

Internship: Lead a project focused on upcycling various food waste feedstocks from a manufacturing facility, and potentially, other sites, using technology at a start-up company.

Company: FINNOVATION Lab – Minneapolis, MN

The Minnesota Technical Assistance Program (MnTAP) is seeking a junior, senior or graduate-level student to lead a project focused on testing the viability of upcycling various food waste feedstocks for value-added application. The intern will work with MnTAP and FINNOVATION Lab's member companies, including NETZRO, to test the viability of upcycling feedstocks into various intermediate products or finished consumer goods. The intern will evaluate specific feedstocks that are generated from a local manufacturer, and potentially, other sources. The intern will quantify these opportunities and make recommendations for use at businesses generating the tested food-waste feedstocks.

JOB DUTIES:

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

1. Identify relevant feedstocks to be upcycled from client site(s), and coordinate pickup of feedstocks to transport to testing equipment site.
2. Work with on-site engineers and staff to valorize feedstocks into intermediate or final products for further consumption. Document all application potentials using previous research and industry connections.
3. Calculate upcycling potential (in lb.) for at least eight feedstocks.
4. Make recommendations for specific improvements based on research, testing, and calculation that will result in waste savings from traditional pathways (landfill, digestion, compost, feed-to-hog).
5. Estimate revenue potential from various upcycled feedstocks, then prioritize suggested changes using simple payback methods for financial justification.
6. As appropriate, support implementation of approved process changes or outline plans for future implementation.
7. Summarize findings in a detailed report, including recommended procedures and vendor proposals along with an economic analysis and justification of changes.
8. Present findings to the company and at MnTAP-hosted public presentation events.

As an intern, you will work at FINNOVATION Lab 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 \$19/hour, with a lump sum stipend of \$1,500 upon completion of the project deliverables: a final report and presentations. Cumulatively, this equates to \$22.00/hour when averaged over the project. Candidates must pass a background check.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- U.S. work authorization
- Good oral & written communication skills
- A technical academic background
- Troubleshooting skills
- Self-motivated
- Excel and other software skills
- Cumulative GPA of at least 3.0
- Preferred majors: *Food science, engineering, chemistry, biology, sustainability, 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