

# Environment Oregon & OSPIRG Internships



## Environment Oregon:

Environment Oregon is a statewide, grassroots environmental advocacy organization dedicated to protecting Oregon's clean water, clean air, and open spaces. We coordinate with sister organizations across the country to win critical environmental protections at the national level, and work here in Oregon to promote responsible environmental stewardship. Combining independent research, grassroots mobilization, and tough-minded advocacy, our staff stand up to special interests to produce real results for Oregon's environment.

## OSPIRG:

When consumers are cheated or the voices of ordinary citizens are drowned out by special interest lobbyists, OSPIRG speaks up and takes action. We uncover threats to public health and well-being and fight to end them, using the time-tested tools of investigative research, media exposés, grassroots organizing, advocacy and litigation. OSPIRG's mission is to deliver persistent, result-oriented public interest activism that protects consumers, encourages a fair, sustainable economy, and fosters responsive, democratic government.

## Campaigns

Fall 2017 Interns will work on one of our campaigns:

- **Go Solar, Oregon:** Too much of our energy comes from dirty sources that harm our environment. But by tapping the power of the sun and the wind we can repower our lives with clean energy that doesn't pollute and never runs out. We're running local and statewide initiatives to repower Oregon with solar power.
- **Get the Lead Out:** Lead is a potent neurotoxin that affects how our children develop, learn and behave. Unfortunately lead in the drinking water in schools is a pervasive problem across Oregon. Environment Oregon is running a public education campaign to give parents and other concerned citizens the resources they need while calling on elected leaders to tackle this important health crisis and protect Oregon's kids.
- **Save Antibiotics:** We rely on antibiotics every day to treat everything from simple ear infections to potentially life-threatening illnesses like pneumonia and post-surgery infections. But recently the World Health Organization has warned that life-saving antibiotics will stop working if we continue to overuse them. And one of the biggest sources of overuse is on factory farms, which routinely give massive amounts of antibiotics to their livestock. We're working to pass a bill in Oregon to stop the overuse of antibiotics on factory farms.
- **Get Big Money out of Politics:** One person, one vote: That's how we're taught our elections are supposed to work. Candidates should compete to win our votes by revealing their vision, credentials and capabilities. We, the people then get to decide who should represent us. Except these days there's another election: Call it the money election. And in the money election, most people don't have any say at all. Instead, a few super-wealthy individuals and corporations back the candidates they think will raise enough money to run the kind of high-priced campaign it takes to win. We're working to empower small donors and lift up the voices of everyday people in local and state elections.

## The Internship

The internship is designed to help train the next generation of environmental & progressive leaders by instilling the skills, ethics, and drive it takes to win campaigns. We are looking for people who work hard, communicate effectively, and are dedicated to positive social change; responsibilities include grassroots organizing, media outreach and organizational building. Interns will have the opportunity to develop and execute campaign strategies for winning critical parts of our state-wide efforts. Specific responsibilities include:

### Grassroots Organizing:

- 1) Identifying and organizing businesses, local leaders, and citizens to promote environmental protections
- 2) Media outreach: Assist in organizing a press event and writing letters to local papers
- 3) Collecting petitions, running activist phone-banks, and using our network to pressure on local leaders directly

### Organization Building:

- 1) News Watch: Track media for stories and opinion pieces relevant to our campaign and organization
- 2) Donor Research: Identifying strong supporters and building the organization through grassroots outreach
- 3) Maintaining reports on local political climate, researching opportunities for environmental progress
- 4) Administrative: Help ensure the office and organization continue to run efficiently

## Expectations:

Interns must work a minimum of 15-20 hours per week for at least 10 weeks on a regular schedule, as determined at the beginning of the fall. Interns must be on time and prepared. They must be able to work independently as well as in groups. This is an unpaid internship; it may be completed for college credit. Send resume & cover letter to Celeste Meiffren-Swango at [celeste@environmentoregon.org](mailto:celeste@environmentoregon.org).