



**Island ECO.**

Planning, Research, Technology  
towards Sustainable Development

# *Renewable Energy Internship in the Pacific Islands*

## *Scope of Work*

*June 2017*

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### BACKGROUND

Island Eco is a social entrepreneurship based in the Marshall Islands, which develops, installs, and maintains quality sustainable energy projects. Its customers include individuals, local and national governments, and community groups from across the Micronesian region.

Island Eco was started as a family solar PV business in 2000, and has since grown. Island Eco's renewable energy store and office is conveniently located at the center of Majuro, and they also have lagoon-side facilities for training outside of town in Ajeltake.

Island Eco has successfully implemented multiple projects over the years, with two of the most notable being funded by the USDA through a competitive grant to install a total of 165 solar powered lighting and refrigeration systems across three outer island atolls. These systems were designed for the purpose of improving food security for the outer island people, with a focus on educating women.

The USDA projects were completed in 2013, and Island Eco has recently been selected to power two more atolls with similar renewable energy systems. Thus, Island Eco is currently rebuilding a project team, and is seeking interns to join, as such arrangements have generally been a useful and positive experience for all.

Other recent projects carried out by Island Eco include installing solar power street lights and solar power marine navigation lights for Majuro local government, developing and installing two demonstration 4.2 kW solar power systems, and trialing a solar powered water desalination and purification unit, among others.

Internships and training have always been an integral part of Island Eco's work, as the company strives to carry out research projects and provide training towards creating lasting sustainable energy projects and services. For example, Island Eco has provided hands-on training for over 25 Marshallese women in how to install solar power systems, and has also hired a number of local women to be part of their staff. In the research field, Island Eco has carried out an analysis of energy

efficiency measures, appropriate technologies and behavior change methods in order to ensure the project outcomes align with the needs of the people.

In fact, over the past five years, Island Eco has been mostly project based, and has moved away from the commercial model. Thus, there is only a small team of staff available to guide interns, though the options for projects to work on are large and varied.

#### DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

Island Eco is seeking interns to assist with sustainable development projects in the Marshall Islands, as part of our ongoing renewable energy and social development projects.

All interns will be provided with shared lodging in the center of Majuro, with cooking, telephone, and internet facilities all available. A living stipend and medical and dental costs in Majuro will also be covered through the internship, and if you are staying for more than 3 months, airline tickets from Hawaii to Majuro will be included. Majuro and Island Eco are simple and small in size, but interns are generally comfortable.

Interns will be working on a few of the projects listed below, based on their skills and interest. While guidance will be provided on these projects, interns should be independent and self-driven.

Three to four applicants are often selected for the internship at a time, as to also have the option of working together. It should be noted that at times there are delays in the work, due to the realities of working in a developing island country, and so interns should be expected to work between 4 to 8 hours a day.

In their spare time, interns can fish, swim, and explore the Majuro lagoon by using Island Eco's own motorboat. Interns can also take the boat to another remote island in Majuro lagoon where Island Eco leases land, and spend the weekend camping, snorkeling and enjoying true island life.

#### PROJECTS /TASKS:

- Research and development on the USDA funded solar powered refrigeration project outcomes or other topics
- Install the new USDA solar-powered refrigeration systems on two new atolls
- Set-up and engage with a project management and financial management system including monitoring and evaluation aspects
- Refurbish and troubleshoot the two 4.2 kW demo solar PV systems
- Create a training video or animation on solar power in the local language
- Develop and carryout training classes for women on renewable energy systems
- Set up an electronic inventory and ordering system
- Design a solar powered takeaway/ coffee shop and create a business plan
- Install air conditioning and sound-proof the demonstration eco-building
- Contribute to the Island Eco blog on the company webpage
- We are also open to your ideas for projects, so feel free to develop a proposal and we may be able to work with you to implement it.

## PERSON SPECIFICATIONS

We are looking for people with the following experience and qualifications, in order to ensure that interns will be able to contribute to and gain experience through our current projects.

### EXPERIENCE:

- Experience in one or more of these fields:
  - renewable energy (including solar PV, micro-grids, hot water, and wind);
  - sustainable design and architecture;
  - rural water supply;
  - community development and related research;
  - electrical engineering;
  - video or animation development;
  - business or not-for-profit management, especially restaurant management;
  - research and development;
  - project management, including monitoring and evaluation;
  - accounting and financial management;
  - construction skills;
  - politics and/or Pacific Island cultures.
- Volunteers with an interest in micro-grids and project management are particularly invited.
- Proficient with computers, including experience in writing reports and proposals and/ or proficient with hands-on electrical and construction work (i.e. wiring, hardware, climb ladders, etc.).
- Interesting hands-on hobbies, i.e. welding, barista, art, fishing, etc.
- Experience working with other cultures, especially in tropical developing countries.

### QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor degree in a field related to your experience would be an advantage.
- Creative and able to work with limited guidance and supervision, self-motivated and able to achieve results.
- Able to work in a multidisciplinary team environment under demanding conditions.
- Leadership and decision making skills, with the capacity to communicate effectively and motivate others.
- Strong constitution, good health, good swimmer, and an ability to work in rustic conditions (heat, basic diet, simple accommodations, etc.).
- Open to cross-cultural exchange of information and ideas and committed to international development.
- Have a good attitude in return for freedom and fun!

### APPLICATION PROCESS

Come utilize your organizational and technical skills in a developing U.S. affiliated Pacific Island country, and learn what island life is really all about!

To apply, please send your CV and a letter of intent, which explains how you demonstrate these requirements, which projects you would be interested in working on, and your availability. These documents can be e-mailed to [islandeco@gmail.com](mailto:islandeco@gmail.com) or contact us with any questions you may have. Finalist may also be asked to complete a personality test, in order for interns with complementary strengths to be properly matched together.

For more information on our company and projects please see [www.islandeco.com](http://www.islandeco.com). We look forward to hearing from you!