YCEJ Environmental Justice Community Fellowships

Partner: Aspetuck Land Trust

**Who can apply?**

Currently enrolled YSE or YLS graduate students

**Key Information**

5-7 hours/week

Full academic year commitment: fall 2021 and spring 2022

Paid position $15.15/hour

Weekly commitment to meet with YCEJ staff, then bi-weekly as the project requires.

Includes participation in weekly reflective practice cohort

Partner-driven project, responsive collaboration is central

**About the YCEJ Environmental Justice Community Fellows Program**

The Environmental Justice Community Fellows Program employs Yale graduate students to do graduate-level environmental justice work or research with one of YCEJ’s local partner organizations. Student fellows work collaboratively on a partner-driven project with a host organization to co-develop solutions, usable knowledge, and resources.

Students may work independently or collaboratively in pairs to bring complex, interdisciplinary approaches necessary to meet the scope and goals of the project. Student fellows typically work 5-7 hours a week from September to May including participation in a weekly reflective cohort of Yale students engaged in community-oriented work and research with local groups.

**About the Opportunity**

Organization: Aspetuck Land Trust

Founded in 1966, Aspetuck Land Trust is a non-profit membership organization whose mission is the preservation and conservation of open space, including farm and forest land, and the natural resources located thereon, primarily in the towns of Easton, Weston, Fairfield and Westport, for the benefit and education of the public.

Primary Issue Areas: Conservation and Environmental Stewardship, Education, Sustainable Agriculture, Food Justice

Primary Contact: David Brant, Executive Director

Brief description:

The Aspetuck Land Trust has a vision to create a healthier community by establishing a Green Corridor that connects and engages our local communities and safeguards land, wildlife, and water resources, including important farmland soils, for future generations.

The Environmental Justice Community Fellow will work with the Aspetuck Land Trust and their partners to understand the barriers and opportunities of farmland access for low income, immigrant and/or farmers of color and how it impacts the dynamics of community food systems and farmland preservation.

**Principal Responsibilities:**

Research

* Research barriers to for fresh food access in low-income communities from local farms
* Work with community partners to research fresh food preferences and access points in Bridgeport
* Develop case studies of farmland access models for farmers of color.
* Conduct analysis of barriers to farmland access and business development for farmers of color.
* Develop case studies of effective urban food systems
* Develop recommendations in collaboration with ALT and partners to support land access for farmers of color and viable farm to community pipeline models.
* Develop communication materials in appropriate format to share back research with participating community members, staff, and other primary audiences as determined by Aspetuck Land Trust and their partners.

**Location:**

Candidate must have a willingness to conduct in-person field research in Bridgeport. Some of the work may be performed remotely. The candidate must have access to reliable transportation to travel to on-site locations. Employment will remain in compliance with Yale’s [Workplace Guidance](https://your.yale.edu/work-yale/workplace-guidance) and [Health & Safety Guidelines](https://covid19.yale.edu/health-guidelines).

**Desired skills and experience:**

1. Strong research skills
2. Experience with interviewing or qualitative research methods
3. Ability to translate research findings to diverse audiences, including local community members.
4. Solutions-driven orientation. Successful candidates will seek workable solutions to complex problems.
5. Understanding/interest in environmental justice, urban agriculture, food justice

**Project outcomes:**

Outcome 1:

Conduct desk research and field interviews, develop case studies and analysis for recommendations

Outcome 2:

Co-develop recommendations to support land access for farmers of color and viable farm to community pipeline models and complete a report summarizing research, case studies and recommendations.

Outcome 3:

Develop materials to share research results and recommendations in an accessible format to share back with participating residents and a non-academic or lay audience.

**How to apply:**

1. *View the* ***position descriptions available*** *for the 2020-2021 academic year. You can apply to multiple projects, but students will not work on more than 1 project during the year.*
2. *Please* ***submit 1 PDF document*** *via email to* *kristin.barendregt-ludwig@yale.edu* *by 11:59pm* ***September 8, 2021****. In the PDF please include:*
	* + - * *Resume (2 page maximum)*
				* *Answer the EJ Community Fellow Application Questions*

**Environmental Justice Community Fellow Application Questions**

**Instructions:**

As part of your Environmental Justice Community Fellowship application, please complete the following questions. Please limit responses to less than 250 words per question - more concise answers are completely acceptable and encouraged.

1. **Please state the degree you are pursuing, Yale school you are attending, anticipated graduation year, and if you are enrolled to take courses this fall.** (Incoming students taking a gap year are not eligible to apply.

1. **List the project(s) for which you would like to apply in the order of interest and why you are interested in the project.** (A student will not work on more than one project during the year, but you are welcome to apply to any of them.)

1. **Describe the specific skills, traits, and/or experience you would bring to the project(s)? For skills, please state skill level (e.g., novice, some experience, extensive experience, expert).** **If the project lists a desire for specific skills (e.g., geospatial experience), please describe this here.** (If you have identified more than one project you are interested in working on, please indicate skills and experience for each project if they differ between projects.)

1. **What do you hope to learn through the project(s) you chose and how does that connect to your long-term goals?**

1. **Describe your learning style.**

1. **What kind of mentorship do you hope to receive if selected to be an Environmental Justice Community Fellow?**