Methow Recycles

Practicum: Waste Reduction Intern

Salary: $14.49 per hour, 24 hours/week for 10 weeks

Supervisor: Sarah Lightner, Executive Director

Period of Employment: June 21, 2022 – August 26, 2022

**Overview**

Methow Recycles inspires and facilitates resource conservation through recycling, waste prevention, and materials reuse in the Methow Valley.

Methow Recycles was envisioned in the late 1990s by a group of individuals who imagined a community with easier and more comprehensive access to recycling. It was successfully built through creative public-private partnerships and inter-local agreements between the Town of Twisp and Okanogan County.

Since then, we've evolved from a recycling organization that talked about waste prevention; we are now a waste reduction organization offering recycling as part of the solution.

This practicum will focus on creating a zero-waste guide for Methow Valley residents. Part of the creation of the guide will be a comprehensive audit of all available resources for zero waste living that are available in Okanogan County.

**Responsibilities**

1. Develop a work plan with the executive director
2. Determine information and input needs and work with executive director as needed to facilitate contacts and focus groups
3. Meet weekly with director
4. Conduct county wide audit of all zero waste resources currently available
5. Develop a list of suggested resources, to be developed, that are needed to further a zero-waste future for the Methow Valley
6. Compile all data points into a zero-waste guide for Methow Valley residents with an emphasis on benefits for low-income community members

**Required Qualifications and Experience**

• Interest in waste prevention, waste mitigation, and zero waste initiatives.

• Motivated to develop communication skills.

• Familiarity with solid waste, waste prevention, and/or recycling.

• Ability to demonstrate initiative, work independently, and ask for help / guidance as needed

• Foundational knowledge / interest in engaging the community around issues of sustainability as it pertains to zero waste

**Educational/Professional Benefits**

This practicum offers valuable experience to a student interested in waste prevention and reduction and zero waste communities.

Currently there is very limited modeling for rural zero waste communities due to challenges including scale, transportation, and access. This internship is focused on building a road map for rural zero waste.

• Gain practical knowledge of rural solid waste, recycling, and waste prevention

• Experience working in a recycling facility

• Gain practical knowledge to understand the complexities of sustainable rural communities

• Opportunity to apply your educational knowledge to help make our vision of a zero-waste future a reality.