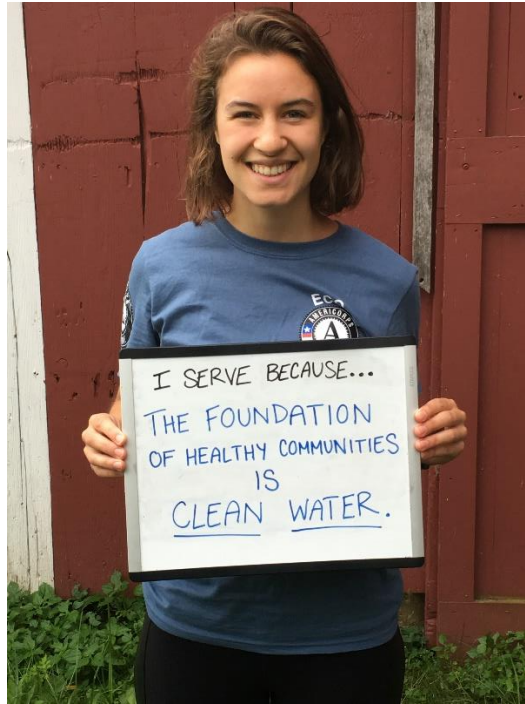


## Kate Longfield – Member Spotlight



Kate is currently serving with the Northwest Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) in St. Albans, Vermont, as their Assistant Water Quality Program Coordinator. She joined ECO after graduating from University of Vermont in May of 2019, and has quickly gotten involved within her community and host site. In her first couple weeks, Kate co-taught at Lake Lessons, an annual environmental education program put on for 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders by the St. Albans Museum, Friends of Northern Lake Champlain, Agency of Agriculture, and other local environmental groups. The program focuses on the science of stormwater, runoff, and watersheds, as well as the cultural heritage of Lake Champlain. Kate was specifically charged with co-teaching a station on land use, history, and human pollution of Lake Champlain. At NRPC, Kate is currently assisting with public meetings on Tactical Basin Planning, grant writing, and the identification of priority water quality issues throughout Franklin and Grand Isle counties. Specifically, she has been identifying misaligned, perched or significantly undersized culverts that could pose a threat to communities in the event of a flood. She is also looking forward to creating illustrative landscape design guides to educate homeowners in Northwestern Vermont on how to improve their properties for stormwater management. Kate has really enjoyed acting as a link between state government and the municipalities, advocating for topics she cares deeply about. Last year, she was drawn to ECO because of the unique opportunity it provided her early in her career. AmeriCorps has provided Kate valuable urban planning experience, enabled her to pursue professional development and service in her community, and given her a supportive cohort of fellow ECO members. On top of her busy service days, Kate has recently been selected as a University of Vermont Foundation Fellow, an honorable position for young alumni to contribute and give insight to the UVM Board of Directors. Over the course of her service, Kate is excited to take on more responsibilities at NRPC, build on her knowledge and skills of stormwater planning, and deepen her connections with her community in the Old North End of Burlington.