2022

**Waste Loop Leavenworth Internship**

Emma Allison  
*Western Washington University*

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Internship Title: Waste Loop Leavenworth Spring Internship

Student Name: Emma Allison


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STUDENT SIGNATURE: [Signature]

DATE: 6/3/22
I. STUDENT/INTERN INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Emma Allison</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W#:</td>
<td>W01337907</td>
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<tr>
<td>Major:</td>
<td>Environmental Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concentration:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internship Title:</td>
<td>Waste Loop Spring Intern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Avg. Hours per Week:</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Hours Worked:</td>
<td>330</td>
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II. HOST INSTITUTION INFORMATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution Name:</th>
<th>Waste Loop</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Institution Address:</td>
<td>Leavenworth, Washington</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institution Mission:</td>
<td>Waste Loop is a 501(c)3 nonprofit that has a mission of inspiring and transforming local waste streams into sustainable new resources in the greater Leavenworth area. Waste Loop inspires and transforms local waste streams into sustainable resources in the greater Leavenworth area. We connect with people and businesses to inspire innovative solutions to local waste and recycle challenges &amp; in-turn motivate action to integrate solutions into the community. We imagine supportive and thriving communities where the concept of ‘waste’ no longer exists, and resources are valued throughout their lifecycle.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor Name and Title:</td>
<td>Amanda Close – Education and Outreach Coordinator</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supervisor Contact Information:</td>
<td><a href="mailto:contact@wasteloop.org">contact@wasteloop.org</a> (978)578-4568</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### III. DESCRIPTION

Provide a brief description of the project or program on which you worked, the objectives of that project or program, and your role as an intern within that project or program:

As Waste Loop’s spring intern, I worked within this nonprofit to reduce the environmental impact of the Leavenworth community through waste reduction. Leavenworth is a small local community with a large tourism economy, thus producing much waste. Through interactions with businesses, schools, and community members, I helped educate on sustainable practices and promote creative solutions to environmental issues concerning waste. Along with education and outreach, I helped conduct waste audits within the Cascade School District to collect baseline data for landfill waste. This information is being used to convince the school board to invest in better waste disposal practices, such as compost and recycling. Mixed recycling bins were introduced into the high school for the first time this spring, and I helped educate students on proper recycling techniques to reduce contamination. Waste Loop is also working with a new industrial composter in the area to educate residents on the benefits of composting instead of sending organic waste to the landfill.

### IV. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Provide a list of your specific duties and responsibilities as an intern:

During my internship, my duties and responsibilities varied from day to day. During April, most of my work was in outreach during events for Earth Day. I spent time prior to the events learning about local sustainability challenges and the environmental impacts of these challenges. I also learned about different local solutions to these challenges, and how to support those looking for solutions. During events, I spoke with community members about their environmental concerns, educated them on proper waste disposal techniques, and shared resources to reduce their waste and grow awareness of their environmental impact. In May, I spent more of my time working with local schools and businesses. I created informational flyers and signs for different waste reduction purposes and helped spread information about local recycling and composting programs. I also wrote blog posts to share information with residents about different sustainability practices and information about local facilities we toured related to waste management. I also planned and executed an event on mending clothing, speaking about the environmental impacts of the fast fashion industry and the benefits of mending, and reusing clothing instead of buying new and replacing items.

### V. LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Describe what you learned from your internship and how this experience contributed to your educational goals:

This internship was a great way to end my undergraduate educational experience. Throughout my time at Western, sustainability was a major focus. I worked at the A.S. Recycle Center as a student laborer for two years which gave me a broader look at the waste produced within the campus community. Paired with my education in environmental science, I became very interested in waste reduction practices and community infrastructure solving local waste and environmental issues. Bellingham’s recycling and composting infrastructure especially interested me, as they were greatly different from what I had experienced growing up. All these factors inspired me to join Waste Loop for my internship.
Going into this internship, my educational goals were focused on broadening my understanding of sustainability problems and practices within the Leavenworth community, as well as sharing my knowledge of environmental issues and solutions with residents. I met these goals more deeply than I expected, and I was able to make connections within this community and create tangible progress over the short period of my time working with this organization. I met with several organizations and companies involved in the management of the local waste stream and was able to tour their facilities and learn about their programs. My background in environmental science helped me greatly in understanding the environmental impacts of these programs, especially concerning the disposal of organic waste. I had learned a lot about composting in the Plant and Soil Interactions course I took this past winter and was able to apply that knowledge in the sharing of resources on the benefits of reducing organic wastes in the landfill.

In sharing my knowledge with locals, I learned more about how to discuss environmental issues with people who may not have a science background. I learned about the social barriers to personal sustainability, and I worked with the other employees of Waste Loop to develop equitable access to sustainable programs. While working within the schools, I learned how to educate youth on environmental issues and get them involved in sustainable practices.

Overall, I felt that this internship rounded out my education greatly. I was able to apply scientific concepts and practices to the real world and see how my background in environmental science has helped me to grow into a more holistic view of social sustainability issues. I am so grateful for this experience and the wholesome conclusion it provided to a turbulent college experience. After two years of isolation in my education due to the pandemic, it has been enlightening and invigorating to apply what I’ve learned within a community.
APPENDIX I. SUPERVISOR LETTER

Attach a signed letter from your supervisor, on the host institution’s letterhead, stating that you have completed the internship according to the organization’s expectations and confirming the dates and number of hours of your internship work.

Waste Loop
11947 Chumstick Hwy
Leavenworth, WA 98826

June 3, 2022

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to acknowledge that Emma Allison successfully completed her Spring Internship with Waste Loop between April 4th and June 3rd 2022, logging 330 hours. Emma was an instrumental part of the Waste Loop team this Spring and led school waste audits, provided community outreach at a myriad of events, developed educational materials and signage, and organized a creative visible mending event that was well attended by community members, among other things. Her work ethic, team oriented attitude, natural curiosity, and excitement to engage with the local community was much appreciated and she will be missed. Please let me know if you need anything further. I can be contacted via email or phone.

Sincerely,

Amanda Close
Education and Outreach Coordinator
contact@wasteloop.org
cell: 978.578.4568
www.wasteloop.org
APPENDIX II. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS
Attach copies of any reports, presentations or other deliverables that you produced during your internship, if applicable.

Compost and Carbon Sequestration

What is Carbon Sequestration?

Sequestration is the process of capturing and storing CO² from the atmosphere into areas such as soil.

Atmospheric CO² is taken up by vegetation through photosynthesis, then is transferred to the soil for storage through plant roots.

Carbon is also stored in soils in organic matter, such as decomposing plant materials.

Carbon contributes to soil health and structure with improved nutrient cycling and water retention.

How does compost help soils sequester carbon?

Organic waste in the landfill emits methane gas, contributing to global warming. By composting, organic matter is turned into stable, carbon-storing soil, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Adding compost helps to build up the amount of stable organic matter in soil, ensuring that carbon is stored rather than released.

So what?

If every home in Chelan County composted only 20% of their food waste for 10 years, 5,000 metric tons of CO² would be saved from being released to the atmosphere. That is equal to the CO² emissions from one car driving over 12 million miles, or driving around the world 500 times!

That's the same amount of carbon as sequestered by 6,000 acres of forest per year!
WASTE LOOP VISITS OUR LOCAL LANDFILL

Emma Allison  June 2, 2022

https://www.wasteloop.org/post/waste-loop-visits-our-local-landfill
Volunteers make quick work of Waste Loop Audit at Alpine Lakes Elementary

Marlene Farrell
Correspondent

It was a pleasant afternoon, school had just let out, and four boys and a dad were pulling on nitrile gloves, preparing for some dirty but essential work. They, along with Amanda Clove and Emma Allsden from the nonprofit Waste Loop, were going to perform a waste audit from Alpine Lakes Elementary’s (ALPS) three lunch periods that day.

A large tarp lay spread out at their feet, surrounded by buckets for sorting. The job? To separate every part of the lunch garbage into six categories: landfill, recycling, glass, food rescue, compost and yes, liquids. This exercise helps provide hard data, to go along with the data collected at every school, to support the idea of sorting at the schools to reduce the waste stream bound for the landfill. Diversion of recyclables and compostables can save the district money the dumpster won’t fill as fast or need transporting as often. However, there will be new, likely lesser costs associated with recycling and composting in addition to the environmental benefits of making less waste. Add to that the educational opportunities available as students study the science and economics around waste diversion, recycling and composting.

This day was chilly day at ALPS, notable by the aroma as the garbage was poured out onto the tarp. It was also apparent that boron had been on the menu, given the abundance of it in the pile.

The boys, Nico, Emil, Desi and Orion, needed minimal training before they plunged in, gloves on, sleeves rolled up, to sort chili bowls, milk cartons, plastic wrappers and utensils.