



Graduate Student Contractor on Safer Chemicals

*With world attention focused on both the environment and the economy, **Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)** is where policymakers and business leaders turn for win-win solutions. This leading green group, with programs from Boston to Beijing, has tripled in size over the past decade by focusing on strong science, uncommon partnerships and market-based approaches. You can contribute to a vibrant workplace that welcomes diverse perspectives, talents and contributions, where innovation and a focus on results are a way of life.*

EDF is seeking a Graduate Student Contractor to support its [Safer Chemicals Initiative](#).

Hours

This is a part-time contracting position with flexibility in the exact number of hours (ideally a minimum of 20/hours a week during the summer and 10 hrs/week during the school year) and term (minimum 6 months).

Compensation

Compensation for work paid at a rate competitive with leading non-profits, commensurate with level of experience (\$20-35/hr).

Application Materials

Interested applicants should submit their resume and cover letter to Lindsay McCormick (lmccormick@edf.org).

Detailed Position Description

Program/Department Overview

EDF's Healthy Communities impact area is committed to improving the public's health by dramatically reducing exposures to and health impacts of toxic chemicals and air pollution among communities and individuals that bear the greatest burden of exposure and/or health risk. By advancing scientific insights, policies, and market-based leadership and working with diverse partners and collaborators from companies, researchers, and community-based groups to government agencies and elected officials, we seek to make evident inequities in chemical- and pollution-related health impacts, and to develop, support and implement solutions that promote healthy communities and individuals.

Everything around us is made of chemicals. Our food production, personal care and household products, and material sourcing all start with chemicals. As some chemicals in our products and processes are helpful, others are hazardous to both our environment and public health. EDF's Safer Chemicals initiative seeks to drive significant reductions in the use and exposure to toxic chemicals especially among vulnerable populations and communities at greatest risk by securing lasting solutions that avoid regrettable substitutions and target long-standing inequities in exposures and associated health impacts.

Overall Function

The Graduate Student Contractor will contribute to EDF's Safer Chemicals initiative through chemicals-focused research, analysis, and communications. The Contractor will support projects designed to better understand the chemical marketplace's changing landscape to prevent regrettable substitutions and ensure safety of new technology approaches such as "advanced recycling" and others, especially as the oil and gas industry looks to petrochemical and commodity chemicals as its future lifeline. The Contractor will also perform timely analyses relevant to chemical risk management under the Toxics Substances Control Act and the Federal Food Drug and Cosmetics Act, among other policies.

Key Responsibilities & Projects

Tasks will include but are not limited to:

- Track, collect, and analyze data on chemical risk and management, including chemicals reviewed under the Toxic Substances Control Act, chemicals in food and food packaging, as well as new chemical processes such as "advanced recycling."
- Research facilities that manufacture, process, use, or dispose of 20 identified high-risk chemicals.
- Research and track cases for approvals of the commercialization of new chemicals
- Synthesize findings of analyses in various formats (e.g., memos, data analyses) to support EDF advocacy and decision-making.
- Support external communications, such as infographics, newsletters and social media.

Qualifications

- Currently enrolled in/recent graduate of a graduate program with coursework in chemistry, biology, environmental engineering, environmental science, health, or economics.
- Demonstrated interest in environmental health, public health, public policy and/or advocacy.
- Must have strong analytical skills.
- Proficiency in Excel and basic data analysis with the ability to synthesize and communicate conclusions.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Excellent organization, motivation, and attention to detail.
- Ability to multi-task, prioritize and meet deadlines.