

ISTC Fact Sheet: IEPA Summer Interns

IMPACTING THE BOTTOM LINE IN ILLINOIS

College students interested in sustainability make summer count in Illinois' industrial facilities. They count kilowatts and therms reduced, gallons of water saved, tons of waste diverted, and dollars saved. In 2014 the [Illinois Sustainable Technology Center](#), as part of its Illinois Conservation of Resources and Energy (ICORE) technical assistance project, partnered with the [Illinois Environmental Protection Agency \(IEPA\) Office of Pollution Prevention's Internship Program](#) to recruit upper-level university students to work on pollution prevention (P2) and energy efficiency (E2) projects during the summer. This partnership resulted in four 50/50 split-funded interns being placed in central and southern Illinois manufacturing facilities.

The goal of IEPA's P2 internship program is to help Illinois facilities identify, research, and pilot process improvements, while providing learning opportunities for students who will soon be entering the manufacturing and environmental work force.

Each student selected for the program attends an initial one-week P2 training program. The student spends the remainder of the 12-week summer session working as a temporary full-time employee at the sponsoring facility. Students typically have backgrounds in engineering, environmental management, or chemistry.

"As part of the U of I, we take seriously the responsibility of preparing the next generation of tech-savvy professionals for a sustainable future."

Deb Jacobson, Senior Operations Manager

CARLISLE CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS, GREENVILLE, IL

Carlisle Construction Materials, Greenville plant, manufactures single-ply roofing systems, including ethylene propylene diene monomer (EPDM), thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO), and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) membranes.

Ryan Goewert, a mechanical engineering student at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE), worked on energy efficiency projects involving motor controls, efficient lighting, and process heating and cooling.

"We utilized Mr. Goewert to help us make improvements to our environmental performance. We were also able to give Mr. Goewert some real world experience working in industry."

• David Robison, engineering and technical services manager, Carlisle Construction Materials



Ryan Goewert assessing motor efficiency opportunity

OUTCOMES FOR SUMMER 2014



2,791,00 gallons of water reduced



50,000 pounds of material recycled



696,700 kWh electricity reduced



13,890 therms natural gas reduced



748.5 metric tons of CO₂ (mtCO₂e) emissions avoided



\$114,850 annual savings

ABOUT THE IEPA OPP SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Established: 1989

Placement: 15-20 students each summer

Eligibility: Upper-level university students

Length: 12-week program

Find out more at:

www.epa.state.il.us/p2/internships.

ABOUT ICORE

ICORE is a project of the ISTC Technical Assistance Program. ICORE strives to achieve significant energy and water conservation and reduced carbon emissions among Illinois' rural communities and businesses by providing on-site technical assistance to water and wastewater treatment facilities and industrial facilities. For more information: [The ICORE Project TN13-104](#).

Find other fact sheets and more information about ISTC's Technical Assistance Program at: istc.illinois.edu/tech.

EATON B-LINE, TROY, IL



Jennifer Gerwitz conducting a waste sort

Eaton B-Line produces a broad range of cable-trays and curved connectors used in wire way support systems for customers in the oil and gas, mining, and communications, industry, as well as other markets.

Jennifer Gerwitz, a civil engineering student at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE), assisted with energy efficiency improvements, an equipment shutdown protocol, and establishment of an employee recycling program. Jennifer also conducted a facility-wide LED lighting cost analysis.

"These projects were not only beneficial to our business, but provided key educational opportunities for all our employees to become better environmental partners at work and at home. It was a pleasure to have Jennifer working with the team, as she represented the program very professionally."

• Chris Meyer, plant manager, Eaton Corporation, Troy facility

MUELLER COMPANY, DECATUR, IL

Mueller Company manufactures and supplies gas and water products used for residential, commercial and municipal systems.

Brock Bursott, a mechanical engineering student at Bradley University, worked on energy efficiency projects (including compressed air and lighting), chemical substitution, solar energy, and an employee recycling program. Brock also completed an environmental management system (EMS) significant aspects/environmental impacts process map.

"Brock was a valuable resource in starting our sustainability program at our facility."

• Julie Smock, environmental manager, Mueller Company



Brock Bursott mapping processes at Mueller

PINNACLE FOODS, ST. ELMO, IL



Madeleine Turk beside wash tunnel

Pinnacle Foods produces Mrs. Butterworth's Syrup, Log Cabin Syrup, Open Pit Barbecue Sauce and Wishbone salad dressings (2015), as well as private label products.

Madeleine Turk, a civil and environmental engineering student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), worked on water conservation, energy efficiency, raw material utilization, and waste minimization projects. Madeleine also assisted with an energy management system study.

"The entire leadership team, myself included, benefitted from the opportunity to work with Madeleine. I am sure she learned a great deal about manufacturing operations."

• Thomas Perkins, plant manager, Pinnacle Foods, St. Elmo facility

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