

## ECO AmeriCorps Host Site Application 2022-'23

Since 2015, ECO has enjoyed working with an inspiring list of conservation partners in providing environmental leaders a paid opportunity to serve Vermont communities. ECO AmeriCorps values all voices and identities in the conservation space. We seek to uplift and engage diversity, equity and inclusion commitments in service and in our state. Thank you for your interest in joining us!

For more information on host site application supporting documents:

<https://dec.vermont.gov/administration-innovation/eco/current-host-organizations>

Contact:

[dustin.bowman@vermont.gov](mailto:dustin.bowman@vermont.gov)

802-461-5222

ECO AmeriCorps Living Stipend:

\$21,335 (full-time members)

\$11,295 (half-time members)

Host Site cost based on # of full-time employees:

Full-Time (1,700 hours over 11 months)

0-3 \$7,500

3-10 \$8,400

>10 \$9,800

Half-Time (900 hours over 6 months)

\$4,900 regardless of size

Quarter-Time (450 hours over 3 months)

\$2,450 regardless of size

### Service Site Responsibilities

- Provide host site match based on organizational size
- Participate in ECO member recruitment, confirm member selection, arrange site training, member supervision and support throughout term of service, other forms and documentation as required by AmeriCorps, reviews bi-weekly member timesheets, mileage reimbursement for service-related travel.
- Supervisor must attend AmeriCorps supervisor orientation (or make special arrangements).
- Applicants must submit a Certificate of Insurance, indicating that the entity or entities have met the insurance requirements listed in Attachment C (see risk assessment document).

**Full-Time Member Benefits\***

Living Stipend: \$21,335 Education Award: \$6,495

Other Benefits: Professional development training, networking opportunities, health care, child care assistance, program support, mileage/meals reimbursement for ECO AmeriCorps-related travel.

\*Benefits for half-time and part-time members are prorated.

VT-DEC administers the member's living stipend, health care benefits, child care benefits, timesheets, activity reports, and other AmeriCorps and employee-related benefits and documentation.

**Organization Name \***

Vermont Cooperative for Practice Improvement & Innovation

**Organization Address \***

PO Box 343, St. Albans VT 05478

**Supervisor Name and Title \***

Alex Lehning, Executive Director

**Email \***

alex.lehning@northernvermont.edu

**Phone number \***

(802) 730-5260

Which hosting category are you applying to? Note: ECO prefers full-time members for the vast majority of our program opportunities. Please contact Coordinator [dustin.bowman@vermont.gov](mailto:dustin.bowman@vermont.gov) with questions. \*

- Full-Time (September-August)
- Half-Time (flexible)
- Quarter-Time (May-August)

How many ECO Service Members are you applying to host? \*Note\* The program looks to disperse capacity builders geographically and by experience. Consideration will be given to those that can demonstrate unique need. \*

- 1
- 2

Host Site Contribution Method \*

- Lump Sum
- Quarterly, \*program preference is for one-time payment (reach out with questions)

Please provide a brief description of your role at your organization. \*

I am the ED of VCPI, an independent nonprofit cooperative hosted by Northern Vermont University.

What is the title of the position you are requesting? \*

Environmental Mental Health Education & Outreach Coordinator

Describe your proposed service position. Please outline the role. \*

This position will be responsible for coordinating VCPI's environmental mental health initiative through education and outreach activities, including surveys/data collection, developing and implementing programming, performing research, and leading community advocacy and engagement efforts.

What are the essential functions that the applicant must be able to perform? These may be listed in bullet form. \*

- Create and maintain communications with our statewide mental health & educational partners network
- Collect and analyze data to help understand and address "eco-anxiety & climate distress" in Vermont
- Participate in staff (in-person and remote) meetings for program & project development
- Perform literature reviews and research on environmental mental health issues
- Collaborate with partners & constituents to share data and resources through an interactive "toolkit"
- Assist with leading trainings & special events, including service-learning opportunities
- Track project data and collect evaluations for the program's performance measures
- Attend all Eco AmeriCorps trainings and orientations
- Complete and submit all necessary paperwork and reports by predetermined deadlines

What are the secondary functions? These are projects or tasks that may be accomplished as time allows or applicant's interests evolve. \*

- Member will have the opportunity author an original research article based upon their experience
- They may complete mental health first aid (MHFA) training
- They may complete Koru Mindfulness training
- They may present about their experience/findings at a conference or professional event

What are the desired qualification for this position? \*

Bachelor's Degree, training and/or experience in the environmental sciences, behavioral sciences, eco-humanities, or a related area. Candidates should be comfortable with (or willing to learn) standard office software, working with students and adults of all backgrounds, authoring communications and research materials, and independent management of project responsibilities. Experience with Qualtrics or Canvas (LMS) software is a plus. We ask for flexibility, curiosity, and a willingness to explore an interdisciplinary emerging field of study.

Will the member have access to "vulnerable populations"? This includes youth, elderly and individuals with disabilities. \*

Yes

No

What initiatives does your organization take to support diversity, equity, inclusion, and environmental justice and how will the ECO member be included or supported in this work? \*

As a member of Northern Vermont University, VCPI staff (including the member) would be expected to engage in our equity & inclusion work as outlined below. VCPI also participates in the SafeSpace campus program and hosts a statewide DEIA committee.

- Engaging in consistent, open, and honest communication with each other and with all members of our community.
  - Actively collaborating with all members of our community in regard to issues of social/environmental justice.
  - Providing consultation and resources to colleagues in our community on issues related to environmental/social justice.
  - Advocating for, by working with, disenfranchised members of our community.
  - Coordinating programming which addresses the environmental/social justice needs in our community.
  - Creating opportunities for activism in support of environmental/social justice in our community.
  - Providing leadership in our community on issues related to environmental social justice.
  - Engaging in an ongoing process of self-assessment and accountability.
-

Please provide information that provides a compelling need for the proposed position (data, statistics, resources, etc.) \*

“Younger Americans – Millennials and adults in Generation Z – stand out in a new Pew Research Center survey particularly for their high levels of engagement with the issue of climate change. Compared with older adults, Gen Zers and Millennials are talking more about the need for action on climate change; among social media users, they are seeing more climate change content online; and they are doing more to get involved with the issue through activities such as volunteering and attending rallies and protests.”  
(<https://www.pewresearch.org/science/2021/05/26/gen-z-millennials-stand-out-for-climate-change-activism-social-media-engagement-with-issue/>)

While many (median 72%) worry climate change will harm them personally in the future, there is widespread sentiment that climate change is already affecting the world around them. In Pew Research Center surveys conducted in 2019 and 2020, a median of 70% across 20 publics surveyed said climate change is affecting where they live a great deal or some amount. And majorities in most countries included as part of a 26-nation survey in 2018 thought global climate change was a major threat to their own country (the same was true across all 14 countries surveyed in 2020).” (<https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2021/09/14/in-response-to-climate-change-citizens-in-advanced-economies-are-willing-to-alter-how-they-live-and-work/>)

“The American Psychiatric Association (APA) recognizes climate change as a growing threat to mental health, but many mental health professionals feel unequipped to handle the growing number of people anxious and grieving over the state of the planet.” (<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/therapists-are-reckoning-with-eco-anxiety/>)

Describe the supervisor's leadership experience. Will they have adequate time to manage and mentor an ECO AmeriCorps member? \*

I have 10 years of nonprofit management experience, including 8 years as an internship supervisor/coordinator. We are a small team of two staff members, so the Member will receive personalized mentorship and support as well as the resources of being part of a university community.

Describe how your organization has adapted to COVID-19. What communication strategies and tools have you implemented? i.e. teleservice, remote service, etc. \*

VCPI adapted to COVID-19 by shifting to remote work.

Describe networking opportunities that will be available to your service member. \*

Members will be able to network through Northern Vermont University (transitioning to Vermont State University) as well as through our unique cooperative structure which includes members from community mental health centers, state agencies, hospitals, schools, and nonprofits - including professional and peer providers.

Is there someone in your organization's network that might be interested in mentoring your ECO service member? \*Note, 1-2 hours per month, not required

Yes

No

Maybe

Does your organization currently host or plan to host an AmeriCorps member from another program? If yes, briefly describe the duties of this other position. \*

No.

Please list any clothing/equipment the member will need that you cannot provide (e.g., hiking boots, waders, raingear, etc.). Is a reliable vehicle expected? As the host site, you are responsible for providing all tools and technical equipment needed for the position (e.g., computer, phone, GPS, etc.). \*

Some travel within Vermont is anticipated, so access to reliable personal transportation is expected given the lack of public transit resources in our rural communities.

Are you willing to search with program staff over the summer to help your ECO member secure affordable and safe housing?

- Yes
- No
- Maybe

## Performance Measures

Provide approximate impact numbers (e.g. miles of rivers treated) in each focus area. Refer to the 2021-2022 Performance Goals document for an explanation on each focus area.

Document can be found here: <https://dec.vermont.gov/administration-innovation/eco/current-host-organizations/prospectivehostsites>

Water Quality and Trail Improvement - Please project Impact Numbers on miles of river/stream/trail treated and/or improved. \*

N/A

Land Conservation and Remediation - Please project impact numbers on acres of public parks or other public, publicly managed or tribal lands improved. \*

N/A

Community Engagement Outreach and Education - Please project number of individuals receiving environmental stewardship education or training. \*

2,000+

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