

# Sustainability Internship at Land-Grant Brewing

Molly Ridge

## Background

This summer I worked for Land-Grant Brewing as the sustainability intern. Land-Grant is located in the Franklinton neighborhood in Columbus, Ohio.

### Land-Grant’s Mission Statement:

Craft beer and breweries can be intimidating and feel exclusive. In a crowded craft beer market, we bring our Ohio community together by building customer connections through our passion toward the craft, quality, and creativity of our beers and experiences. We build those connections by taking the lead in creating an inclusive and welcoming craft beer culture.

\*Formalized commitment to community and sustainability in 2016.\*



I found my internship by directly reaching out to Land-Grant by email. I had some experience creating sustainability-based projects for a brewery from one of my classes and leveraged this experience to secure a position. I was attracted to Land-Grant because they care about their community and had already put sustainability initiatives in place.

## On The Job

- Planted over a dozen species of native plants in Beer Garden and created educational QR codes.
- Installed rain barrel to water plants and reduce water use.



- Planned “zero waste” Pride event with special guest Nina West.



- Organized community clean-ups for Land-Grant employees with the Franklinton Board of Trade.
- Started talks about implementing community wide composting.
- Implemented PakTech Recycling program open to community and other businesses.



- Tracked utility use in benchmarking tool to create goals for use reduction to save money and resources.



- Learned about bee keeping and harvesting honey from the bee collective, our next-door neighbor.



## Reflection

This was a great experience learning about implementing sustainability in a business setting. As with every internship, I was able to learn what I liked and didn’t like about the job and the field. I learned that I value being able to work with community members to make broader change in the community and desire a social element in my work.

Moving forward, I plan to complete one more internship before I graduate. For my next internship, I hope to work for a community development corporation (CDC) or similar organization working to enrich their communities.

For students interested in a similar experience, my advice to you would be to be prepared to head your own projects and take initiative. Many smaller companies have not had an employee exclusively dedicated to sustainability. You’ll learn a lot along the way and may even face opposition from some employees- keep pushing and be bold!

