YCEJ Environmental Justice Community Fellowships

Partner: Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice

**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.

Regular participation in CT Coalition for EJ virtual team meeting Fridays from 2-3pm

Partner-driven project, responsive collaboration is central

Participation in a weekly 1-hour reflective cohort of Yale students engaged in community-oriented work and research.

6-10 hour additional paid training through “Boots on the Ground” advocacy school October session TBD

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

The Environmental Justice Community Fellows Program employs Yale graduate students to do graduate-level work or research with one of YCEJ’s local partner organizations working on EJ. 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: Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice

The Connecticut Coalition for Environmental Justice was established in 1998 and works to improve urban environmental health, primarily in Connecticut, through educating our community, through promoting changes in governmental policy, and through promoting individual, corporate and governmental responsibility towards our environment. We define environment as including the places where we live, work, play and go to school.

Primary Issue Areas: Environmental Health, Climate Justice, Economic Justice, Energy Justice, and Food Justice, Housing Justice

Primary Contact: Sharon Lewis, Executive Director

Brief description:

Environmental hazards continue to impact environmental justice communities across Connecticut. As sites of environmental concern seek to expand their operations, community members need to take an active role in advocating for their health and well-being. The Environmental Justice Community Fellow will work with CT Coalition for Environmental Justice staff and affiliated coalition members including the CT Zero Waste Coalition, to support grass-roots community capacity-building in Bristol CT, empowering local residents to advocate for policies to improve health outcomes. The student will participate as an active member of the team, joining weekly planning calls and check ins as needed.

**Principal Responsibilities:**

Community Outreach and Engagement

* Expand community outreach to educate, develop, and organize residents of affected communities to advocate for environmental policies that will improve health.
* Develop local leaders to advocate for their own communities and give meaningful input in public hearings
* Participate in planning and hosting community meetings
* Assist in writing testimony for hearings, press releases
* Assist in leading participatory science training sessions to empower community members to test for pollutants and participate in reporting
* Participate in “Boots on the Ground” advocacy school (separate funding) weekend (6-10 hours) 3-4 hours/day. First week in Oct. All virtual.

Communications

* Develop fact sheets to educate local residents
* Draft and distribute outreach communication in multiple formats and assist in translation as necessary
* Manage social media presence to promote organizational goals

Participatory Research

* Conduct air monitoring tests with accuracy and work with community members to collect data on affected sites
* Work with CT DEEP to develop a training for community members to use citizen science monitoring tools
* Research reporting policies and procedures to inform participatory science training with community members

**Location:**

Candidate must have a willingness to meet in person for community outreach, field research, and training sessions on-site in Bristol, CT. CT Coalition for Environmental Justice will be able to provide transportation, if the candidate does not have access to reliable transportation. Other responsibilities for position can be performed remotely. 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. Proven ability to work collaboratively as a member of a team with internal and external partners
2. Excellent communication skills both verbally and in writing in a variety of formats with multiple audiences
3. A strong interest in environmental justice and coalition building to influence policy change

**Project outcomes:**

Outcome 1:

Bristol campaign successfully engaged, educated, and organized community members to participate in effectively advocating for policies to improve local conditions impacting health.

Outcome 2:

Citizen science training curriculum and materials complete and successfully trained community members participating in air monitoring and reporting.

Outcome 3:

Effective communications including 1) active social media presence to promote organizational goals, 2) effective outreach targeting difficult to reach populations.

**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?**