

YALE CENTER ON CLIMATE CHANGE & HEALTH
2021 SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Yale Center on Climate Change and Health (YCCCH) is pleased to announce its Summer Internship Program, which matches Yale students with meaningful internships related to climate change and health research and practice. **Initial applications are due Friday, January 15, 2021**. Internships are available at the following organizations:

- California Department of Public Health
- Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health (CEEJH) Laboratory at the University of Maryland School of Public Health
- Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation
- Dejusticia
- East Shore District Health Department
- Eastern Caribbean Health Outcome Research Network (ECHORN)
- Equity and Environmental Justice-Adaptation Subcommittee of the Connecticut Governor's Council on Climate Change
- Montana Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate
- New Haven City Plan Department
- Save the Sound
- WE ACT for Environmental Justice
- Yale Center on Climate Change and Health

Eligibility:

- Returning (non-graduating) Yale School of Public Health MPH students
- Current [YCCCH Student Associates](#)
- Undergraduate Environmental Studies majors

Process: This is a two-stage application process:

- **Stage 1: Eligible students apply to be matched with a specific internship from the list of opportunities (see below).** To apply, send a cover letter that identifies your preferred project and describes the skills, experience, and perspective you would bring to the project. If there are required skills or eligibility criteria listed for that project, be sure to respond to those explicitly. With the cover letter, include an up-to-date resume/CV and a transcript (unofficial is ok). ***You may apply to more than one internship; to do so, you must write one cover letter per internship project.*** Stage 1 applications are due **Friday, January 15** (11:59pm) by email to Mr. Mauro Diaz-Hernandez, YCCCH Program Administrator (mauro.diaz-hernandez@yale.edu).
- **Stage 2: Those students matched with a YCCCH internship apply for funding through YCCCH and other Yale summer funding opportunities.** For YCCCH funding, specific application information will be provided when notified about the internship matching outcome. Students are also expected to apply for internship funding from other sources, since not all matched internships can be funded through YCCCH.

Questions? Contact Mr. Mauro Diaz-Hernandez, YCCCH Program Administrator (mauro.diaz-hernandez@yale.edu).

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS

Host: California Department of Public Health - Climate Change and Health Equity Unit

Project title: California Climate Change and Health Data and Research Internship

Description: The Climate Change and Health Equity Unit at the California Department of Public Health seeks an intern to assist with data management, analysis, and background research projects. The intern will gather and manipulate publicly available data (e.g., American Community Survey and other sources) in order to update our Climate Change and Health Vulnerability Indicators. They will also perform literature searches on the links between climate change exposures and health and use the material to update the written background narratives that are attached to our indicators. The intern will create a powerpoint slide deck of tables, charts, and graphs that outline results from a recent update to our active transportation and health tool. They will be supervised by the Epidemiologist, but will be part of a multidisciplinary team that works on climate change and health policy and programs as well as research and data. The intern will have many opportunities to attend meetings and webinars to get exposure to the wide variety of climate change activities going on in California. They will be given support to explore other parts of CDPH and California government and NGOs through introductions and informational interviews.

Preferred qualifications: Proficiency with data management, using either SAS or R. Proficiency with Excel and PowerPoint. Strong writing skills. GIS experience preferred. Not required to be located in California – can be 100% remote.

Location: online (could be in-person depending on COVID by next summer, but not at all required)

Eligibility: MPH students, Other graduate or professional students

Host: Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health (CEEJH) Laboratory at the University of Maryland School of Public Health

Project title: Chesapeake Environmental Justice Coalition Project Manager

Description: The Chesapeake Environmental Justice Coalition Project Manager will work closely with the various members of the Community Engagement, Environmental Justice and Health (CEEJH) lab, advocacy partners, community-based organizations, legal partners, community members, and policymakers to assist in a wide variety of tasks related to outreach, education, and environmental justice with regards to forming and organizing the Chesapeake EJ Coalition that will cover Washington, DC, Maryland, Virginia, and Delaware. Some of the duties and responsibilities will include:

1. Conducting outreach to community-based organizations to join the network
2. Conducting outreach to labor organizations and traditional green groups to join the network
3. Performing a landscape analysis of environmental justice groups in member states
4. Assessing needs for members of the coalition including capacity and funding needs with a focus on frontline and fenceline EJ communities via survey, focus group, or interview
5. Developing a project work plan that includes objectives and goals for the Chesapeake Environmental Justice Coalition
6. Coordinating and facilitating meetings for various organizations to network and share their work regarding local environmental justice and climate justice issues
7. Coordinating efforts to build a climate justice plan for the Chesapeake region
8. Assisting with efforts to train community members in science and legal empowerment

9. Assisting with efforts to build the capacity of community members to organize around climate and environmental justice issues
10. Assisting with efforts to engage legislators in member states to develop new environmental and climate justice bills and legislation
11. Helping the team build a pipeline of trained environmental and climate justice advocates who can run for office in coalition states

Preferred qualifications: The preferred candidate will have some experience in the fields of community health and/or environmental health, environmental justice, and climate justice and have:

1. Experience developing project work plans
2. Experience in outreach
3. Experience in needs assessment
4. Experience in asset mapping
5. Strong communication skills
6. Development of educational materials/infographics
7. Experience in program planning

Location: Online

Eligibility: MPH students, Other graduate or professional students

Host: **Community Engagement, Environmental Justice, and Health (CEEJH) Laboratory at the University of Maryland School of Public Health**

Project title: **Climate and Health Equity Internship**

Description: The Climate Equity and Health Intern will work closely with the various members of the Community Engagement, Environmental Justice and Health (CEEJH) lab to assist in a wide variety of tasks related to outreach, education, and environmental health with regards to CEEJH's climate equity and Maryland (MD) EJSCREEN tools:

1. Help develop and execute outreach and engagement strategy for rollout of version 2 of MD EJSCREEN. Strategy should lay the groundwork for how to share the new tool with key stakeholders, connecting this tool and its effective use with climate action. Key stakeholder groups to be included are: Maryland policymakers (at the state and federal level), state environmental advocacy groups, state and federal agencies, community-based organizations, and the media. Strategy should include lists of potential tactics (such as a webinar, virtual meetings and reporter education) and a tentative schedule for outreach.
2. Work with partners to connect with policymakers and the public and educate these groups about the tool and related issues.
3. Develop a white paper on environmental justice (EJ) mapping tools and their use and potential in policy making. White paper should include indicators to include in EJ mapping tools, make the case for these tools and their use in policy making, discuss the use of the tool for investing in building just and climate resilient communities, best practices in EJ tools, and policy recommendations.
4. Provide assistance on development of the climate equity and health geospatial mapping tool including feedback on various environmental, health, social, and demographic indicators that should be included in the tool.
5. Develop outreach materials and infographics to other groups outside of the state who may be interested in using the tools

Preferred qualifications: The preferred candidate will have some experience in the fields of community health and/or environmental health, and will have the experience/skills listed below:

1. Experience developing project work plans
2. Strong communication skills
3. Experience in environmental justice
4. Development of educational materials/infographics

Location: Online

Eligibility: MPH students, Other graduate or professional students

Host: **Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA)** and **Yale Center on Climate Change and Health (YCCCH)**

Project title: **Municipal Tools for Extreme Heat**

Description: This is a joint project between UConn CIRCA and YCCCH and is part of CIRCA's Resilient Connecticut project to create a municipal "toolkit" for Connecticut municipal decision-makers in preparing for a changing climate. Specifically, the intern will work to create a toolkit module focused on extreme heat vulnerability. The module will describe how heat stress and often co-occurring air quality impairment affects human health, explain the Resilient Connecticut project's findings on extreme heat, and provide guidance on how municipalities can better protect health through communications, services (including cooling centers), and adopting or revising protocols based on best practices. Once the module materials are developed, the intern will pilot them and revise based on feedback (as time allows).

Qualifications: Preferred: Knowledge of climate science, public health, and environmental justice; strong written communication skills; experience with visual communication; attention to detail, self-starter, and independent worker; reliability and professionalism.

Location: Online (some in person if possible)

Eligibility: Undergraduates, MPH students, Other graduate or professional students

Host: **Dejusticia (located in Bogota, Colombia)**

Project title: **Health, air quality and climate change interlinkages with a human rights perspective.**

Description: The climate crisis and air pollution situation, especially in big cities, has implications in terms of human rights violations, especially the right to health, the enjoyment of a healthy environment and access to information and participation. From a climate and environmental justice perspective, Dejusticia is currently advancing research and advocacy on air quality and its relationship with socioeconomic inequality, as well as the relationship of climate change with human rights.

This project, therefore, seeks to address the relationship between health, climate change, and air quality from a human rights perspective by conducting at least the following activities:

- A literature review that addresses the baseline relationship between climate change and health concerning human rights impacts - this review will include air quality and identify other priority issues in the climate change/health and human rights interface to provide recommendations to Dejusticia on how to address this issue in the future.
- Elaboration of an international mapping of organizations/networks working on this issue.
- Identification and assessment of litigation involving climate change, air quality, and the right to health to provide useful argumentative recommendations for potential litigation in Colombia.

- Identification of research gaps that may be a priority for Dejusticia in addressing climate change, air quality and health interlinkages.

Preferred qualifications: Data collection; qualitative and quantitative research

Location: Online

Eligibility: MPH students, Other graduate or professional students

Host: East Shore District Health Department (Branford, CT)

Project title: Climate Change in Connecticut : A Research & Photojournalism Road Map to Awareness

Description: This project aims to use Connecticut-specific climate change research to create a photojournalism collection of written and in person stories/interviews. It will be used to document and educate Connecticut residents, or Nutmeggers, by sharing real stories and visual evidence of climate change that is currently impacting southern New England, and its quintessential towns and cities. We hope to create public interest and motivate a community movement to address climate change and community resilience to the changes that are currently happening. This information would be gathered through interviews, surveys, photos, and historical reviews of CT towns, weather and environmental reports, and the health of our residents.

This project will objectively communicate facts to educate our residents that climate change has been and is currently in play and impacting every aspect of our anthropological ecosystem – physical, social, financial, emotional, etc. Our intent is to tell the visual “human story” of climate change, supported by state and local research, with the end goal to promote awareness and positive, sustainable behavioral change to soften mankind’s influences on our local ecology.

Preferred qualifications: Data Collection & Interviewing

Location: Combination of on-line & in-person, pending pandemic conditions

Eligibility: Undergraduates, MPH students, Other graduate or professional students

Host: Eastern Caribbean Health Outcome Research Network (ECHORN)

Project title: Feasibility and Acceptability of Emergency NCD Kits to address needs of people living with NCDs after natural disasters

Description: There were over 1,000 deaths during the 2017 hurricane season in the United States, with the majority occurring in the territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI). Over a third of post-disaster mortality and morbidity was due to complications of non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease. With the rising frequency of natural disasters, there is an urgent need for feasible, acceptable, and effective emergency preparedness plans that will reduce morbidity and mortality related to non-communicable diseases after disasters. In collaboration with the Pan American Health Organization, Healthy Caribbean Coalition, Eastern Caribbean Health Outcomes Research Network, and the Yale Center for Climate Change and Health we are working to determine the feasibility and acceptability of using emergency non-communicable disease kits to address the needs of people living with NCDs after a natural disaster.

We are in the process of conducting qualitative interviews with key stakeholders with the goal of completing 15-20 interviews by May 2021. We will also be distributing a survey to people living with NCDs to understand their experience managing their chronic disease after a natural disaster.

The task of the summer intern will be to analyze qualitative data using thematic content analysis to help understand challenges experienced and feasibility/acceptability of NCD Kits to address those challenges.

Summer intern will then lead manuscript writing of the qualitative results. If the survey of people living with NCDs is complete, the student will also have the opportunity of analyzing survey data.

Qualifications: interview/qualitative data collection and analysis

Location: Online/virtual

Eligibility: MPH students, Other graduate or professional students

Host: Equity and Environmental Justice-Adaptation Subcommittee of the Governor's Council on Climate Change

Project title: **Connecticut Climate Justice Internship**

Description: In September 2019, Governor Lamont issued Executive Order #3 to re-establish and expand the Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3), and for the first time, to prioritize environmental justice and climate justice in climate mitigation and adaptation recommendations and implementation. The GC3 met over 2020 and presented its first set of recommendations to the Governor in January 2021, and will present its second set of recommendations in December 2021. The purpose of this internship will be to develop climate justice tools and parameters to help make climate mitigation and adaptation more equitable in Connecticut as part of the GC3 recommendation process. Specifically, working with Dr. Mark Mitchell, the intern will:

1. Develop guidelines and evaluation criteria for local climate adaptation planning that incorporates climate justice.
2. Develop suggestions on processes and procedures for including environmental justice organizations and other representatives of climate vulnerable populations in local, regional and statewide climate adaptation planning.
3. Acquire and analyze state air pollution data to create charts and to map or work with mapping organizations to update environmental justice maps.

Preferred qualifications: Skills working with MS Excel. GIS mapping skills are not required, but would be useful. Students of color, with disabilities, or those from low wealth families are encouraged to apply.

Location: Online

Eligibility: Undergraduates, MPH students, Other graduate or professional students

Host: Montana Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate (HPHC)

Project title: **MontanaHPHC Administrator**

Description: Action by health professionals at the state and local level is increasingly powerful for advancing climate action. Montana Health Professionals for a Healthy Climate (<https://www.montanahphc.org/>), founded in 2019 by 9 charter members is growing its influence in our state. This opportunity will provide practical experience in how grassroots advocacy organizations develop and expand, afford experience in public relations, legislative strategizing, and climate communication, while allowing discovery of Montana's outdoor opportunities. The intern would aid work with:

1. Website improvements;
2. Marketing, social media, & newsletter design;
3. Tabling and recruitment to our organization at health and other summer events;
4. Outreach to hospitals and clinics, and developing a student section;
5. Scheduling presentations by board members and have the opportunity to aid in presentations;
6. Grant-writing assistance (prior experience is not required);

7. Collaborating with climate advocate partners in Montana - other NGOs also working on climate and clean energy, to help achieve our strategic plan.

Given that the co-chairs spent their careers in public health/Indian Health, the intern will have the opportunity to work with native communities and public health systems in Montana to further climate action.

Preferred qualifications: Basic computer and word processing skills, ability to communicate effectively (written and oral), self motivation, enthusiasm, and a willingness to learn and teach. The ability to effectively communicate the organization's mission to donors, volunteers and the overall community is desirable.

Location: In person in Hardman/Red Lodge, Montana, with remote work possible pending pandemic conditions.

Eligibility: Undergraduates, MPH students, Other graduate or professional students

Host: New Haven City Plan Department

Project title: Planning for Climate and for Health

Description: Climate and Health Equity are forefront as the City Plan Department in the City of New Haven looks ahead towards COVID-19 recovery and healing in 2021. In particular, the Department looks to strengthen capacity in three areas:

1. Community engagement: Building on and further developing community engagement models with partners such as outdoor community walks, mobile data apps and sensors, and online platforms for engagement.
2. Data analysis: Synthesizing available data and identifying gaps, connecting academic research projects to local government practice, developing maps and tools for planners and public to use and understand climate and health impacts at local level.
3. Land use and development policy and ordinances: Applying climate, racial and health impact assessments and lens in planning and land use application requirements, furthering work on Green Ordinances for resiliency, climate mitigation and safe, healthy neighborhoods.

Within these priority areas, the intern's project may be tailored to the student's interests and skill sets.

Preferred qualifications: GIS mapping

Location: Online and/or at New Haven City Hall

Eligibility: Undergraduates, MPH students, Other graduate or professional students

Host: Save the Sound (New Haven, CT)

Project title: Climate Justice and Health Training Initiative

Description: This project is Phase I of a collaboration with Save the Sound, Health Equity Solutions, and the Yale Center on Climate Change and Health. This phase will work in coordination with both Save the Sound and HES to 1) develop and embed climate justice education into HES' existing health advocacy training curriculum; and 2) identify and engage voices from low-income communities of color in state-level advocacy.

Specifically, the YCCCCH intern will help create the climate and climate justice education and training modules for HES's training program. The intern will work with Save the Sound to identify content and HES to understand their existing training structure, and then develop an outline to be vetted by both groups. Subsequently, the intern will create the training content and any supporting materials (factsheets, infographics, etc) to accompany the module implementation. If time allows the intern will conduct follow-up from a pilot training on the new content and make necessary adjustments. If time allows, this content will be adapted for our youth advocacy climate toolkit.

Qualifications: required: excellent writer and well organized; additional useful, but not essential skills of interest: curriculum development, GIS mapping, grass-roots organizing, policy development, app development, microsite development

Location: Online (some in person if able in light of COVID protocols)

Eligibility: Undergraduates, MPH students, Other graduate or professional students

Host: WE ACT for Environmental Justice

Project title: Northern Manhattan Cooling Center Audit

Description: WE ACT is a Northern Manhattan membership-based organization that has been fighting for the health and well-being of low-income communities and communities of color for more than 30 years. Extreme heat events are a pressing public health issue in New York City (NYC). The NYC Cooling Center Program provides public spaces for New Yorkers to go to cool down during a heat emergency. In the summer of 2019, a group of WE ACT members conducted an audit of the roughly 50 city-operated Cooling Centers in Northern Manhattan to assess their effectiveness. The audit found that Cooling Centers were underutilized, lacked sufficient wayfinding, and did not consistently offer necessary amenities such as free water, food, a restroom, or even a working air conditioner. In the fall of 2019, WE ACT hosted two workshops to review the survey results and brainstorm recommendations for the City. Based on the workshops, WE ACT compiled a report that has supported organizing and advocacy efforts to improve the Cooling Center Program as a pathway to equitable access to cool spaces.

During the summer of 2021, WE ACT plans to conduct a second audit of Northern Manhattan Cooling Centers using a new, improved auditing instrument that is being developed by a student team in the spring term Yale course, EPH 555, Clinic in Climate Justice, Climate Policy, Law, and Public Health. This second audit will be conducted to fill gaps left from the 2019 audit, which was a preliminary exploration of the Cooling Center Program. It will assess Cooling Center effectiveness and quality according to criteria developed by the student team, will capture information missed in the 2019 audit, and will assess if the Cooling Center Program has made improvements since 2019.

The 2021 summer intern will assist in managing this community-based participatory research project. In collaboration with WE ACT volunteers, the intern will implement the program plan and audit instrument finalized by the Spring 2021 student team. The intern's work will include organizing and coordinating volunteers, conducting audits, collecting and analyzing the data, and presenting the results in a formal report. The intern also will write a brief written report-back and/or conduct an oral report-back for the WE ACT community. Other work could include assessing rates of heat emergency, poor air quality, and high humidity days; research around energy insecurity; and city-level advocacy and communication efforts for improving the Cooling Center program.

Preferred qualifications: Community-based participatory research, qualitative research, survey research, data analysis, cultural sensitivity, strong racial equity lens, proficiency in Spanish

Location: In-person preferred but will be determined by pandemic situation

Eligibility: Undergraduates, MPH students, Other graduate or professional students

Host: Yale Center on Climate Change and Health

Project title: Climate Change and Health Policy Impact Unit

Description: The Yale Center on Climate Change and Health (YCCCCH) is recruiting a summer intern to join its newly launched Policy Impact Unit. The summer intern will collect and analyze information to identify equitable

and effective policy interventions that address climate change impacts to public health, with initial focus on state-level action. This work will inform the Policy Impact Unit's development of policy priorities and strategies for change. Currently work includes a focus on energy affordability, adaptation interventions to address extreme heat vulnerability, and the health co-benefits of climate mitigation.

The summer internship work plan will include the following and can be adjusted based on the selected intern's interests and skillset:

- Researching best practice policies and programs to address specific health impacts of climate change or of human activities that cause climate change. This will include review of peer reviewed and grey literature and speaking with issue area experts.
- Researching barriers and facilitators to climate adaptation and mitigation strategies from a public health, equity, and environmental justice perspective. This also will include review of peer reviewed and grey literature and speaking with issue area experts.
- Summarizing findings into digestible but precise internal documents
- Drafting public outreach materials on climate and health topics

Qualifications: Preferred: Knowledge of climate science, public health, and environmental justice; experience with policy review, research, and analysis; experience reviewing peer-reviewed and gray literature; strong written communication skills; attention to detail, self-starter, and independent worker; reliability and professionalism.

Location: Online (some in person if possible)

Eligibility: Undergraduates, MPH students, Other graduate or professional students