Environment Massachusetts | www.environmentmassachusetts.org

- Kit Collins (Peace and Justice Studies, 2015)
- Clean Water & Don't Frack MA Intern
- Full-time, 42 hours per week
- Unpaid

**What do you do as an intern at this organization?**
My tasks have varied over the course of the summer. First, I did research to accompany a report published by Environment MA on industrial pollution of waterways ("Wasting Our Waterways"). Next, I put together a coalition letter of local and state environmental groups in support of H.3796, a bill to ban hydrofracking, and I wrote and disseminated a press release about its delivery. After completing this, I lobbied state reps and senators to support the bill, which involved many follow-ups by phone and lobby trips to the State House. I created a database of college-based environmental activism groups for use in an upcoming project aimed at college activists. Finally, I have been working on compiling a chronological database of fracking incidents that have occurred across the nation. Other tasks have included the following: helping lead lobby teams at a rally against the Kinder Morgan pipeline, helping with phone banking and petitioning for projects that needed more people power, e.g., getting medical professionals' votes of support for MASSPIRG's campaign against overuse of antibiotics on industrial farms and a nationwide photo petition for the Clean Water campaign.

**How did you find your internship?**
I found it from an internships listing put out by Green Corps.

**What do you enjoy most about your internship?**
I enjoyed being involved with lobbying for the bill to ban hydrofracking. I found communicating and meeting with legislators very exciting, and it was a kind of advocacy that was very new to me.

**What do you find challenging?**
Much of the writing work I did for this internship was challenging, in that I had to make sure that my writing was accurate and evocative while being maximally concise and minimally verbose. In addition, my work on creating databases was tedious at times.

**What advice would you offer to someone who wants to make the most of an internship like yours?**
Be willing to work independently much of the time. You should expect to be given "real" work -- not grunt work -- so be willing to work rigorously; your work will definitely be seen and used by staff members. The staff is very receptive, welcoming, and interested in making this a great experience for the interns, so don't be afraid to speak up if there is a particular issue, tactic, or task that you think would be useful or that you want to try out.

**About the Organization**
Environment Massachusetts; Boston, MA

Environment MA is a statewide, citizen-based environmental advocacy organization. We believe there’s something special about MA — something worth protecting and preserving for future generations. Yet the places we love and the environmental values we share are too often threatened by powerful industries, short-sighted politicians and more. Defending our environment requires independent research, tough-minded advocacy and spirited grassroots action. Together with thousands of supporters, we take the kind of action that wins tangible results for our environment.