Sustainability Fellowship

Sustainability Handprinting In Higher Education
NewEarth B
York, Maine

Summary:
The goal of the Handprinter project is to build out and continually improve a platform for “Handprinting”—the creation and measurement of positive sustainability-related impacts in as many impact categories as possible, which when they are balanced against the user’s footprint (in GHG emissions, resource consumption, etc.) outweigh them and create a “Net Positive” impact. To support handprinting, NewEarth B developed an online social platform to promote and measure Handprints during 2017.

As deployment of the Handprinter platform with corporate clients is proceeding, it is now time to engage universities in handprinting. Higher education is well positioned to participate in handprint-related activities in several ways. Sustainability efforts and awareness are promoted at most schools. Students already operate in social communities and will find it easy to understand, use, and appreciate the power of the innately social approach of handprinting. Students, researchers and faculty are already engaged in developing creative ideas for reducing negative impacts and/or creating positive sustainability-related impacts; in many cases, sharing these ideas broadly to promote widespread adoption is part of the university’s mission. Students, researchers and faculty are also already engaged in assessing the impacts of projects, actions, and innovations; developing and publishing impact assessments is another on-mission activity for these scholars. And schools might be interested in measuring the positive effects of such activities by members of their community, possibly also relating those impacts to estimates of their environmental footprint on impact categories including climate and water.

The Handprinter Higher Education Pilot Fellow will support work to advance the Handprinter solution to promote synergy and collaboration on handprinting by and with higher education. This is a unique opportunity for a talented, motivated and visionary Fellow to be part of a socially innovative venture in its start-up phase.
Deliverables:
- Report on findings from outreach to faculty, staff, and students at selected early-adoption candidate universities, about their needs and levels of interest in engagement in handprinting.
- Design/functionality recommendations for improvements to the handprinter platform that take into account and respond to the input obtained from the outreach step.
- Recommendations for next steps for NewEarth B to take in scaling up handprinting within higher education.

Impact:
The goals of this project are to ramp up (from basically zero, currently) the engagement of higher education in handprinting. Because handprints are positive changes on sustainability-relevant impacts, relative to business as usual, and because handprinter is expressly designed to estimate, capture and summarize the impacts of actions that generate such changes, then we will be able to directly measure the impacts of this fellow-lead project, literally in metrics such as kg CO2-equivalent of greenhouse gas emissions avoided, liters of fresh water depletion prevented, and so-on.

Higher education engagement has the potential to help dramatically reduce the footprints of higher education, but it also has the potential to create benefits that exceed these “internal” benefits by orders of magnitude. These larger, “external” benefits can come when university contributions of research, innovations, practical solutions, and assessments of actions’ impacts, and also simply awareness and engagement of graduates in handprinting, all contribute to reductions in the footprints of organizations and people external to higher education.

Location: NewEarth B, York, Maine
Time commitment: 40 hours per week, June 4-August 17, 2018
Compensation: $6000 stipend

Desired Qualifications
- Bachelor’s degree or greater in a field complimentary to job duties and/or mission of the organization.
- Demonstrated skills in quantitative analysis
- Experience, training, or familiarity with environmental life cycle assessment and/or social life cycle assessment
- Familiarity with methods of handprinting and “net positive” impact assessment
- Experience in assessing the impacts of programs and/or organizations
- Experience conducting independent research, as in a thesis or capstone research project.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills.
- Strong organizational, outreach, and interview skills.
**UNHSI Sustainability program eligibility:**
Graduate students, exceptional undergraduate students, and recent graduates are eligible. We will encourage, but not require, an academic sponsor or reference for each fellow, and where possible we will ask that course credits are awarded.

**Supervision, Training, Mentoring and Evaluation:**
This fellow will receive supervision from Gregory Norris, Executive Director at NewEarth B, and Philipp Bolt, General Manager at NewEarth B, as well as mentoring and extensive professional development offerings from UNHSI.

Fellows will be expected to participate in the following MANDATORY events:
- A three-day, two-night orientation in Durham, NH, May 29-31. Lodging and meals will be provided. A limited number of travel scholarships will be available to assist with transportation to Durham.
- Weekly webinars during the course of the 10-week fellowship.
- Midterm project presentations to UNHSI staff, faculty and relevant project partners in Durham, NH, July 12. Travel support provided.
- Final project presentations to UNHSI staff, faculty and relevant project partners in Durham, NH, August 10. Travel support provided.

**Apply by February 14** at [www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/sustainability-fellows](http://www.sustainableunh.unh.edu/sustainability-fellows).