ACLs Leading Edge Fellowship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project:</th>
<th>Equitable and Inclusive Climate Change Solutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Organization:</td>
<td>Environmental Law Policy Center (Washington, DC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location:</td>
<td>Remote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stipend:</td>
<td>$60,000 per year, plus health insurance and professional development funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Start Date:</td>
<td>September 2021</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ORGANIZATION DESCRIPTION

The Environmental Law & Policy Center is the Midwest’s leading environmental legal advocacy organization. We drive transformational policy changes with national impacts. We show that environmental progress and economic development can be achieved together by putting sustainability principles into practice. We advance climate solutions effectively by accelerating clean renewable energy alternatives to conventional power plants and advancing clean transportation solutions. We protect the Great Lakes and defend the Midwest’s wild and natural places, and we fight for safe, clean water and healthy clean air for all. We combine effective public interest litigation with strategic policy advocacy, sound science, and economic analysis. ELPC produces strong results for the environment in the courtrooms, boardrooms, and legislative hearing rooms across the pivotal Midwest states and in Washington D.C. To learn more about ELPC, visit [https://elpc.org/](https://elpc.org/).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Because pollution and climate change have a disproportionate impact on economically disadvantaged communities and people of color, solving our climate change problems in ways that advance environmental and racial justice is key. The climate-driven imperative to quickly transition from fossil fuels to clean renewable energy creates an opportunity to both reduce the pollution and create economic opportunity in distressed communities. The Biden Administration “Justice40 Initiative” is catalyzing this opportunity, creating a goal of “delivering 40 percent of the overall benefits of relevant federal investments to disadvantaged communities.”

The Leading Edge Fellow will join the ELPC team as a Policy Analyst, and will partner with ELPC attorneys and policy staff to advance climate justice through research, community outreach, and public engagement. They will support ELPC’s efforts to drive millions of dollars into solar investments and job training in low-income and environmental justice communities in Illinois and increase renewable energy opportunities in low income communities throughout the Midwest, with a focus on Minnesota, Michigan, and Iowa. The Fellow will work with community-based organizations and co-operatives interested in developing microgrids and in local control and ownership and deployment of distributed energy resources (solar, batteries, energy efficiency, etc.) in their neighborhoods and communities. This will include working directly with frontline organizations to understand their goals, as well as helping to advocate for change in the regulatory and technical barriers to reaching those goals. As time permits, they may also contribute to our work to advance the replacement of polluting diesel buses with electric school buses in distressed communities and work with local partners to understand and address air pollution and health inequities in their communities.

The Fellow will report to Senior Policy Advocate MeLena Hessel and work closely with ELPC’s attorneys, policy advocates and the Executive Director. At the project’s completion, the Leading Edge Fellow will have gained substantive professional experience in policy and applied research, strategic analysis, and

This position is only available through the Leading Edge Fellowship program. You may not contact the host institution to inquire about this position.
collaboration. The fellowship is an expected full-time commitment, including dedicated time for professional development activities.

**Responsibilities and tasks:**

- Outreach with partner community-based and co-operative organizations
- Research current efforts to develop microgrids and local control and ownership and deployment of distributed energy resources
- Contribute writing, research, and communications materials for ELPC advocacy campaigns related to the Justice40 initiative

**Qualifications:**

- PhD in any field of the humanities or humanistic social sciences. Read more about eligible fields [here](#);
- Excellent writing and oral communication skills;
- Familiarity with both qualitative and quantitative analysis;
- Ability to communicate effectively with people from diverse backgrounds and to translate technical issues into persuasive prose;
- An inspired and demonstrated commitment to public interest advocacy;
- Ability to work productively with a fast-paced team of skilled professionals.

**APPLICATIONS**

- Information on the Leading Edge Fellowship Program: [https://www.acls.org/Competitions-and-Deadlines/Leading-Edge-Fellowships](https://www.acls.org/Competitions-and-Deadlines/Leading-Edge-Fellowships)
- All applications must be submitted through the ACLS Online Fellowship Application System (ofa.acls.org)
- Application deadline: 9pm EDT, May 6, 2021