

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

Internship: Lead a project focused on food waste, water reduction, and refrigerant management.

Company: Wholesale Produce – Minneapolis, MN

The Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP) is seeking a junior or senior college student to lead a project focused on food waste minimization with Wholesale Produce in Minneapolis. The intern will also focus on water conservation efforts and refrigerant management. The intern will work with MnTAP and Wholesale Produce staff to evaluate strategies for reducing food waste tonnage at the facility as well as water, chemical, and energy usage. The student will also evaluate opportunities for on-site management of food waste. The intern will quantify opportunities and develop suggestions to reduce waste, water, chemical, and energy use 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 sources of key organic waste streams at the facility. This will mainly consist of prep waste from employees on the cutting floor.
2. Investigate opportunities for minimizing food waste tonnage, with a particular focus on moisture management. An opportunity could be on-site dehydration.
3. Explore other waste reduction opportunities, including plastics and other packaging in totes.
4. Make recommendations for improvements based on research, testing, and calculation that will result in waste reduction.
5. Map water use throughout facility and analyze areas for reduction and improvement.
6. Evaluate the refrigeration systems, checking them against the refrigeration system Best Management Practices (BMP's) MnTAP has from interns in 2021 and 2022.
7. Check hot water and chilled water operations for potential savings.
8. Estimate waste, water, chemical and energy reduction potential from implementation of provided recommendations, prioritizing suggested changes using simple payback methods for financial justification.
9. As appropriate, initiate implementation of approved process changes or develop plans for future implementation.
10. Summarize findings in a detailed report, including recommended procedures and vendor proposals along with an economic analysis and justification of changes.
11. 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, possess a valid driver's license, and may need a vehicle to access the facility near the U of Minnesota-Twin Cities campus.

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

200 Oak Street SE, Suite 350-1

Minneapolis, MN 55455 • mdomski@umn.edu

MNTAP IS THE HIRING BODY: DO NOT CONTACT THE COMPANY