environment. Being a fellow is not for everybody. It’s tough, demanding and the challenges never stop. We look for smarts, leadership experience, top-notch written and verbal skills and an eagerness to learn. We value experience organizing, including building campus groups.

Placement
We’re accepting applications with our state affiliates across the country and in Washington, D.C. We accept applications on a rolling basis. Most fellowships begin in August, though a limited number are available throughout the year. You can apply through Environment America or directly with one of our state affiliates. If you’re flexible, you can apply for multiple positions in multiple locations.

Salary and benefits
As a fellow with Environment America or one of our state affiliates, you’ll earn $23,750-$24,000 in your first year and $24,500-$25,500 in your second year. You’ll be eligible to join our group health plan at no cost to you. You’ll accrue two weeks of paid vacation over the course of your first year, and three weeks in your second year. You’ll be eligible to apply for college loan assistance after your third month, and to participate in our 401(k) plan at the end of your first year. Salary and benefits vary in California and New York.

To learn more and apply
Visit jobs.environmentamerica.org or contact our Recruitment Department at jobs@environmentamerica.org.

Internships
Looking for an internship instead? Apply to be an Environment America intern. You’ll learn how to make an impact on critical environmental issues, and there’s no better way to get the experience to launch your career with us.

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