**Sustainability Laboratory Intern (2013-2014)**

The Quality and Sustainability Office (OD/OCOO/OSSAM/QSO) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is chiefly responsible for the tracking and communication of sustainability initiatives and projects throughout the agency that are created in support of goals in the [HHS Strategic Sustainability Performance Plan (SSPP)](http://www.hhs.gov/about/sustainability/2013-sustainability-plan.pdf). The agency’s overarching sustainability initiative, Go Green, Get Healthy, seeks to increase agency and employee involvement in behaviors and programs focused on environmental stewardship, personal health promotion and work-life satisfaction.

Go Green, Get Healthy and the Quality and Sustainability Office implement sustainable principles through working with responsible offices and goal managers in areas of facilities management, recycling, energy conservation, water conservation, sustainable food practices, and green purchasing. The initiative engages a number of health professionals, laboratorians, architects, engineers, and others in job function and volunteer capacities. Eleven Goal Managers, along with their supporting offices, are leading the charge to identify ways to change CDC's policies and systems to make them more supportive of sustainability objectives. The Quality and Sustainability Office explores the intersection between environmental stewardship and public health and aims to ensure that the research efforts at the agency are completed in an environmentally-conscious manner that promotes wellness of our employees and our environment. Students in this position will work in various project areas such as:

* Assist QSO and OSELS staff in the creation and execution of “Challenge” competitions, including data compilation, preparation of tracking documents and engagement of potential participants
* Assist with collecting information about partner programs, researching product information and conducting formative research related to sustainable laboratories.
* Research and explore feasibility of alternatives and best practices for standard operating procedures within laboratories related to energy use, water use, and hazardous chemicals.
* Liaise regularly with QSO sustainability staff, HHS SSPP Goal Managers (particularly for goals related to greenhouse gas emissions, energy and water use reduction, waste diversion and recycling, climate change adaptation planning and others), and Office of Surveillance, Epidemiology, and Laboratory Services (OSELS) staff.
* Review and evaluate sustainability laboratory literature, and translate recommendations into actionable strategies or project development ideas for Goal Managers and OSELS and QSO staff. Discuss and facilitate implementation with volunteers and responsible offices
* Assist Chief Sustainability Officer and other Quality and Sustainability staff with action items and follow-up.
* Perform duties involving developing, promoting, coordinating and improving CDC Go Green, Get Healthy policies, programs, standards, activities and opportunities that target appropriate audiences
* Be aware of and engage in CDC's Health Promotion and Environmental Stewardship Objectives
* Work closely with responsible offices to promote adoption of Go Green, Get Healthy recommendations

The student should have a keen interest in environmental stewardship and health promotion.  Good organizational skills, writing skills, listening skills, and collaboration skills are a must.  Good communication and interpersonal skills are required.  Self motivation, conscientiousness, and creativity are also important.  Experience with scientific research, data gathering, hypothesis formulating, and testing will be helpful.  Microsoft Office Suite experience is necessary.