

Strengthening Minnesota businesses by maximizing efficiency and lowering costs through energy, water and waste reduction

Internship: Lead a project focused on water conservation and food waste prevention.

Company: VA Medical Center - Minneapolis, MN

The Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP) is seeking a junior or senior college student to lead a project focused on water conservation with the Minneapolis VA Medical Center (VAMC). The intern will work with MnTAP and VAMC staff to reduce water use associated with facility operations. As time allows, the intern will also investigate opportunities for food waste prevention and diversion. The intern will quantify these opportunities and develop suggestions to reduce water use and waste, as well as outline plans for implementation.

JOB DUTIES:

As part of this project, you will be asked to complete the following tasks:

1. Identify and quantify main uses of operations water i.e. cooling towers, laundry, kitchens, boilers, and softeners.
2. Create a water map.
3. Prioritize water conservation focus areas based on size of opportunity.
4. Conduct food waste audits in various areas of hospital (i.e., canteen, cafeteria, kitchen back-of-house). Record measurements and observations.
5. Identify food waste source reduction and diversion opportunities through site audits. Develop techniques that are feasible for site staff to implement.
6. Make recommendations for specific improvements based on research, testing, and calculation that will result in water conservation, waste prevention and diversion.
7. Estimate water, waste, and energy reduction potential from implementation of provided recommendations, then prioritize suggested changes using simple payback methods for financial justification.
8. As appropriate, implement approved process changes or develop plans and guidelines for future implementation.
9. Summarize findings in a detailed report, including recommended procedures and vendor proposals along with an economic analysis and justification of changes.
10. Present findings to the company and at MnTAP-hosted public presentation events.

As an intern, you will work at the company and report back to MnTAP. The position is full time, 40 hours per week, for three months to start after the conclusion of spring semester or quarter. Pay is \$18/hour, with a lump sum stipend of \$1,000 upon completion of the project deliverables: a final report and presentations. Cumulatively, this equates to \$20.00/hour when averaged over the project. Candidates must pass a background check and may be subject to drug testing.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Cumulative GPA of at least 3.0
- Good oral & written communication skills
- A technical academic background
- Troubleshooting skills
- Self-motivated
- Excel and other software skills
- Appropriate majors: *Engineering, environmental or physical sciences and others as applicable*

TO APPLY:

Apply online at:

www.mntap.umn.edu/interns/student/apply/

Remember to submit your application form, cover letter, resume, and unofficial transcript.

Applications can be addressed to:

Matt Domski, Intern Program Manager

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MNTAP IS THE HIRING BODY: DO NOT CONTACT THE COMPANY