



REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

OF CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS

P.O. Box 255, Worcester, MA 01613

Regional Environmental Council YouthGROW Intern

Start Date: May 26, 2025

Who We Are: The Regional Environmental Council (REC) is a food justice organization that has been working in Worcester for fifty years. Our mission is to bring people together to create a just food system and to build healthy, sustainable, and equitable communities in Worcester, MA and beyond. Our programs include Community and Mobile Farmers Markets, YouthGROW, our youth employment urban agriculture program, and UGROW, our community and school gardens network. The focus of this internship is our YouthGROW Program, which employs 40 teens annually on our urban farm who participate in our summer intensive program. Youth and adult participants work together to grow over 4,000 pounds of food while building leadership skills and deepening their understanding of the food system.

We are seeking: YouthGROW Interns to work with youth participants (ages 14-18) as part of the YouthGROW summer at the two youth-led urban farms on Oread Street in Main South and Grant Square Park in Bell Hill, Worcester. Activities during the summer program are centered on sustainable agriculture, environmental and social justice, and youth activism.

Compensation: All internships are unpaid but provide invaluable insight into: urban agriculture, food justice, environmental justice, non-profit management, and customer service. Interns will learn what it is like working in a hugely diverse city like Worcester and the importance of honoring food justice by working in low-income, food-insecure neighborhoods. Interns are an integral part to the success of the REC's programs and are part of what makes our programs sustainable. If available through your educational institution, the REC is willing to help interns obtain credit for their work with us, and in some cases your college or university may be able to provide funding.

Because our YouthGROW Farm is under construction this year, our summer program will be highly mobile throughout the day. We are only able to consider candidates who have access to reliable transportation for this year only.

Schedule:

May/June: A minimum of three afternoon sessions with youth leadership team, two day intern orientation/training, YouthGROW kick off day, some additional flexible preparation days

July-August: Monday 10:00 AM-4:00 PM, Tuesday-Thursday 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Responsibilities:

- Facilitating group activities with youth including icebreakers, small group farm work tasks, and youth led group projects in person

- Supporting staff to maintain positive and productive environment on both farms during group discussions, farm work, and team project time
- Assisting staff with logistics including purchasing program supplies, set up and break down, and weekly prep
- Mentoring young people, keeping team motivation up, and helping foster youth leadership

Skills Required:

- Experience working with teens in a positive mentor role
- Experience facilitating activities and engaging youth
- Dedication to youth empowerment, environmental and social justice
- Access to reliable transportation during the day
- Available Monday-Friday July and August

Additional Preferred Skills:

- Bi/multilingual (Spanish, Twi, etc.)
- Experience living or working in Main South/Bell Hill neighborhoods
- Skills in carpentry or experience in farming

How To Apply:

To be considered for this internship, please send a resume and cover letter to Vanessa Calixto at vanessa@recworchester.org. **Candidates will be considered on a rolling basis, with decisions made no later than May 19th.** Candidates can expect to hear back from an REC Staff after they submit their resume and cover letter. Please use YouthGROW Intern as the email subject.

The REC is an equal opportunity employer committed to an inclusive workplace. People of color are strongly encouraged to apply. The REC does not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment based on race, color, religion, national origin, age, gender, sex, ancestry, citizenship status, mental or physical disability, genetic information, sexual orientation, veteran or military status.