SOMA Energy Efficiency Internship

Position Title: Energy Efficiency Intern

Org. Name: South of Market EcoDistrict (SOMA), Supervised by PSU Campus Planning

Hours per week: 10-12

Compensation:
Undergraduates receive $1200 per term and graduate students receive $1500 per term (prorated for number of days worked). The Climate Action Collaborative internships are being funded through a generous donation from the Portland State University Bookstore to the Sustainability Internship Program (http://www.pdx.edu/sustainability/sustainability-internship-program). The focus on climate action reflects University, City and regional priorities.

Start date: As soon as possible after January 4, 2016
End date: June 10, 2016
Deadline to apply: For best consideration, apply no later than Friday, January 8, 2016. Open until filled.

Position description:
SoMa is a non-profit that coordinates sustainability efforts and collaboration throughout Portland’s South of Market EcoDistrict. One of SoMa’s major focus areas over the next few years is energy efficiency with a goal of reducing energy use in the district by 25% by 2020. This includes working with both public and private property owners to decrease the amount of energy used in their buildings and thus decreasing the overall amount of carbon emissions produced by the district, the primary goal of the Climate Action Plan.

This internship is a coordinating position at BPS that will support the program in the following ways:
1. Case Studies - Develop case studies that highlight best practices in district-scale energy efficiency that SoMa can learn from. Document other EcoDistrict energy efficiency programs and goals.
2. Current State – Collect baseline information (energy behavior/consumption) within the district. Document what PSU and private building owners and managers are already doing around energy efficiency.
3. Develop partnerships – Engage our partners, including PGE, City of Portland, Ecova, Energy Trust and district property owners and building managers. We anticipate that our project will help SoMa members meet the requirements of the City of Portland’s new Energy Performance Reporting Policy that is a documented 5 year priority in the City’s Climate Action Plan.

A successful candidate may continue work with SoMA to apply the knowledge learned through the tasks above to develop a strategy for the district and help implement an EDA grant earned by PSU that is focused on energy efficiency monitoring.

Qualifications:
- Registered and enrolled PSU student
- Background or interest in energy policy and energy efficiency
- Strong organizational skills and attention to detail.
- Ability to write clearly and concisely in English.
- Ability to communicate clearly and work cooperatively as a member of the team.
- Ability to engage professionally with SoMA, PSU staff, community partners, and the public in meetings and via email.
- Ability to learn new skills quickly, to advance projects, and research with minimal supervision.
- Experience with the Microsoft Office suite, Google suite and similar programs.
- Demonstrated interest in urban sustainability

About SoMA:
Established as a pilot EcoDistrict in 2010, the South of Market (SoMa) EcoDistrict is an active, highly educated and well-connected urban community - a place where students, educators, residents, workers, and business owners choose to live, work, learn and play. Located in the south downtown area of Portland’s Central Business District, the SoMa EcoDistrict offers unparalleled transit access, a dynamic urban research university, revered greenspaces, and a diverse mix of business, retail and residential uses. The approximately 92 acre area is primarily split between residential and commercial buildings with several city and institutional agencies, as well as a number of businesses particularly to the north and east of the university core. The City of Portland owns a significant portion of open space, including the South Park Blocks and the Halprin Fountain Blocks, which forms an important contiguous green space network along the west and east side of the district. SoMa recently earned its 501(c)(3) status and is a tax-exempt organization.

SoMa EcoDistrict is bordered by Market Street to the north, SW Harbor Way Drive to the east, I-405 to the south and west. [Click here for the SoMa EcoDistrict Map.]

How to apply:
This position requires current enrollment as a PSU student. To confirm that you are formally admitted and enrolled, please email your full name and student ID to vancem@pdx.edu Please specify the name of the internship in the subject line. Once your status is confirmed, you will receive the full application instructions via email. You may call 503-725-4972 with any questions.