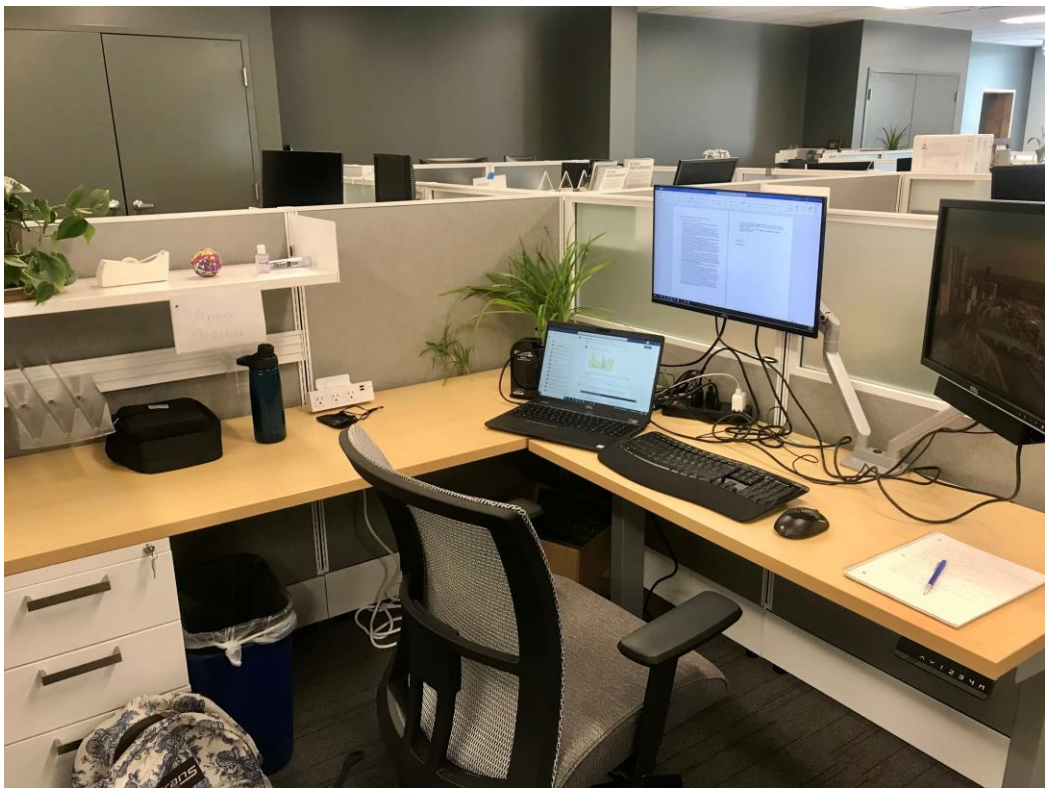


# Energy & Air Quality Internship at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission

Anna Oestreich

My work this summer has been as an Energy & Air Quality Intern at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission located in downtown Columbus, Ohio. The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) is a voluntary association of Central Ohio governments and regional organizations that envisions and embraces innovative directions in transportation, energy, housing, land use, the environment, and economic prosperity. I found the job through an email from the SENR career resources Carmen page. The main activities in this role have been to provide support with the air quality monitoring project, do research on MORPC's SolSmart designation, and create documents related to air quality, energy, and sustainability.

## Air Quality Monitors that I installed on my own



My cubicle in the office

## MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Conduct research and develop documents related to the needs of the Regional Sustainability Agenda.
2. Attend and participate in meetings with MORPC members and stakeholders.
3. Assist with water quality activities, including best practices research, data analysis and reporting, and education & outreach.
4. Assist with supporting the Air Quality Program marketing and outreach goals through marketing and communications support, data entry, and distributing marketing materials. I will also work to create the webpage and install the monitors, in addition to working on the development and coordination of educational marketing campaigns.
5. Assist with air quality and solar related tasks, including evaluation and implementation of the Air Quality Alert system and researching the SolSmart designation.

## EXPERIENCE

I felt very supported during my experience working as an Energy and Air Quality Intern at the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission by my supervisor, coworkers, and my employer organization. What worked well is that they made sure that I had all the resources I needed, and my supervisor gave me opportunities to grow and improve my skills. Additional resources I wish I had been given were more group project experiences because the pandemic made it difficult to have much collaboration. I also wish that I would have been able to spend more of my internship at work because I really feel less productive when I am at home in comparison to at the workplace.

The advice I would give to someone thinking about doing this internship next summer is to have confidence in your abilities, make connections with your colleagues, and try to learn as much as possible. Also, don't be afraid to ask questions and write down all the things you do so you can make sure you remember them.



Collocating air monitors with my co-workers



An afternoon spent by the Scioto River

After reviewing the five learning objectives I made at the beginning of my internship, I feel that I have accomplished most of them. Since the beginning of my internship, I think that instead of focusing on work related to water quality, I focused on solar energy more through editing the solar toolkit and researching the other solar projects accomplished by SolSmart.

My career-related goals to focus on in the year ahead are assisting with solar projects and continuing to support the Air Quality Monitoring Program. In order to achieve these goals and to continue working on my main duties, I need to practice good time management so that I can balance classes with 20 hours of work each week for the next year. My experience has been related to my career aspirations because I want to fight against climate change, most likely through work in solar energy, and the work I have done has been related to this.

## CONCLUSION

I had an amazing experience this summer as Energy & Air Quality Intern, and I'm so glad I get to spend the rest of this year continuing to work at MORPC. I will use the skills and knowledge I have gained from my time here in my future career, and I'm grateful to have learned so much about the sustainability field and how I can make a difference.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## My ID Picture



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