



## **WASTE DIVERSION INTERNSHIP**

### **The Problem**

According to a 2018 ReFed report, “the U.S. restaurant sector generates 11.4 million tons of food waste annually, the full cost of which is more than \$25 billion”. The majority of this food waste is sent to landfills, where it releases methane, a potent greenhouse gas, into the environment and serves no useful purpose. In a circular economy, edible food is recovered and distributed to those who need food and non-edible food (i.e. food scraps) is composted or used in a biogas/biomass energy generation system instead of going to a landfill.

### **The Opportunity**

The Waste Diversion intern will conduct waste audits for local food businesses and deliver recommendations related to food recovery, organic waste diversion, waste stream data tracking, and employee training.

### **Basic Qualifications**

Intern must be 18 years of age or older and have the ability and desire to communicate with diverse audiences. This position will require an intern to be onsite at Plant Chicago’s location (4459 S Marshfield Ave) for a minimum of 8 hours per week, and may also include occasionally traveling to small business locations on Chicago’s southwest side with a Plant Chicago staff member. Additional hours may be completed offsite if desired.

### **Desired Interest & Experience**

- Waste characterization/waste auditing
- Food business operations
- Recycling and composting practices
- Data analysis
- Report writing
- Cost-benefit analysis
- Interest in and/or experience working with small businesses

The Waste Diversion intern will work with Plant Chicago’s Small Business & Circular Economy Manager.

**To apply:** Please send a resume and cover letter to Liz Lyon, Small Business and Circular Economy Manager, at [elizabeth@plantchicago.org](mailto:elizabeth@plantchicago.org). Applications will be accepted until Thursday, April 30.